

# ICC Government Relations Monthly Update – June 2021

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## **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: It's online! It's highly informational! And best of all ... it's free!**

It's been held in convention centers in Oklahoma City and Denver, but the 2021 Chapter Leadership Academy will be only as far away as your computer. This year's Academy will be a one-day event and will be held Tuesday, June 8, starting at 10 a.m. Eastern, 9 a.m. Central, 8 a.m. Mountain and 7 a.m. Pacific. Please [register by clicking here](#), so we can send additional details and session information closer to June 8th! If you have any questions, please email [chapters@iccsafe.org](mailto:chapters@iccsafe.org).

## **June 3 webinar examines FEMA's new disaster recovery grant policy to aid building safety officials**

Join an [important webinar at 2 p.m. Eastern on Thursday, June 3](#), about FEMA's new disaster recovery grant policy under the Public Assistance program "Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement." The policy offers building officials and communities an effective way to access resources needed to effectively administer and enforce building codes and floodplain management ordinances for up to 180 days following a major disaster declaration. The webinar will walk through the new program and how building officials can access it. **Attending is worth .1 CEUs.** This new program can provide uncapped funding for a broad range of eligible work related to increased code enforcement activity post-disaster. Join the Code Council, FEMA, and state and local representatives on Thursday, June 3, as they discuss the implementation of the new policy. [Register now](#). FEMA put some materials out in advance that also may be of interest:

- [Building code adoption tracking \(BCAT\) factsheets](#) that track adoption by state/region.
- [Mutual Aid for Building Department \(MABD\) regional fact sheets](#) that provide an overview of mutual aid laws and regulations for response teams to assist with enforcement after disasters. FEMA's new post disaster enforcement assistance effort can fund mutual aid efforts.
- FEMA's Building Safety Month [blogpost](#).

## **Code Council's 2021 ICC Annual Conference and Public Comment Hearing schedules are shaping up**

Schedules are being developed to produce a condensed 2021 ICC Annual Conference and [Public Comment Hearings](#) September 19-28 in Pittsburgh. This year's event will take precautions to allow members, stakeholders and employees to gather safely. Some sessions will be offered virtually. More details are forthcoming. "After making the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 event, we are very excited to safely host this year's in-person conference and hearings," said Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. "We will strictly follow the recommended precautions to ensure the health and safety of all our attendees. The 2021 event will offer training and networking opportunities for industry professionals looking to learn from top experts and discuss the latest innovations in building technology." [Read more here](#).

## **All Governmental Member Voting Representatives must be validated by August 21 to participate**

This year marks the exciting start of a new [code development cycle](#). All Governmental Member Voting Representatives must be validated this year. Governmental Member primary representatives must validate their voting representatives by August 21 in order to fully participate in the code development process. [Validate credentials here](#). Also, the Code Council has issued the "2021 Report of the Committee Action Hearings on the 2021 Editions of the Group A International Codes." The public comment deadline on the Group A code proposals is July 2. [See it here](#).

## **BRIC is back – doubled! And Treasury issues final information on ARP (American Recovery Act) funds**

The Biden Administration is doubling funding to \$1 billion for state and local governments under BRIC (**B**uilding **R**esilient **C**ommunities and **I**nfrastructure). [Read the White House statement here](#). The BRIC program premiered in 2020 and was FEMA's new \$500 million mitigation grant program. It prioritizes the adoption and enforcement of hazard resistant building codes and makes funding available for adoption activities (including staff time and [consultant](#) costs), [training](#), [certifications](#), [electronic permitting](#), [building department accreditation](#), and [online access to codes and standards](#). Brick and

mortar mitigation projects are more competitive candidates for funding based on state adopted codes and local [BCEGS scores](#). The latest for code officials on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocations [comes from the U.S. Treasury Department](#), a guide which details what activities are eligible. See [the ICC factsheet](#) which summaries eligible activities and other program facets. Treasury has finalized allocations to all units of government [here](#).

