

2009 LGTP Annual Survey Results

I. From the categories below, select the SOG programs you would like offered in the Western region

Note: Respondents could select more than one topic under each category.

1. Budget, Finance and Accounting Programs	Number	Percent	
1. Governmental Accounting and Financial Reportir	72	51%	1
2. Capital Improvement Programming and Prioritizatio	63	45%	2
3. Others*	6	4%	
Total	141	100%	
<i>* Muni and Co Adm Course; Grant Finding and Writing; Employment Law and the Adm Course; Tax Classes; Performance-based Accounting; Training for Zoning Administrators</i>			
2. Community and Economic Developmen			
1. Community Development Academ	34	23%	3
2. Essentials of Economic Development	63	43%	1
3. Community Economic Development Financ	48	33%	2
4. Others*	1	1%	
Total	146	100%	
<i>* Federal Stimulus Funds</i>			
3. Elected Officials Programs			
1. Essentials of Municipal Governmer	59	17%	2
2. Building Your Governing Team: Board Roles and Responsibiliti	42	12%	3
3. Strategic Planning and Capital Budgetin	26	7%	
4. Rules of Procedure	39	11%	4
5. Ethics for Local Elected Officials	62	18%	1
6. Manager Evaluation and Board Self-Assessmen	19	5%	
7. New Mayor Orientatior	13	4%	
8. Managing Conflicts: How to Disagree and Still Work Togethe	38	11%	4
9. Resolving Public Disputes III: Managing High Emotions in Conten	32	9%	
10. Regional Leadershop	16	5%	
11. Other*	1	0%	
Total	347	100%	
<i>* Stormwater Regs</i>			
4. Environmental Managemen			
1. Water Finance and Governanc	46	35%	2
2. Financing and Implementing Sustainable Intiativ	54	41%	1
3. Establishing and Managing Regional Water and Sewer Partnership	29	22%	3
4. Other*	3	2%	
Total	132	100%	
<i>* Steep Slope Protection; Setting up a Stormwater Utility; Watershed and Stormwater Management</i>			
5. Health and Social Services			
1. Revised N.C. Environmental Health Law and Ethic	57	58%	1
2. Training for Social Services Board Member	24	24%	2
3. Medical Confidentiality	14	14%	3
4. Other*	3	3%	
Total	98	100%	
<i>*Rising Needs of Social Services; Improving Substandard Housing; Homeless/Mental Health</i>			
6. Information Technology			
1. Budget for Information Technology	39	27%	2
2. Emerging Technology Trends and Best Practice	72	50%	1
3. Security: Physical and Logistical Preventive Measure	31	22%	3
4. Other*	1	1%	
Total	143	100%	
<i>* Using Social Networking with the Public</i>			
7. Management, Administration, and Personne			
1. Public Employment Law Updat	57	16%	1
2. Public Executive Leadership Academy	33	9%	
3. Effective Supervisory Management Progran	38	10%	4
4. Program Evaluation for Local Government	41	11%	3
5. Mazimizing Non Profit/Local Government Resource	33	9%	
6. Emerging Leaders: Your Role and Impact as Leade	27	7%	
7. Resolving Public Disputes I: Situation Assessment and Negotiation	36	10%	4
8. Resolving Public Disputes II: Collaboration and Tools for Handling	25	7%	
9. Resolving Public Disputes III: Managing High Emotions in Conten	22	6%	
10. Building Your Personal Leadership: Understanding the Public Sect	46	13%	2
11. Animal Control Law	9	2%	
Total	367	100%	
8. Planning and Land Use			
1. Land Subdivision Workshoj	45	28%	2
2. Board of Adjustment Workshof	40	25%	3
3. Planning Board Workshof	70	44%	1
5. Others*	4	3%	
Total	159	100%	
<i>*Staff Training; Zoning Basics; Integrating Land Use and Econ Dev Planning; Historic Preservation Commission Workshop</i>			
9. Property Tax Assessment and Administratio			
1. Fundamentals of Property Tax Listing and Assessin	45	35%	2
2. Property Tax Collection Essential:	49	39%	1
3. Fundamentals of Real Property Appraisa	33	26%	3
Total	127	100%	
10. Purchasing and Contracts			
1. Local Government Purchasin	74	56%	1
2. Contracting for Construction and Design Service	57	43%	2
3. Other*	1	1%	
Total	132	100%	
<i>*Developing Contract Bidding Policies and Procedures</i>			

