



April 17, 2024

[ABOUT](#)

[ADVOCACY](#)

[LEGAL SERVICES](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[FEDERAL FUNDING](#)

NHMA has a brand new member portal and we are now sporting a new look in our communications to you.

Find out if you have a profile in our portal by following these [login instructions](#).

Once you are logged in, follow [these steps](#) to register for a workshop.

Don't have a login? Contact us at info@nhmunicipal.org for more assistance.

To learn more, you can [watch a tutorial here](#). It's only about 35 minutes, so please view it at your earliest convenience.

If you are the designated Account Administrator for your city or town, the sooner you can log in as your municipality's main contact and review/edit the municipal officials listed under your municipality's profile, the smoother this transition will go. We know there are so many demands on your time, so we really appreciate your assistance. We are excited to launch this portal to improve your membership experience with NHMA!

Please email us at registrations@nhmunicipal.org if you have trouble registering for an event, and send other questions to info@nhmunicipal.org.

2024 Local Officials Workshop - *Free Training for Municipal Officials*

9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday, May 7 , 2024

NHMA Offices, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

Attendees have the option of attending in-person (limited to 60 people) at NHMA's offices, 25 Triangle Park Drive in Concord or attending virtually through a live streaming Zoom broadcast.

Presented by NHMA's Legal Services attorneys, these complimentary workshops provide municipal officials with the tools and information to effectively serve your communities. Topics will include the Right-to-Know Law, town governance, budget essentials, ethics and conflicts of interest, running effective meetings, municipal roads, and more. This program will also include a presentation on hot topics pending before the New Hampshire State Legislature of concern to municipal officials. Ample time allowed for questions, answers, and discussion.

Attendees will receive a complimentary electronic copy of the NHMA's 2024 edition of our comprehensive publication on municipal law, *Knowing the Territory*. Hard copies of *Knowing the Territory* are available on our online shop. Additional materials such as the PowerPoint presentation will also be distributed electronically. No print outs of the materials or hard copy of the publication will be provided.

Workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. If you register but cannot attend, a recording of the workshop will be provided.

Questions? Please contact us at 603-230-3350 or registrations@nhmunicipal.org.

[Registration Now Open!](#)

2024 A Hard Road to Travel Workshop

9:00 am - 1:30 pm, Thursday, May 9, 2024

NHMA Offices, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH

\$70.00 in-person and \$55.00 virtual attendance. Non-member* (state and school officials only) cost is \$140.00 in-person attendance and \$110.00 virtual attendance.

** Non-member attendance is limited to government officials who are not members of NHMA and not eligible to be members (schools and state agencies). If space is limited, priority will be given to NHMA members. Non-member village districts, counties, regional planning commissions, or other municipal entities interested in attending NHMA workshops can contact info@nhmunicipal.org to learn about becoming a member.*

You must first login to NHMA's new portal to register for the workshop. Find out if you have a profile in our portal by following these [login instructions](#).

Once you are logged in, follow [these steps](#) to register for the workshop.

[WORKSHOP AGENDA](#)

[WORKSHOP REGISTRATION](#)

NHOPD Monthly Webinar Series - Welcome to the Board- 2024

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm, Thursday, April 18

Please join Stephanie N. Verdile, principal planner at OPD, who will provide introductory and procedural information about the basics of planning and

zoning in general, and the purpose and role of planning and zoning boards. Stephanie will also provide a dictionary of planning and zoning acronyms to help navigate that landscape, as well as tips on how to be a good board member. This webinar is geared for new board members as well as seasoned members interested in a refresher course. Q&A will round out this event.

[Register Here!](#)

REGISTRATION OPEN: NHOPD Spring 2024 Planning and Zoning Conference

8:45 am - 3:30 pm, Saturday, May 11, 2024

The conference will have three tracks: Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Historic Preservation and Housing.

For additional conference details including the agenda outlining each session by track, please see the [2024 Planning and Zoning Conference webpage](#).

To Register: Please register for one track only. Please use the links below to register accordingly.

A session chart, which includes the Microsoft Teams webinar links for each track/session, will be sent via email to all those who registered. You do not need to register for more than one track if you want to attend sessions from multiple tracks throughout the day.

- [Planning Board Track Registration](#)
- [Zoning Board of Adjustment Track Registration](#)
- [Historic Preservation & Housing Track Registration](#)

All conference sessions will be recorded and available on [OPD's YouTube channel](#) following the conference

Fostering Regional Resilience: SNHPC's Roadway Adaptation Toolkit Webinar

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm, Wednesday, May 15

Free for NHMA Members/Associate Members/State Agencies

\$20 Municipal Non-Member*

The functionality and reliability of the transportation network is a priority issue for every community, and the Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) has found that roadway adaptation offers a strategic path for bringing diverse stakeholders together to address pressing climate concerns.

