

Local Government Center Legal Services

The Local Government Center is located in Concord, NH, and provides a wide array of legal, financial, human resource, and insurance services to member municipalities and affiliated groups of local officials in the State of New Hampshire. The best way to see the entire array of services, publications and training opportunities is to access the website at www.nhlgc.org

The Legal Services and Government Affairs Department

The Local Government Center's Legal Services and Government Affairs Department consists of seven attorneys, four who primarily provide legal services and three who primarily provide advocacy services in the Legislature and before state agencies. We also have a CPA with expertise in government finance, a research assistant, and support staff.

Legal Services Provided

Four attorneys are available on a daily basis to members to answer questions on general municipal law. Our role is to advise public officials on matters relating to the official duties they perform for their town or city. LGC does not represent member municipalities in court. Due to the volume of inquiries we receive, we do not provide comprehensive legal review of contracts or other documents, drafting of individualized ordinances or charters, or complete review of specific applications before local boards. If an answer hinges on detailed local facts, documents, local ordinances or charters, our attorneys will recommend that the member consult with regular legal counsel. Our legal advice is not meant to interfere with the relationship between a municipality and its regular attorney, in fact we share ideas and opinions with local legal counsel. Because our client is the municipality, we cannot provide private citizens with opinions on municipal law. We cannot advise one member municipality on a matter involving a dispute with another member municipality.

Education and Training Services

The attorneys also prepare and provide articles, handbooks, workshops and other educational programs and publications for local officials. The monthly publication, "Town and City" publishes articles on issues arising under municipal law, including planning and zoning. Examples of publications are "Knowing the Territory" and "A Hard Road to Travel". Some workshops are of general applicability, such as the basic and advanced sessions for local officials, and some are tailored to specific issues, such as training for moderators, budget committees, conservation committees, and public works officials.

How can we assist the CTAP municipalities?

1. The CTAP municipalities are members of the Local Government Center. The above described legal services are available to them on a daily basis.
2. While we cannot commit to drafting or comprehensive review of proposed or existing local ordinances due to resource constraints, we can work with members of the local

boards, local legal counsel, and staff of the regional planning commissions on specific legal questions that may arise in the drafting or review process.

3. The Local Government Center hosts many meetings of affiliate groups of local officials, including those in the CTAP municipalities. We provide an array of services to the affiliate groups, and these services will be available.

4. Town and City magazine is published monthly, and appropriate articles may be prepared to discuss legal issues, the progress of the CTAP process, or other matters that will be of interest not only in the CTAP municipalities, but on a statewide basis.

5. Based upon available resources and demand, we can provide workshops in the CTAP municipalities, or tailor some of the information presented in our generally available workshops to the issues and products of the CTAP process.

6. If the CTAP process yields products that should be made available on a statewide basis, we can incorporate those products into our future offerings.

7. We are willing to consider other requests for assistance, or partnering with other agencies, based upon available resources, and the limitations imposed by our attorney client relationship with our members.

Local Government Center
25 Triangle Park Drive
PO Box 617
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0617
NH Toll Free: 800/852-3358
E-mail: legalinquiries@nhlgc.org