### **June 29 is the deadline to apply in the International Code Council's 2021 Sponsored Scholarship cycle**

Only ONE application is needed to apply by June 29 for any and all of the five scholarships in the 2021 ICC Sponsored Scholarship program, which include:

- [ICC General Scholarship Fund](#)
- [William J. Tangye Scholarship](#)
- [J.W. "Bill" Neese Scholarship](#)
- [C.D. Howard Scholarship](#)
- [Charlie O'Meilie Scholarship](#)

The 2021 [Application Form](#) and the [Scholarship Recommendation Form](#) for [all five of the Sponsored Scholarships](#) are available. The scholarships are funded by contributors and Code Council Chapters. Recipients are selected by a committee of volunteers.

### **Webinar on June 3 features roundtable event to commemorate High Performance Building Week**

On Thursday morning, join High Performance Buildings Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Peter Welch (D VT) as well as chief executives from the [High Performance Building Coalition](#) for a roundtable discussion on efforts in Congress and the private sector to promote public health, address climate change and mitigate against natural hazards in the built environment. Those participating in the panel include:

- Dominic Sims, CBO, CEO, International Code Council
- Vicki Worden, President & CEO, Green Building Initiative
- David Gans, Board President, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials
- Charles E. Gullledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP, President, ASHRAE
- Panel moderator Lakisha A. Woods, CAE, President & CEO, National Institute of Building Science

[Register and read more](#) here about the webinar which starts 9 a.m. Eastern on Thursday, June 3.

### **Tutorial webinar series describes uses and answers questions about ICC Digital Premium Complete**

The tutorial webinar series on using the Code Council's Digital Premium Complete is available free to those interested in obtaining and using it. The webinars are stored on You Tube at ICCMEDIA, including the most recent webinar titled, "[How to Narrow Down Search Results and Navigate Premium Content Offerings](#)." The other webinars are [Advance Search](#) (held April 14), [Premium Complete Live Demo](#) (held March 10), [Organizing with My Notes](#) (held February 17), [Premium for Teams](#), (held January 13) and [Discover Premium Complete](#), (held December 9). [Read more here about Digital Premium Complete](#).

### **Department of Energy analysis finds significant energy and carbon improvements in 2021 IECC**

[Preliminary analysis](#) released by the U.S. Department of Energy finds that the residential provisions of the 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) are 9.38 percent more efficient than the 2018 edition and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8.66 percent. The International Code Council has developed the IECC for over three decades. With this new analysis, the IECC has seen a 40 percent improvement in energy savings starting from the 2006 edition. [Read more here](#).

### **Code Council bolsters its energy efficiency subject matter team with three new professionals**

Codes and standards play an important role in advancing energy efficiency and responding to a changing climate. To help implement and advance its resiliency, sustainability and energy strategy, three new specialized professionals — Kris Stenger, Jerica Stacey and Joseph Sollod — recently joined the Code Council team to provide advanced products and solutions related to energy efficiency. [Read more here](#).

### **Energy code users to participate in the virtual 2021 National Energy Codes Conference July 20-22**

Energy code users and participants of all types are expected to sign up for the U.S. Department of Energy's 2021 National Energy Codes Conference to be held online July 20-22. That list includes building officials, builders, state energy offices, trade associations, energy efficiency organizations, architects,

engineers, policymakers, manufacturers, utilities, code administrators, educators, researchers and the interested public who will participate in this virtual event. It will include pre-conference workshops, a webinar series and two full-day meetings. View recordings and presentations from the [2020 Fall Webinar Series by clicking here](#). This year's event followed by a series of topic-based seminars throughout the summer. [Learn more here](#).

### **Discover how advance planning helps protect communities before, during and after natural disasters**

Advance planning for devastating events helps communities increase their health and safety during a disaster, protects the local tax base, ensures continuity of essential services and supports a faster recovery in the aftermath of a disaster. 4LEAF Inc., a virtual webinar sponsor of Building Safety Month week four, debuted a video on why home-hardening and building safety is crucial to surviving during wildfire season. [Watch now](#).