In 2023, the SNHPC released a Roadway Adaptation Toolkit to help communities shift from analysis into action to advance regional resilience efforts. This webinar will provide a high-level overview of select toolkit content, including:

- A corridor-scale approach to analyzing roadway vulnerabilities
- A menu of strategies that communities can use to address unique vulnerability concerns
- A case study offering implementation insights from one community in the SNHPC region

Join Suzanne Nienaber, Principal Planner, and Zachary Swick, Senior GIS Analyst, with the SNHRPC, who will provide details of this toolkit and give participants the opportunity to discuss their own roadway adaptation priorities.

**** Non-member attendance is for non-member schools and vendors. Non-member village districts, counties, regional planning commissions, or other municipal entities interested in attending NHMA workshops can contact info@nhmunicipal.org to learn about becoming a member. NHMA reserves the right to restrict access to these webinars.***

[REGISTRATION OPEN!](#)

New Hampshire Digital Government Summit

Thursday, June 4, 2024

**DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm Street,
Manchester, NH 03101**

PURPOSE

This event is for and about state and local government. The purpose of the event is to foster discussion and dialogue on the use of information technology as a strategic tool for managers, executives and policy makers.

FOCUS

- Digital Government Trends
- Emerging Technologies
- Cybersecurity
- Data and Analytics
- Citizen Experience
- Cloud Services
- Innovation and Collaboration

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

If you influence or participate in technology decisions or implementations at any level, you will find benefit in attending. Don't miss this opportunity to see the latest in digital government solutions, keep abreast of current policy issues and network with key government executives, technologists and industry specialists.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

NHFPI's Three-Part Virtual Webinar Series - Strengthen the Foundations of a Thriving Economy

New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute will be hosting a three-part webinar series on **Monday, April 29, and Monday, May 13**. All webinars run from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. **[More information](#)** and speaker details to follow.

April 22nd Webinar on SCOTUS Social Media Decision

On March 15th, in *Lindke v. Freed*, the Supreme Court established the test for when local government officials are considered "state actors" for the purposes of the First Amendment when they post on social media. The case is a win for local governments as the test provided by the Supreme Court safeguards the free speech rights of elected officials while balancing the rights of their citizens.

Hosted by the Local Government Legal Center (LGLC), legal experts will lead a discussion of the *Lindke v. Freed* decision in which the Supreme Court set forth the test for when local government officials are considered "state actors" for the purposes of the First Amendment when they post on social media. The webinar will be recorded so registering even if you can't attend live as the recording will be emailed out to all registrants.

[REGISTERNOW!](#)

Workshop Opportunity for Planning Board Members - *The Dollars and Sense of Multifamily Development*

8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Wednesday, May 22, NH Housing Offices, Bedford

Cost is \$25. Space is limited

NH Housing has partnered once again with Grow America (formerly National Development Council) and the New Hampshire Planners Association to offer this one-day training on May 22nd that unlocks the details of multifamily housing development.

Click on the link for more information and to register.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7nwkjbu/lp/d6630109-8ee4-4fc4-8155-1fb29bd5dafa>

EPA Finalizes First-Ever National Drinking Water Standard from PFAS Pollution

In summary, the new regulation sets an enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level at 4 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS, the two most studied of the PFAS chemical class. The new regulation also sets an enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level at 10 parts per trillion for 4 other PFAS chemicals and creates an enforceable Hazard Index for 4 additional PFAS chemicals when they are found together in mixtures.

This final rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, which is expected in the coming weeks. Water systems have three years to complete the initial monitoring that is required (by 2027). The new regulation also requires local governments and water utilities to inform the public of the measured levels of PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027. Water systems have five years to implement solutions to reduce PFAS in their drinking water if they exceed the levels (by 2029). EPA estimates that approximately 4,000-7,000 (of the 66,000) public drinking water systems will have to take action to reduce PFAS to meet these new standards.

EPA has a number of resources on its [website](#) include fact sheets, a Q&A doc, a tool kit on communicating and educating the public, and a guide on which at-home filters can help reduce PFAS in drinking water.

Additionally, EPA is holding three informational webinars for communities, water systems, and other drinking water professionals about the final regulation. The webinars will be similar, with each intended for specific audiences. Registration is required to attend and EPA requests that registrants only register for one of the webinars. The webinar recordings and presentation materials will be made available on the EPA website following the webinars. For questions related to the public webinars, please contact PFASNPDWR@epa.gov.

