

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER

Annual Governance Training and Support Packages

Proposal Date: April 6, 2026

Important Update on LGC Governance Training & Support Programming

The MSU Extension Local Government Center (LGC) is updating how we deliver governance training and technical assistance to Montana's local governments. The longstanding model where staff provided ongoing, on demand technical assistance without predictable funding or scheduling is no longer sustainable.

Demand for real-time governance training and technical assistance has increased significantly in recent years, while staffing capacity and state funding have remained limited. To sustain timely, high-quality support and responsibly manage available resources, the LGC is transitioning to a structured system of governance support packages. This approach provides jurisdictions with continued access to the services they rely on while ensuring long-term service delivery remains sustainable.

Governance support packages bundle training, technical assistance, and online resources at a 20% discounted rate and are the primary way jurisdictions can maintain access to customized support. While all jurisdictions will continue to have access to state-funded public resources including webinars, general governance materials, and the digital chat assistance tool, the direct, on-demand technical assistance will be reserved for those enrolled in a governance support package.

Effective July 1, 2026, *jurisdictions that have not purchased a governance support package will no longer have access to custom technical assistance, the Support Hub, priority scheduling, or discounted pricing for additional workshops.* Instead, they may purchase stand-alone training sessions at non-discounted rates and only as availability allows. Purchasing a governance support package ensures uninterrupted access to essential training and expert technical assistance needed to support effective governance and informed decisions.

We encourage you to review the package options and select the level of support that best fits your jurisdiction's needs for the coming year. This new structure allows LGC to remain responsive, equitable, and sustainable and to continue serving Montana's local governments well into the future.

Timeline for Use

All workshops, online course access, and technical assistance included in a governance support package must be used within the fiscal year in which the package is purchased. Wrap-around access is available beginning June 1 for the next fiscal year. Continued access in subsequent years requires renewal of the governance support package annually.

All requests for training and technical assistance will be routed through our new [Support Hub](#) portal instead of email or phone calls to ensure equitable and timely responses for all subscribers.

Contact Us

The MSU Local Government Center looks forward to partnering with your jurisdiction. For any questions regarding this proposal, please contact either Dan Clark, LGC Director, at daniel.clark@montana.edu or Ashley Kent, LGC Associate Director, at ashleykent@montana.edu or 406.994.6694.

FY 2026-2027 Governance Annual Support Packages						
Feature/ Service	Public Access	Small Jurisdiction Co-op	Essentials	Standard	Comprehensive	Optional Add-Ons:
Statewide webinars & core trainings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
Digital Resource Library & Digital Search Assistant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	X
Live, virtual Open Meetings & Meeting Management Training	X	Preset annual schedule, quarterly offerings Value: \$1,000	One (1) custom scheduled Value: \$500	One (1) custom scheduled Value: \$500	Two (2) custom scheduled, Priority scheduling Value: \$1,000	Additional live, virtual board training: \$500 per training
Standard Governance Training (e.g. council/ commission, board, roles & responsibilities, ethics)	X	Two (2) live, virtual Value: \$1,000	One (1) in-person Value: \$1,500 + travel expenses	One (1) in-person Value: \$1,500 + travel expenses	One (1) in-person, Priority scheduling Value: \$1,500 + travel expenses	Additional in-person board training: \$1,500 + travel expenses
Online Courses: Building Better Boards, Fundamentals of Montana Municipal Gov *includes MSU ATO course LMS user fees and optional digital badge or certificate for course completion Course seats can mix and match between online courses.	X	Access to the online courses for up to 15 seats* Value: \$125 per person	Access to the online courses for up to 40 seats* Value: \$125 per person	Access to the online courses for up to 80 seats* Value: \$125 per person	Access to the online courses for up to 125 seats* Value: \$125 per person	Additional online course seats: \$125 per person per course per year*
Montana Grown Leadership Academy: Foundations & Deep Dives	X	X	Three (3) seats in an MGLA workshop Value: \$250 per person	Eight (8) seats in an MGLA workshop Value: \$250 per person	Fifteen (15) seats in an MGLA workshop Value: \$250 per person	MGLA Workshop Fee: \$250 per person per workshop
Technical Assistance: Help desk style technical assistance support	X	Basic Access: Response within 5 business days	Basic Access: Response within 5 business days	Standard Access: Response 2-4 business days	Priority Access: Response 1-2 business days	X
	Price: Free	Total Value: \$4,375 Package Price: \$3,500* *can be split by up to 3 jurisdictions	Total Value: \$8,250 Package Price: \$6,500	Total Value: \$15,500 Package Price: \$12,500	Total Value: \$23,625 Package Price: \$18,500	

FY 27 Governance Support Packages can be purchased at <https://bit.ly/fy27-gsp>