### **Experts in building codes discuss how enforcing current building codes saves communities' resources**

A webinar recorded during 2021 Building Safety Month zeroes in on how using current building codes saves lives, property and money is now available online. Titled **"Building Codes: Science That Shows They Work and Why They Are So Important,"** the event was sponsored by FEMA Region 5. It features:

- **Dr. Jiqiu (JQ) Yuan, P.E.** Executive Director of the Multi- Hazard Mitigation (MMC) and Building Seismic Safety Council (BSSC) at the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS).
- **Ryan M. Colker, J.D.**, CAE Vice President, Innovation at the International Code Council and Executive Director of the Alliance for National & Community Resilience.
- **Leslie Chapman-Henderson** President and CEO of the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH)<sup>®</sup>.

The webinar brought together experts on building codes to talk about the importance of investing in building codes now, how to communicate successfully about building codes, and why FEMA is encouraging their use throughout its Hazard Mitigation programs. [See it here](#).

### **Code Council and Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation join forces to support code officials**

The International Code Council and [Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation](#) (CEOSF) recently signed a memorandum of understanding to share resources and exchange information in support of code official safety. The Code Council and CEOSF will work together to promote best practices for the safety of code officials, provide resources and up-to-date training that encourages the highest standard of professionalism throughout the building safety community, and recognize code enforcement professionals that have paid the highest price to protect their communities. [Read more here](#).

### **New report from U.S. Fire Administration updates statistics from all reported residential building fires**

Home fires account for the vast majority of civilian fire casualties. A new report from the U.S. Fire Administration describes the characteristics of all residential building fires reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System for 2017-2019. These fires resulted in an annual average of 2,770 deaths, 11,650 injuries and \$8.1 billion in property loss. [Read more here](#).

### **Webinar recording features experts on field-level experience with remote and virtual inspections**

The advantages of remote virtual inspections are so great that they will likely become a popular and routine tool for the foreseeable future. Government Relations' Karl Fippinger joined representatives from the National Fire Protection Association and Jensen Hughes for a roundtable discussion on field-level experience with remote and virtual inspections. A full recording of the event is now available. Learn what the experts had to say about this rapidly expanding technology. [Discover more here](#).

### **IREC launches program to update 30,000 safety professionals on distributed energy resources**

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council ([IREC](#)) and partners recently launched a three-year, \$2.1 million project to reduce barriers to the widespread adoption of distributed energy resources (DERs) by providing education and resources to expand the knowledge of 30,000 safety professionals. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). Building, fire, and safety officials play a critical role in enabling the safe, widespread, and rapid deployment of new technologies that make the grid more sustainable and resilient. These include energy storage systems (ESS), electric vehicles (EVs), and grid-interactive energy efficient building

technologies. However, these emerging technologies have outpaced codes and existing educational resources, creating an urgent need for up-to-date guidance for this audience. [Read more here.](#)

### **Focus on water efficiency is growing because it's critical to creating sustainable, resilient communities**

As the creation of sustainable and resilient buildings becomes a greater priority, especially over the past year, one critical component will be to ensure our buildings are water efficient. Luckily, model building codes and standards have already begun addressing water efficiency and conservation. However, no single code or standard can fully address every facet of the issue. Instead, it will take a holistic approach, utilizing codes and standards from all areas such as plumbing and mechanical, residential and commercial, and energy conservation. [Read more here.](#)

### **U.S. House hearing focuses on financial and safety benefits of investing in resilience and mitigation**

The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a recent hearing — [Building Smarter: The Benefits of Investing in Resilience and Mitigation](#) — where members heard testimony from experts in emergency management, mitigation and resilience, insurance, and construction. Among the policy proposals being considered, Committee Chairman DeFazio (D-OR) voiced support for the recently reintroduced *Disaster Savings and Resilient Construction Act* (116<sup>th</sup> Congress – [H.R. 7979](#)), which would create a post-disaster tax credit for properties (\$25,000 for commercial and \$3,000 for residential) rebuilding to resilience standards consistent with the most recently published editions of the IBC, IRC, IWUIC and/or the ICC-600 Standard for Residential Construction in High-Wind Regions. [Read more here.](#)

