

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL **March 2023** Follow @ICC_GR on [Twitter](#).

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ICC BUILDING SAFETY JOURNAL: It's back and full of information for code officials and stakeholders

The refreshed Building Safety Journal Weekly newsletter is back and will be delivered to inboxes every Thursday afternoon. The newsletter features a wide range of building safety-related content and a dynamic, updated design. Keep an eye out for it! If you're not already subscribed, you'll want to do so by clicking [here](#). Also, if you'd like to submit an article for consideration, click [here](#).

March 5 is deadline to submit nominations for ICC's esteemed annual awards and honorary members

Each year the International Code Council provides an opportunity for members to recognize colleagues for their achievements in leadership, innovation and community service. The 2023 Code Council Awards Program and the honorary members program are now open and accepting nominations. We encourage you to [fill out a nomination form](#) for each nominee you submit. [Read more here](#).

March 15 is the deadline to submit chapters' 2023 Annual Reports and qualify for all Chapter Benefits

The deadline to submit your chapter's 2023 Annual Report is March 15 if chapters want to receive all their Chapter Benefits. In addition to a 2024 Chapter Education Benefit day, chapters also receive one complimentary registration to the [2023 ICC Annual Conference](#) or the [2023 Chapter Leadership Academy](#). For assistance, contact chapters@iccsafe.org.

Call for Committee: Two new codes and standards committees post application deadlines of March 15

The International Code Council is currently seeking code officials, design professionals, contractors, engineers, government officials, manufacturers, installers and other industry stakeholders to volunteer for two new Code Council committees to help develop new standards.

- **The Foam Plastic Insulation Standard Committee (IS-FPI)**
- **The 3D Automated Construction Technology for 3D Concrete Walls Consensus Committee (IS-3DACT)**

[Read more here](#).

Deadline April 3: Volunteers sought to serve on the ICC Performance Code Consensus Committee

The application deadline is April 3 for manufacturers, builders, code officials, design professionals, government regulators and other industry stakeholders to volunteer for the ICC Performance Code Consensus Committee (ICCP). As an ANSI-accredited standards developing organization, the Code Council is redeveloping the ICCPC through Code Council Consensus Procedures to better reflect issues including climate change, rapid technological change, lack of housing and a need for resiliency. The redevelopment will aim to provide a more holistic approach to dealing with the full lifecycle of buildings, structures and facilities. Once appointed, the ICCPC Consensus Committee will convene to continue to reimagine the ICCPC through the ICC Consensus Procedures. Learn more about [reimagining the ICC Performance Code](#). To apply, please visit the [Code Council Committee application webpage](#).

ICC Government Relations' Washington, D.C., office moves to the Capital Crossing office complex

The ICC Government Relations team recently moved its Washington, D.C., office five blocks northwest to the Capital Crossing office complex. The new address is 200 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20001. Capitol Crossing is certified LEED Platinum and has extensive conference and reception space. You can read more about the building itself [here](#).

Changes in the code development process use one combined Online Governmental Consensus Vote

The International Code Council is [revising its rigorous code development process](#) to take effect in 2024-2026 for the development of the 2027 International Codes (I-Codes) and will move the development process to an integrated and continuous three-year cycle. [In the new timeline](#), year one will include two

Committee Action Hearings for Group A Codes, and year two will include two Committee Action Hearings for Group B Codes. Year three will be the joint Public Comment Hearings and Online Governmental Consensus Vote for both Group A and B Codes. The addition of the second Committee Actions Hearings in year one and two will foster more in-depth vetting of code change proposals, allowing an opportunity for committee members to evaluate original proposals and consider submitted responses. This also provides more opportunity for proponents to build consensus for their code change proposal and ensure the best version of their intended improvement to the existing codes. Additionally, with combined Public Comment Hearings in the third year, voting members are able to vote on all suggested changes to the next edition of the I-Codes at one time. The updated process also provides more opportunity for proposed new referenced standards to be developed and finalized on a consistent timeline regardless of the group (Group A or B) with which they are associated. [Read more here.](#)

Registration is open for ICC Spring Interchange in Tampa, Florida, April 29 through May 3

Registration is now open for the ICC Spring Interchange in Tampa, Florida. This in-person training event takes place April 29 – May 3 and provides an opportunity for attendees to earn valuable CEUs and network with other building safety professionals. Interested parties can register [here](#). Event details are available at www.iccsafe.org/spring-interchange.