- April 23, 2024 (2:00 - 3:00 pm EDT) [Webinar Registration: Drinking Water Utilities and Professionals Technical Overview of PFAS NPDWR](#)
 - April 30, 2024 (2:00 - 3:30 pm EDT) [Webinar Registration: Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series on Final PFAS NPDWR and PFAS Drinking Water Treatment](#)
-

Combatting PFAS Pollution - Tools for Local Government

The White House recently announced new findings and actions that will help to protect Americans' drinking water from contamination, including from "forever chemicals" like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a set of human-made chemicals that can cause cancer and other severe health problems, pose a serious threat across rural, suburban, and urban areas, and that disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities. PFAS are considered "forever chemicals" because they are environmentally persistent, bio accumulative, and remain in human bodies for a long time.

EPA is making available \$1 billion in grant funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to help communities that are on the frontlines of PFAS contamination, the first of \$5 billion through the Law that can be used to reduce PFAS in drinking water in communities facing disproportionate impacts. These funds can be used in small or disadvantaged communities to address emerging contaminants like PFAS in drinking water through actions such as technical assistance, water quality testing, contractor training, and installation of centralized treatment technologies and systems.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT TOOLS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS](#)

SLFRF Program Deadline for NEU's is April 30, 2025

In November, the US Treasury Department put out a new definition of obligation in an Interim Final Rule (IFR). Personnel working on the grant's compliance and administration can be kept on past the December 31, 2024 obligation deadline. The deadline by which a city or town would have to put together a budget estimating the costs of grant management personnel **for CY25-26**. Now, for larger cities, the new deadline is July 31, 2024. For NEUs, the deadline is April 30, 2025.

Cities, towns and villages still need to report by April 30, 2024. This announcement above about April 30, 2025 should not impact this cycles reporting. Report as normal.

NH Department of Environmental Services has DERA Funding Available NOW!

NHDES has been awarded new Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for our NH Clean Diesel Grant Program. A competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) was released April 12, 2024!

Please review [the current RFP](#) for program details before submitting your proposal. **The proposal deadline is May 24, 2024 at 4 PM ET.**

Projects eligible for funding include diesel vehicle and equipment replacement, diesel engine replacement, etc. Common projects include plow truck, drayage truck, fire truck, wheeled loader, and school bus replacements. Existing units must be diesels, engine model year 2009 or older (unless replacing with electric) and must be scrapped. The replacement unit can be diesel, propane, natural gas, or electric and must be the same class and perform the same function as the existing unit. Grant funding reimburses a portion of eligible project costs; the portion depends on the project type. This is a competitive selection, based on specified Scoring Criteria and it is a reimbursement program.

Please visit the [NH Clean Diesel website](#) for more information or [email us!](#)

NHRS Announces Reinstitution of Late Employer Reporting Penalties

As part of the transition to the new employer Data Reporting System (DRS), the automated penalties for late posting of monthly wage and contribution data have been turned off since late 2023. At this time, NHRS plans to reinstitute late reporting and payment penalties beginning with the reporting of May member data due June 15.

The integrity of the data that NHRS receives from employers is crucial to its ability to effectively administer retirement benefits. Without timely and accurate payroll information and payment of contributions, the retirement system cannot post member interest, issue refunds to terminated members, or correctly calculate or finalize pensions for recent retirees.

For those employers that are up to date with their reporting, we thank you and appreciate your diligence in ensuring you are reporting and submitting payments on time.

For those employers that are behind, this advance notice is an opportunity to get your reporting and payments current to avoid these penalties. Any reports or payments for any prior periods that are made after June 15th will have penalties assessed.

Contact us with any questions or support that you may need at exceptions@nhrs.org or at 603-410-3500.

For more information on employer reporting and payment penalties, see: <https://www.nhrs.org/employers/employer-resources/reporting-and-payment-penalties>.

New Report Examines Younger Public Service Employees by Age

A new research brief from [MissionSquare Research Institute](#) comparing the sentiment of younger public service employees by age reveals that while personal satisfaction is a key factor in pursuing public service employment, a desire for higher wages is a driving factor for these workers contemplating a job change. Seventy-three percent of public service workers aged 27-35 considering a job change said a higher salary was their top reason for seeking other employment. For those aged 18-26, 64% considering leaving also said securing a higher salary was their top motivation. Topics include views on their finances, employer benefits, morale, job satisfaction, and long-term career plans.

