

# WVML 2021 FEDERAL ADVOCACY AGENDA



The West Virginia Municipal League and its 230 member cities, towns and villages will be active in advocacy and call for robust national investment and innovative, non-partisan and common sense solutions in Washington DC in 2021, including:

1) **Solid Funding for Key Domestic Appropriations that Support Local Communities:**  
Congress should maintain and enhance its investment in FY2022 critical areas:

- **Appalachian Regional Commission POWER Grants**
- **HUD Community Development Block Grants**
- **EPA Clean Water SRF & Drinking Water SRF**
- **U.S. Department of Transportation (BUILD Grants) (TAP) & (TCSP) program.**
- **Economic Development Administration (EDA)**
- **EPA Brownfield grants**
- **USDA Rural Development Funding**
- **FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant, SAFER firefighter DOJ COPS Grants**
- **Adjust Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership eligibility criteria**
- **National Endowment for the Arts**
- **Historic Preservation Fund**

WVML and West Virginia cities support a return to **congressionally-directed grant projects in the appropriations process**, or “earmarks” to support public-purpose projects by under a process that is transparent, equitable, and based upon merit criteria.

2) **A Bold Infrastructure Authorization:** It is time to rebuild together and get serious about \$1+ trillion National Infrastructure legislation - including FAST reauthorization, water/sewer infrastructure, broadband and telecommunications, smart cities technologies, renewable and reliable energy, clean vehicle infrastructure, brownfields, and green infrastructure.



3) **Support for Appalachian Innovation & Economic Diversification:** While West Virginia maintains faith and support in our traditional economic approaches, our state needs support for economic sector diversification and innovation. Including support for the “**Marshall Plan for Middle America**”

4) **Resources for Healthy & Resilient Communities:** West Virginia’s citizens and families are among the most unhealthy in the nation, and need resources & new approaches to tackle these challenges. Funds appropriated for substance abuse, overall health

and essential medical benefits, hazard mitigation, resiliency planning, and disaster recovery,

5) **Tax Incentives for Revitalization of Downtowns:** Many West Virginia cities are determined to restore grand but deteriorated downtown buildings for new economic investment and improved quality of life that can retain and attract young and entrepreneurial workers and families. Therefore it is essential to continue the **Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit** and pass the **REHAB Act**.



6) **Support for Anchor Institutions in Communities:** The new economy in cities is being built in large part around anchor institutions including hospitals, health systems, colleges and universities, innovation districts, and other anchors. WVML urges Congress to appropriate funding for a new, \$50 million “**Anchoring Neighborhoods, Communities & Housing to Opportunities for Revitalization**” (ANCHOR) program.