The 2023 Building Safety Month proclamations and poster are available on the campaign’s webpage

You can now download the [2023 Building Safety Month proclamation draft](#) and the [Building Safety Month poster](#) as ICC chapters, members and public safety offices prepare for the annual event in May.

Building Safety: It Starts with You! is this year’s theme. The weekly themes for this year’s campaign are:

- Week One (May 1–7): “Building Safety Starts at Home”
- Week Two (May 8–14): “Building Safety Professionals and You”
- Week Three (May 15–21): “Prepare Your Community”
- Week Four (May 22–28): “Advocate for Your Community”
- Week Five (May 29–31): “Solving Challenges Together”

More details about Building Safety Month are being posted on the [Building Safety Month webpage](#).

Ad Hoc Committee on Building Safety and Security develops guide on best practices and resources

The International Code Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Building Safety and Security developed the new “Building Safety and Security Report” for architects, first responders and local and state authorities to provide valuable tools to guide them in keeping occupants of buildings, including schools, safe from intruders and other life-safety hazards in the built environment. Considerations in the report include guidance on how to do a building risk assessment, tips on building safety administration, advice on how to best approach facility hardening, and an overview of tactical considerations such as video surveillance. The report also provides checklists and resource materials including helpful websites and documents. You can get the “Building Safety and Security Report” [here](#) and learn more about the Ad Hoc Committee on Building Safety and Security [here](#).

One-on-one grant application development help from ICC is available as application deadlines near

Code Council members and their jurisdictions throughout the United States have been working on grant applications that are available through federal agencies. Here’s a list of some key application deadlines:

- **March 27 – [Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation \(RECI\) – DOE](#)** For applicants who have previously submitted concept papers, final grant applications are due in less than 4 weeks. The activities funded under this Funding Opportunity Announcement support a broader government-wide approach to advance building codes and support their successful implementation, the primary focus centers around updating to more efficient building energy codes that save American homes and businesses money, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and encourage more resilient buildings. *\$225 Million in funding appropriated through Department of Energy for “eligible entities to enable sustained cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes,”*
- **April 28 – [Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund](#) – FEMA** - These low-interest loans will allow jurisdictions to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, foster greater community resilience and reduce disaster suffering. Funds are for adoption and implementation of codes

implementation. *\$500 million over five years. This will last through Fiscal Year 2026. For the first year, FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is making \$50 million available to eligible entities to establish revolving loan funds.*

- **April 28 – [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant \(EECBG\)](#)** – Pre-Application Information Checklist Due - The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program is designed to assist states, local governments and Tribes in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions and improve energy efficiency. EECBG can fund both adoption and implementation of energy codes. *\$430 million in clean energy and energy efficiency funding for eligible entities.*

For applications and to read more, [click here](#). The Strategic Energy Code Implementation Team is available for grant application development assistance. To book a [one-on-one virtual meeting](#) with Stella Carr, ICC's Energy and Resilience Project Manager, [click here](#).

Code Council and International Association of Electrical Inspectors launch joint certification program

The Code Council and International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) recently began an ICC/IAEI Electrical Inspector Joint Certification program. Certificate holders can expect to receive recognition in the U.S. nationally, experience increased job opportunities and improve mobility within the building safety industry. “The ability to collaborate with IAEI and its expertise will ensure that this program is of the highest quality and is universally accepted within the building safety industry,” said Mark Johnson, ICC Executive Vice President of Content and Services. [Read more here](#).

New acquisition will enhance the Code Council’s codification services and further support its mission

The International Code Council recently acquired American Legal Publishing, the largest employee-owned codification firm in the United States. American Legal will expand the Code Council’s offerings through ordinance codification and re-codification, code supplementation, legal reviews and online code publishing solutions to municipalities and counties of all sizes. American Legal’s codification experts currently serve over 3,500 municipal clients nationwide, employing staff members with law degrees or paralegal certificates and editors who are dedicated to finding innovative ways to keep municipal codes organized and updated. With the acquisition, American Legal will bring skilled ordinance codification, supplementation, electronic and internet publishing services to the Code Council. [Read more here](#).

