



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

STATE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION INITIATIVE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What motivates ICMA at this particular point to formalize its relations with state associations?**

The motivation question is a good one: the priorities for moving toward affiliation agreements at this time are –

- 1) Value of collaboration on similar goals and objectives rather than competing or duplicating efforts – especially in a tight economy. This would apply to professional development such as ICMA University workshops and ethics training, as well as state conference planning and other areas identified by State Associations and ICMA.
- 2) Ongoing membership development for both State Associations and ICMA – with an emphasis on
 - the value of belonging to both,
 - increasing membership numbers for both, and
 - concentrated outreach to the next generation of professional managers

- **Are these affiliation agreements the same as the Partnership Agreements that some state associations entered into with ICMA during the early 1990's?**

They are similar, but this is a new initiative. The Affiliation Agreement template draws from the 1990s model, but it has been updated to reflect the 2008 Strategic Plan priorities. While most state associations entered into the 1990s partnerships; only a handful of them renewed them a few times, and together, we did not consistently monitor or document our progress against what was outlined there. The intent is to keep the proposed Affiliation Agreements 'ever fresh' with quarterly monitoring between state leaders and your ICMA liaison/advisor.

- **What is the cost of entering into an Affiliation Agreement with ICMA?**

There are no required costs to affiliation. There is a menu of professional development and other commitments that the State Associations may choose from, and set goals commensurate with the State's capability to enter into such commitments, for example:

- 1) ICMA University Workshops (here, the states can choose how many, and how often, etc. Arizona chose to schedule one every other year)
- 2) Other items that have financial implications are areas where ICMA and State Associations have longstanding traditions of working together -
 - Supporting annual contributions to the ICMA Fund for Professional Management for defense and advocacy of the C/M form.
 - Supporting membership growth of state association members in ICMA (but this has no cost implication for states; ICMA will also support efforts to identify new members for state associations)
 - Supporting Ethics training sessions at state association events, and ethics training for local government staff (at very low cost to the jurisdiction).

- **Do State Associations have to commit to increasing membership in ICMA by a given percentage each year, or can they set target goals?**

If states are more comfortable with a target number rather than a percentage increase, that would be fine.

- **Are non-ICMA members able to access ICMA Web site library/research items without paying a fee for the items?**

Currently, the ICMA Resource Center (on ICMA.org) includes some content that is accessible only to ICMA members and some content that is available to anyone. Access for ICMA members is with a User ID and Password. The Resource Center will soon be re-launched as the ICMA Knowledge Network and will have even more to offer. Again, some of the premium content will be available to ICMA members only; some will be available to anyone.

- **Has there been any consideration of what non-performance by either party might lead to?**

The reasoning behind putting a plan (i.e. affiliation agreement) in place is so that we can monitor where we actually did what we said we would do, and where we didn't; then work toward doing what's agreed to in the next round (i.e. renewal of affiliation or revision of affiliation).

- **Which associations have already tailored and signed affiliation agreements?**

- 1) Arizona City/County Management Association (approved by ACMA Board in July; signed at ICMA Conference in Montreal, September 2009)
- 2) Maryland City/County Management Association (approved by MCCMA Board in September; signed at ICMA Conference in Montreal, September 2009)
- 3) International Hispanic Network (approved by IHN Board in May 2009; signed at ICMA Conference in Montreal, September 2009)
- 4) Virginia Local Government Management Association (approved by VLGMA board in October 2009)
- 5) Ohio City/County Management Association (approved by OCMA in December 2009)
- 6) Oregon City/County Management Association (first draft approved by OCCMA affiliation committee in January 2010; OCCMA board review scheduled for February 2010)
- 7) National Association of Regional Councils (approved by NARC in October 2009)

- **What is the Secretariat Addendum option?**

This option was designed for associations with fewer than 100 members and without existing staff support. It includes an annual fee for services such as member dues invoicing, member database management, Web site design, hosting, and maintenance. The Maryland City/County Management Association (88 members) was a pilot association for this arrangement with ICMA during 2007-2008. When they signed their affiliation agreement in Montreal, they also signed a Secretariat addendum.