### **Judy Zakreski is selected for ANSI's 2020-2021 Next Generation Award for her international activities**

For her significant contributions to national and international standardization activities and commitment to the global voluntary consensus standards system, Judy Zakreski, vice president of global services for the International Code Council, will receive the 2020–2021 Next Generation Award from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as part of its Leadership and Service Awards. [Read more here.](#)

### ***GOT PULSE?* John Hudgison, Henry Green and Anthony Floyd featured on Episode 40 Pulse Podcast**

[John \("JC"\) Hudgison](#), Certified Building Official for the City of Tampa & Emerging Leaders Membership Council member talks with [Henry Green](#), former President & CEO of NIBS and former Code Council Board President, and [Anthony Floyd](#), Green Building Program Manager for the City of Scottsdale, discuss training the next generation in black and brown communities and how we can increase awareness and education about the building safety profession. Check out [Episode 40 of the ICC Pulse Podcast](#).

### ***GOT PULSE - AGAIN?* GR's Steve Jones and experts discuss garage door safety and inspection tips**

[Steve Jones](#), Code Council Senior Gov't Relations Regional Manager talks with [Mike Fischer](#), Executive Director of the International Door Association (IDA); and [Gordon Thomas](#), Technical Director at Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) on the importance of garage door safety. They also share safety tips and resources for inspectors and the public on checking garage doors. [Hear episode 41.](#)

### **Upcoming from the Code Council Learning Center: Institutes, training, webinars, etc.**

Online learning is available from the [ICC Learning Center](#). Find course [listings you'd like to attend](#) in the ICC Learning Center using the Search function. Single-day training events are an opportunity to focus on topics to ensure your code knowledge stays up to date, with some seminars offering a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection:

- **June 1 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [General Provisions for Fire Safety, Part II.](#)**
- **June 8 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [Special Occupancies and Operations.](#)**
- **June 9 - [Applying the Codes to Cannabis Facilities.](#)**
- **June 10 - [2018 Accessibility & Usability.](#)**
- **June 15 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [Regulated Materials and Processes.](#)**
- **June 14-16 - [2018 Property Maintenance & Housing Inspector - 64 Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **June 15 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [Regulated Materials and Processes.](#)**
- **June 17 – Leadership Webinar Series: [Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say.](#)**

- June 21-23 - [2018 Fire Inspector I - 66 Certification Test Academy.](#)
- June 29 - [2019 CRC Essentials.](#)
- June 30 - [2019 CBC Essentials.](#)
- July 7 – [2018 IRC Essentials.](#)
- July 8 – [2018 IPC Essentials.](#)
- July 13-15 - [2018 Residential Mechanical Inspector - M1.](#)
- July 15 - Leadership Webinar Series: [The Courageous Leader.](#)
- July 20-22 - [2018 Fire Inspector II - 67.](#)
- July 21 – [Inspector Skills.](#)
- July 22 - [Effective Communication.](#)
- July 23 – [2018 IBC Means of Egress.](#)
- July 26-28 – [2018 Principles of Building Safety Institute.](#)
- July 29 - [2021 IPC, IMC, and IFGC Significant Changes.](#)
- August 2-6 - [2018 Plan Review Institute.](#)
- August 6 - Leadership Webinar Series: [Challenging Discussions.](#)
- August 9-12 - [Code Official Institute.](#)
- August 10-12 - [2018 Residential Plumbing Inspector - P1.](#)
- August 17-18 - [When Disaster Strikes.](#)
- August 18 - [2021 IBC Significant Changes.](#)
- August 19 - [2018 IBC Essentials.](#)
- August 24-26 - [2018 Fire & Life Safety Institute.](#)
- August 25 - [Customer Service and Code Enforcement.](#)
- August 31 - [2021 IRC Significant Changes.](#)

Check out more [upcoming learning opportunities here.](#)