II. From the categories below, select additional workshops that would benefit you/your staff in the next year

	Number	Percent	
1. Management			
1. Public Debt and Financing Strategie	62	43%	1
2. Succession Planning	48	33%	2
3. Managing a Multi-Generational Workforc	35	24%	
Total	145	100%	
2. Communication			
1. Grant/Report Writing	80	50%	1
2. Surveying Citizens	38	24%	3
3. Public Process Design	41	26%	2
Total	159	100%	
3. Environment			
1. Air Quality	16	8%	
2. Alternative Energy Sources	48	24%	
3. Water Resource Issues	63	32%	2
4. Managing Growth and Development	69	35%	1
Total	196	100%	
4. Development			
1. Expanding Your Community's Housing Options	48	34%	2
2. Planning for an Aging Population	71	50%	1
3. Developing Local Food Networks	22	16%	
Total	141	100%	

III. Survey Response Rate: 36%

IV. Respondent Information

1. Current Position			
1. Elected/Appointed Official	11	8%	
2. Manager/Administrator/Asst. Manager	37	27%	
3. Department Head/Director/Supervisor	53	39%	
4. Clerk/Deputy Clerk	17	13%	
5. Other (please specify):	17	13%	
Total	135	100%	
<i>* 6 Planners; 2 Finance Officers; Volunteer Planning Board Secretary; Clerk/Finance Officer; Tax Collector; Clerk/Tax Collector; Senior Planner; Administrative Assistant; Accountant</i>			
2. Unit/Jurisdiction			
1. Municipality	78	57%	
2. County	50	36%	
3. Regional Entity	9	7%	
Total	137	100%	
3. Training Location Preference			
1. Western North Carolina	110	80%	
2. School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill	1	1%	
3. Either location (no preference)	26	19%	
Total	137	100%	

V. Additional Comments:

1. *Managing natural disasters: what to do before FEMA arrives (or doesn't arrive at all).*
2. *I believe that all elected officials should be required to take a course/courses in local gov't operations.*
3. *There was not an option for teleconferences but this should be explored. Even if funding improves in future, ways of delivering training with minimal travel should be available.*
4. *I would like to see courses that are designed to be foundation or basic/essential courses offered at Western Carolina University. More in-depth courses could continue to be offered at UNC Chapel Hill.*
5. *Given the size of our boards and cost and time constraints of traveling long distances, we need regional training opportunities in the western part of the state. Localized opportunities will increase participation.*
6. *Thank you for your extensive opportunities for local governments to access training that is vital to improving the functions and services provided to communities. It is important that these services be provided in the West for local agencies to participate at this crucial time financially.*
7. *I have greatly appreciated the work of the LGTP and hope they will continue to bring quality training to governments of western North Carolina. The LGTP program and staff is a valued resource.*
8. *It is always nice to have training closer to home. Would like to see more SOG classes offered via interactive video/teleconferences or online.*
9. *Some programs are difficult to attend in the winter months, particularly if they are held in Western North Carolina (but then I've had a horrible experience with a blizzard and icy roads all the way to Chapel Hill). Wish we could avoid Jan-March altogether!*
10. *Bringing and offering governmental education courses in WNC has greatly improved the level of knowledge which has led to better governing by elected officials and staff. Please continue supporting local government training programs in WNC!*
11. *Thanks for the wonderful workshop series and continue the good work!*
12. *Considering the tough economic times, traveling to WNC makes more sense for those of us on this side of the Piedmont.*
13. *Carbon footprint analysis and energy plans. Half-completed or abandoned developments--how to address eyesores and their liability to communities.*
14. *Recently attended David Ammons/Dale Roegnic course "Practical Analytical Techniques" in Chapel Hill and would like the opportunity to get additional staff to that if offered here.*