

August-November 2023

Issue #7

INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter



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RECENT INITIATIVES

Just Released!

The Center's Year 2 Report



In late October 2023, the Center issued its annual report documenting key activities, achievements, and plans over its second year. We are incredibly grateful to Fellows, underwriters, supporters, and others who make this work possible through collaboration, thought leadership, service, and support

[Click Here to Read the Annual Report](#)

A White Paper on Housing and Infrastructure Disaster Resiliency - Sponsored by Hagerty Consulting



The Center engaged with Hagerty Consulting in the late summer of 2023 to examine the challenges states and localities face in building disaster-resilient housing and infrastructure. The Center conducted two roundtable gatherings of state, local, and non-governmental housing, infrastructure, and disaster experts to understand current circumstances and discuss promising practices and strategies that enable states, localities, and communities to develop disaster resiliency. We will publish the white paper in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

ACTIVITIES, RESEARCH & REPORTS

EPA's Indian Country Program Implementation Assessment

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) and the American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) have contracted with the Academy to develop a plan for assessing the effectiveness of EPA's direct implementation programs in Indian country. The study will address engagement with stakeholders and communities and a strategy for communication and training, all aimed at enhancing the EPA's efforts for environmental justice in Indian Country. The CIP team is leading this work for the Academy.

Intergovernmental Dimensions of Homelessness

Center staff continue to support the IGS Standing Panel's homelessness working group, led by Fellows [Steve Redburn](#) and [Rich Callahan](#). In August, the group met with officials helping Santa Clara County (California) reduce homelessness. They discussed strategies to provide stable housing while reducing programmatic costs. The Center's Senior Research Associate, [Brad Riley](#), leads outreach and coordination on this project. [Lauren Boczkowski](#) is a researcher analyzing healthcare system admissions and discharge data.

Intergovernmental Systems Standing Panel Activity

On November 15th, the IGS Standing Panel gathered a group of California-based Fellows and a real estate professional to discuss California's Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFD) and Climate Resilience Districts (CRD).

Panelists explained the new EIFD and CRD legislation and its flexibility for addressing today's

complex intergovernmental problems. Cities and counties may create EIFDs to collaborate more effectively to build housing and repurpose existing buildings. Watch the event here to learn more about how the administrative structures these districts enable can be used to address intergovernmental challenges in California.

[View the Recording](#)

The Center at the Academy Fall Meeting

During the Academy's Fall Meeting, the Center supported group discussions on Reimagining the Intergovernmental System and Preparing for Election 2024 and facilitated the Intergovernmental Systems Standing Panel meeting.

Preparing for Elections 2024

- This session featured [Larry Cooley](#) (Fellow and sponsor of the [Comparing Electoral Practices](#)) and the Center's Miles Murphy as the discussion moderator.
- Those assembled discussed the challenges in election administration, particularly those impacting the workforce and cybersecurity.
- The Academy's [Elections Working Group \(EWG\)](#) will have consistent election workforce-oriented programming in 2024

Reimagining the Intergovernmental System

- [Tom Carroll](#) (Fellow) spoke about intergovernmental challenges he's faced as a City Manager in Cambridge, MD.
- Fellows discussed how user-centered design can be incorporated into intergovernmental collaboration.

Intergovernmental Systems Standing Panel

- Fellows joined [Mark Pisano](#) (Fellow & Standing Panel Co-Chair) and [Rich Callahan](#) (Fellow) to discuss the Panel's priorities for 2024 and beyond.
- Fellows and Staff discussed past and ongoing projects, such as the Intergovernmental Models for the 21st Century Toolkit and Homelessness Working Group Initiatives.
- The group also identified actions that will allow the intergovernmental system to address modern wicked problems better.

RESOURCES ON THE WEB

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MATTERS (IGM) ARTICLE SPOTLIGHT

**Do You Know Your Local Election
Official Yet? (10/24/23)**

By: **Edie Goldenberg, Professor Emerita of Public Policy & Political Science at the University of Michigan and Academy Fellow**



As I read the steady stream of news stories about the harassment and resignations of local election officials around the country and the threats that drive some of them to need additional physical security for themselves and their families, I am glad I know our local clerk. Seven years ago, when I first became curious about why young people were not voting, I contacted our clerk and invited her to lunch, starting our occasional lunch outings. Those lunch discussions helped me understand the challenges she faces and appreciate the extraordinary efforts she and her office make to help eligible people vote.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Recent Intergovernmental Matters Posts

- [The Case for Neurodiversity in the Workforce \(09/22/23\)](#)
- [Intergovernmental Partnership Is a Solid Strategy to Address Wicked Problems \(08/04/23\)](#)
- [Celebrating Disability Pride Month \(08/04/23\)](#)

In Case You Missed It

Modern Intergovernmental Governance Toolkit

In July of 2023, the Center released the Modern Intergovernmental Governance Toolkit. The Study Team assessed the intergovernmental system's current dysfunctions, evaluated promising intergovernmental collaborations, and created a high-level agenda to apply changes in various policy contexts. The result is a Toolkit that will serve as a launch pad for additional research on modernizing and optimizing the intergovernmental system.