FEMA is seeking building code professionals to serve as Regional Building Code Specialists

The Federal Emergency Management Administration’s (FEMA) most valuable asset is its experienced emergency management staff and FEMA is seeking skilled individuals to join its ranks. Recognizing the importance of modern hazard-resistant building codes for reducing the impacts of disasters, FEMA has begun the process of hiring **Regional Building Code Coordination Specialists** in each of its Regional Offices across the United States. This position assists in the implementation of the [FEMA Building Code Strategy](#), providing outreach and coordination and building code expertise to advance building codes within its Regions. Interested in staying informed on the hiring process? Sign up for [FEMA’s Building Science newsletters](#) and keep up with openings as they are posted on [USAJobs.gov](#).

Three new videos are now available to provide insights for those taking ICC certification exams

The Code Council’s Assessment Center recently released three new videos that cover what participants should know before an exam, during an exam, and after an exam. You can find them [here](#) (scroll half way down the Assessment Center webpage) as well as on the ICC [YouTube channel](#). Additionally, the PRONTO testing platform will now be operating on the **Guardian Secure Proctoring Browser** instead of a browser extension through Chrome or Firefox. The Guardian Secure Proctoring Browser has multiple benefits including improved accessibility and ease-of-use that will decrease the need for individual technical support. Watch [this video](#) to learn more about the new browser.

Have you had a good PRONTO experience? Areas where it could improve? *Share your feedback* [here](#).

Wyoming Conference of Building Officials award \$5,000 scholarship to student to attend UW

A \$5,000 scholarship is being awarded to Aidan Farrow, a Greybull, Wyoming, student who will be attending the University of Wyoming this fall, majoring in architectural engineering. The scholarship is

sponsored by the Wyoming Conference of Building Officials for promising young people who have a financial need to realize careers in the built environment.

ICC Government Relations' Washington, D.C., office moves to the Capital Crossing office complex

The ICC Government Relations team recently moved its Washington, D.C., office to the Capital Crossing office complex. Capitol Crossing is certified LEED Platinum and was designed to meet the highest standards of sustainability. The new space provides a healthy and environmentally responsible location for employees and visitors to work and gather. You can read more about the building itself [here](#).

Learn how Planning & Zoning Applications Program of Muncity 5 tracks application receipt and tasks

The next [Muncity Overview Webinar](#) is scheduled for **Thursday, March 16, at 1 p.m. Eastern/10 a.m. Pacific** to highlight features that are important for today's code enforcement offices. Muncity manages planning and zoning applications and manages internal review from start to finish, plus it attaches and manages departmental review tasks, including comments, conditions, inspections, checklists, and more. Learn more during the webinar. [Register here now](#).

GOT PULSE? Flowing forward: Solving America's water challenges

Episode 49 explores ways we can solve water challenges in the United States. How does the size of pipes have anything to do with water conservation? How does climate change affect septic tanks and other private sewage disposal systems in backyards? What can we learn from Israel about how we treat and value water? Take a listen to learn more about these topics from Code Council plumbing expert Matt Sigler and professor of water conservation and sustainability Dr. Esber Andiroglu. [Just listen here](#).



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

Worldwide and American water security and sustainability issues are explored in recent workshop

Today in the United States, intermittent water systems are not common, but according to the 2021 United Nations world development report, there is an expectation that by 2040 over 50 percent of the world's population will experience water scarcity. Matt Sigler, PMG Executive Director for ICC, attended the workshop *Causes, Consequences, and Measurement of Unpredictable Water Supplies: An Underlying Driver of Water Insecurity* to engage in the discussions and build interest in Code Council standards that will cover intermittent water systems on a global scale. It was hosted by the [Household Water Insecurity Experiences Research Coordination Network](#). [Read more here](#).



ICC Evaluation Services updates

ICC-ES issues findings on Pin Foundations Inc.'s Diamond Pier Foundations to secure decks, porches

Pin Foundations Inc.'s [Diamond Pier Foundations](#) have completed the new ICC-ES IRC Equivalency Evaluation Report (EER) for model sizes DP50 and DP75. **The EER is available here: [Link](#)**. The Diamond Pier system consists of a high-strength concrete head with four steel pins driven deep into undisturbed soils. The model sizes DP50 and DP75 were evaluated to the International Residential Code® (IRC) and 2019 California Residential Code (CRC). Diamond Pier Foundations model sizes DP50 and DP75 are intended for use as frost-protected isolated point load footing for simple residential projects like decks, porches, patio structures or other similar types of projects. The DP50-50" model is equivalent to a 20" diameter prescriptive concrete footing, 48" deep. The DP75-63" model is equivalent to a 22" diameter prescriptive concrete footing, 60" deep.