Local Administrator Advisor Program

General Government

Requester Information

Legislator Name: Owens, Derrin R.

Created Date: January 21st 2026 **Submitted Date:** January 21st 2026

Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

The Local Administrative Advisor Program (LAA) provides critical technical assistance to small local governments across Utah that lack sufficient revenue to support a full-time, professionalized staff. Advisors, embedded in each of the seven AOGs across the state, deliver resources, trainings, and legislative implementation support developed by the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT). A $500,000 funding reduction in the 2025 Legislative Session eliminated all LAA funding for ULCT and reduced funding for all seven AOGs, severely limiting program operations. Restoring the $500,000 to the program will allow ULCT to resume in-person training, employ technical experts, strengthen AOG capacity, and restore the full effectiveness of the program in serving and empowering rural Utah communities. In FY25 alone, the LAA program secured $24M in state and federal grant dollars and $1.22M in state and federal loan dollars - for a relatively small investment, the program has paid dividends for rural Utah.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Molly Wheeler

Organization: Utah League of Cities and Towns

Position: Deputy Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Personnel Services	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$500,000.00

Category	One-time		Ongoing
In-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Out-of-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Technology Purchases	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	**$0.00**	**$500,000.00**

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time) $0.00

2027 (One-time) $0.00

2027 (Ongoing) $500,000.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	**$0.00**	**$500,000.00**

Is this a multi-year project?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

The $500k request is to restore funding after it was scaled back during the 2025 Legislative Session. This scaling resulted in a 100% reduction to the Utah League of Cities and Towns and a 10% reduction to the Associations of Governments. A partial restoration would require all entities to limit program service through available trainings, tools and resources, access to expertise, and statewide coordination.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Government Administration

Agency:

060 / Governor's Office

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

Local Government

Grant recipient

Yes

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

Utah League of Cities and Towns ($380,000) and the Associations of Governments ($120,000)

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit the most from this request (who is the target audience)?

Local governments with fewer than 10,000 residents and without experienced full-time administrators.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

There are over 145 municipalities throughout the State of Utah that lack the population and revenue sources to allow them to hire full-time, professionalized staff to administer their communities. While all of these communities have fewer than 10,000 residents, they are still navigating challenges seen across the state from infrastructure needs and housing pressures to water access and data privacy. It is often difficult for them to respond to various State requirements from passed legislation. These communities need additional support to ensure their communities have the tools and resources to thrive. While the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Associations of Governments are uniquely positioned to provide this technical assistance in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, they cannot provide the necessary level of administrative and technical support without restored funding.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

ULCT has been deeply involved in the performance measures and quality control of the LAA program since its inception. With this proposed funding, ULCT will continue to administer the program including training, support, and professional development for the embedded LAAs. This includes quality control; direct technical assistance for acute community needs; creation of templates, tools, resources, newsletters, and webinars; formalized guidance to assist with professional development including 1:1 calls, peer coaching, theoretical trainings, and more; creation of the University Partnership program to provide extra support to communities and expose students in Masters of Public Administration programs around the state to municipal administration; trainings hosted for LAA communities; and consulting hours. ULCT ensures consistency, even levels of service, and the most up-to-date information by sharing grant opportunities, keeping AOGs informed about compliance with new legislation, and connecting LAAs to professional development, conferences, and municipal deadlines. The AOGs will continue to measure the projects initiated and completed in qualifying communities in conjunction with the current GOPB contract.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Previous Funding Documents

Full Time Employees

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