The Toolkit:

- Describes the most significant practical problems with the current intergovernmental system,
- Assesses the most promising models in use,
- Develops the key tenants and practices of a new model that can address current challenges, and
- Creates an action plan that creates effective, efficient, and equitable partnerships.

The Jane G. and Mark A. Pisano Fund sponsored this study

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[Click Here to Access the Toolkit](#)

Modern Public Benefits Delivery: A White Paper

In June 2023, the Center released a white paper addressing challenges and recommendations for modernizing the United States' public benefits programs. The white paper captures the key insights from three roundtables where researchers, advocates, practitioners, technologists, and public sector associations came together to develop a vision for a modernized public benefits system. Participants also recommend strategies to eliminate obstacles to innovation. The paper proposes a vision that moves away from purely compliance-based administrative functions to a holistic customer-centric experience—emphasizing efficacy, efficiency, and expediency.

The Center is grateful to the Center for Accountability, Modernization, and Innovation (CAMI) for sponsoring the roundtable series and White Paper.

[Access the White Paper](#)

[View the Recording of the White Paper Release Event](#)

Support Intergovernmental Partnerships

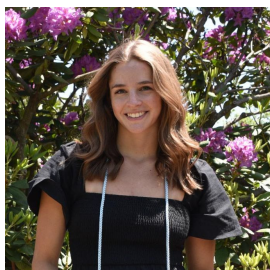


The Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships at the National Academy of Public Administration

Recognizing that no significant public problem fits entirely within one government agency or even one level of government, the Academy established the Center in September 2021. The Center helps identify gaps and serves as a forum for dialogue and problem-solving. It aims to improve the intergovernmental system for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, nonprofits, and federal agencies.

[Learn More](#)

The Center Welcomed Fall Interns



Sierra Edstrom

Sierra is a graduate student working toward her Master's in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she also just graduated with a B.A. in Political Science.

While an intern at the Center, Sierra has been working on a 50-state inventory of vote-by-mail processes, specifically looking at their equity and accessibility to citizens. In the future, Sierra hopes to continue her work in policy and intergovernmental policy while working for or with all

levels of government. Sierra also likes swimming, hiking, skiing, and spending time outside in the Colorado sunshine.



Madelyn Happ

Madelyn is working with the Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships while completing her J.D. at Wake Forest University School of Law.

Madelyn supports the Center with environmental and indigenous case law review on the EPA Direct Implementation Assessment study. At Wake Forest, Madelyn joined the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, where she assisted in matters involving the intersection between environmental law and Indigenous rights. She also serves as Notes and Comments Editor for the Wake Forest Law Review.



Isabella Loroff

Isabella joined the Academy in September 2023. She is an intern for the Academy's Strategic Initiatives and supports the EPA Direct Implementation Assessment study. Isabella is participating in the American University Washington Semester Program as a part of her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science at Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf.

Support our Work

Partnerships and financial support are critical to advancing the Academy's work on intergovernmental partnerships. When you support the Center, you are helping to rebuild the collaborative capabilities necessary to develop and implement effective policies and programs across levels of government.

Please, join our community of support today or renew your support by **donating today**.

To learn more about how to leave your legacy in public administration, please get in touch with our Director of Development, [Tony Spearman-Leach](#), at tspearman-leach@napawash.org or [\(202\) 204-3650](tel:(202)204-3650) to discuss donations.

Connect with the Center to Learn More

The Center team welcomes opportunities to connect with others working to promote intergovernmental partnerships. Please contact our Center' Director, [Dr. Nancy Augustine](#), or our Senior Research Analyst, [Miles Murphy](#), to share ideas or get more activity information. Additionally, if you have any communications or media questions, please contact [Matt Hampton](#).

Please share this newsletter with anyone you think might be interested.

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We recognize and thank the [Kerr Foundation, Inc.](#), the [National Association of Counties](#), and the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) for their generous contributions to the Academy.

This newsletter and other Center activities would not be possible without their support.



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