[Download the brief.](#)

NHDOT Offers Draft Public Involvement Process (PIP) Document for Public Comment

NHDOT has updated its website to include the draft document- Public Involvement Process (PIP) and the public notice of the 45-day public comment period. The document provides an overview of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Ten-Year Plan (TYP) and Statewide

Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) processes and purpose, identifies opportunities to participate and where to find information. Public participation is vital to understanding issues, discussing solutions, and planning a transportation system for current and future users.

The public comment period runs from April 1- May 15, 2024. <https://www.dot.nh.gov/doing-business-nhdot/general-public>

Check Out NHDOE's Municipal Solar Grant Program

NHDOE's application for EECBG Program funding remains under review with USDOE.

The following are some program highlights to give municipalities a sense of program expectations:

- Municipalities must wholly own the project buildings & site location.
- Proposed projects must have at least 80% insolation.
- The Municipal Solar Grant Program will not cover costs unrelated to the direct material, equipment, or labor costs related to the design, construction, and installation of the solar system.
- Municipalities seeking to expand existing solar facilities or have projects that are full funded through other means are not eligible.

Visit NHDOE's Municipal Solar Grant Program for more information: <https://www.energy.nh.gov/funding-opportunities/funding-opportunities-cities-towns-counties-and-schools/municipal-solar-grant>.

NOW AVAILABLE - [Climate Resilience Funding Database](#) for Maine and New Hampshire Communities

Funding is one of the largest barriers to implementing climate resilience projects. To assist communities with awareness of current funding opportunities, the Climate Ready Coast - Southern Maine project team and NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup assembled the following database of federal, state, and private grant and funding programs that could be used to

support all stages of coastal resilience projects, including planning, site assessment, engineering and design, implementation, land acquisition, and monitoring. For each funding opportunity, there is information about eligible applicants, goals, eligible uses, funding limits, match requirements, previously funded projects, and links to more information.

[Climate Resilience Funding Database](#)

CISA ADVISORY: Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-of-Service Attacks

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) released an updated joint distributed-denial-of-service guide, [Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial-Of-Service Attacks](#). The guide now includes detailed insight into three different types of DDoS techniques: Volumetric, Protocol, and Application. This guide was developed for IT leaders and network defenders, as well as CEOs and board members, to help them understand and respond to distributed denial-of-service attacks. All organizations are encouraged to review the updated guide with tailored mitigations to reduce risk to these types of DDoS techniques that malicious actors frequently use.

SAVE THESE DATES! NH Energy Week is Monday, May 6 - Friday, May 10

The organizing partners of [2024 NH Energy Week](#) are thrilled to announce the dates for the 7th annual week-long event series: **mark your calendar for Monday, May 6 - Friday, May 10**. The series will be a blend of in-person and virtual events including themes such as energy generation and distribution, transportation, resiliency, and workforce development, and more. In the meantime, check out the past [NH Energy Week virtual programming on the website](#).

REGISTRATION OPEN - NHDES Drinking Water Source Protection Conference - May 16, 2024

In-person event at the Army National Guard Reserve Training Complex in Pembroke. This event attracts drinking water professionals from throughout New England including water system operators, planners, commissioners, and consultants interested in learning how to better protect our drinking water sources.

Register early as attendance is limited. If interested, go to the American Ground Water Trust registration site ([2024 - NHDES Drinking Water Source Protection Conference | American Ground Water Trust \(agwt.org\)](https://www.agwt.org)). Registration is now open.

[SEE EVENT FLYER!](#)

SAVE THE DATE! [2024 NH/VT CYBERSECURITY SUMMIT - Thursday, November 7, Woodstock Inn & Resort, Woodstock, VT](#)

HEALTHY LIVING TIPS FROM HEALTHTRUST: Bump up the Fiber!

Fiber helps maintain digestive health and helps us feel fuller longer. Fiber also helps control blood sugar and lower cholesterol levels. Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds are good sources of fiber.

Source: [CDC](#)

COURT UPDATES

[Parties May Not Negotiate Away the Public's Right to Access Records under RSA 91-A Through Private Settlement Agreements or Confidentiality Agreements, Jonathan Stone v. City of Claremont, New Hampshire Supreme Court Case No. 2023-008. 03/20/2024](#)

[When Government Official Posts about Job-Related Topics on Social Media, those Posts will be Attributable to the State if the Official \(1\) Possessed Authority to Speak on Behalf of State, and \(2\) Exercised that Authority When Speaking on](#)

[**Social Media, Lindke v. Freed, United States Supreme Court Case No. 22-611, 03/15/2024**](#)

[**Subdivision Approvals are Subject to RSA 674:41 and Lots Shall have Street Access, Harvey v. Barrington, New Hampshire Supreme Court Case No. 2021-0601, 02/27/2024**](#)

[**LEGISLATIVE BULLETINS**](#)

[**STATE AID BOOKLET**](#)

[**RULEMAKING REGISTRY**](#)

Taxation of Wood or Timber Cut [**Proposal #2024-50; Proposed Rule Chapter Rev 3400 Taxation of Wood or Timber Cut**](#)

Animal Population Control [**Proposal #2024-51; Proposed Rule Chapter Agr 2800 Animal Population Control**](#)

Solid Waste Program Permits [**Proposal #2024-59; Proposed Rule Chapter Env-Sw 300 Solid Waste Program: Permits**](#)

[**GRANT PROGRAM FINDER**](#)

[**CLASSIFIED ADS**](#)

[**CALENDER OF EVENTS**](#)



University of New Hampshire

Advance Your Public Service Career

The University of New Hampshire public service graduate programs offer a special mix of academic rigor and real-life expertise to prepare you for a career with impact. You will graduate with the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills required to succeed in government and nonprofit organizations.

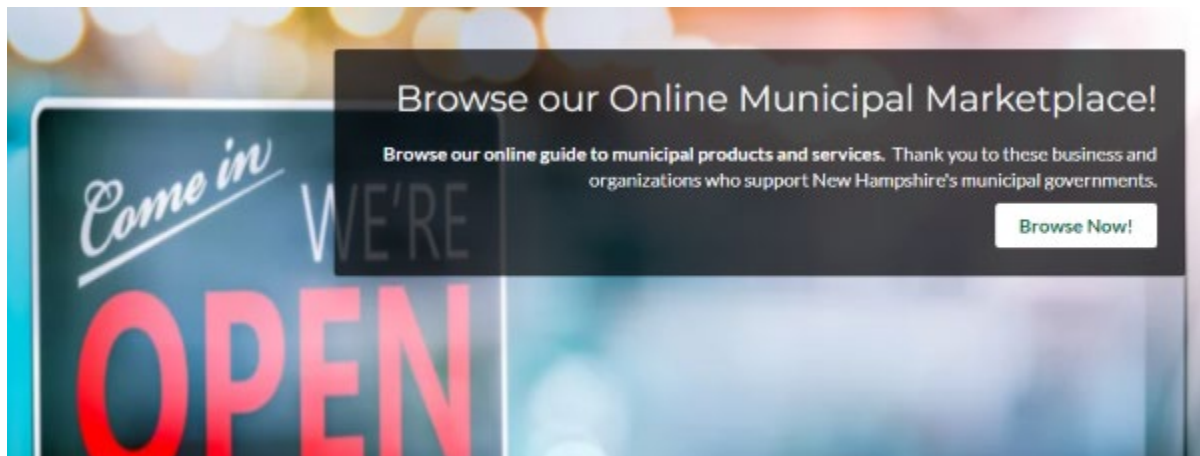
Tailored for busy professionals like you, our programs offer:

- Flexible online format
- Expert faculty
- Hands-on learning

[LEARN HOW YOU CAN ADVANCE YOUR CAREER WITH UNH.](#)

[MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE](#)

The NHMA would like to thank its supporters who value their partnership with the 234 municipalities in New Hampshire. Our online advertising supporters help provide valuable financial support, ensuring our ability to provide important educational and training opportunities.



Thank you to these business and organizations who support New Hampshire's municipal governments. Browse our online [Municipal Marketplace](#) to products and services for cities and towns.

Thank You to Our Sustaining Sponsors

Premier Sponsor



Diamond Level Sponsors - SPONSORS OF 2024 WEBINAR AND WORKSHOP SERIES



Gold Level Sponsors



NEW HAMPSHIRE TRIVIA

April 17, 2024 Trivia Question:

The following place is not a municipality. Rather, it is a village, neighborhood, or other area that lies within an incorporated municipality. Name the municipality in which Intervale is located.

Please send your response to newslink@nhmunicipal.org. A winner will be recognized in the next *NewsLink* issue and be eligible for a grand prize of no particular value whatsoever at the end of the year.

April 3, 2024 Trivia Question & Answer:

The following place is not a municipality. Rather, it is a village, neighborhood, or other area that lies within an incorporated municipality. Name the municipality in which Gonic is located.

Correct Response: City of Rochester

April 3rd Winner: Rick Hiland, Select Board, Town of Albany

