

# the Courthouse Journal

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*Washington Association of County Officials  
Washington State Association of Counties*

**July 22, 2005  
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## **2005-2007 Local Records Grant Programs Deadline Extension**

Today, Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield announced a deadline extension for applications to the 2005-2007 Local Records Grant Programs. The deadline has been extended from August 1, 2005 to August 15, 2005 for both the regular grant program and the new Express Grant program.

For the first time in the history of this program, \$500,000 in competitive grants will be available to local government agencies to improve the management of their public records. Grants previously awarded have supported the implementation of records management programs, the preservation of essential records through scanning and microfilming, and acquisition of metal shelving to replace wooden shelving.

Secretary of State Sam Reed commented, "Preserving and protecting authentic government records is a vital part of our democracy. We must act to prevent the destruction of our valuable legal and historical records, and ensure the privacy of Washington citizens while granting access to the records of our open government."

The Grant Program Guidebooks and application forms for both

programs are available online at [www.secstate.wa.gov](http://www.secstate.wa.gov). Click on the Local Records Grant icon, located at mid-page. Again, all applications must be postmarked by end of business day on **August 15, 2005**.

For more information, call or email Sherry Bays, Eastern Washington Regional Archivist, at 509.235.7500 x101 ([sbays@secstate.wa.gov](mailto:sbays@secstate.wa.gov)), or Scott Sackett, Local Government Records Management Trainer, at 360.586.4893 ([ssackett@secstate.wa.gov](mailto:ssackett@secstate.wa.gov)).

## Budget, Finance and Taxes

### The Courthouse Journal

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131 or [www.wacounties.org](http://www.wacounties.org).

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### Time to Make Annual Federal Forest Fund Allocations

The time for completing your decision process and election of the distributions percentages for the 2005 federal fiscal year P.L. 106-393 funding is approaching quickly. You need to complete the election by the end of August and no later than end of the first week in September. Please forward your decisions to Paul Parker or Tom Robinson at WSAC prior to September 9, 2005.

Please remember that the decision must be percentage based, not in dollars. Title I at 80-85%; Title II and/or III at 15-20%, split anyway you choose. The total funding your county will receive will be the same as last year plus 1/2 of the consumer price index (CPI) percentage increase. For those new to this process, *if a county fails to make an election decision the federal government will make it for you* as follows: 85% to Title I and 15% returned to the federal treasury with no funds in Title II or III. Let's make sure we keep these important funds in the county -- please put this decision process on your calendar now.

### 10 Counties in First Phase of State Dependency Defense Program

Ten counties, comprising seven judicial districts, will be in the first phase of the state's plan to take over public defense programs for indigent parents involved in child dependency and termination cases,

the state Office of Public Defense (OPD) announced July 22. The counties are: Yakima, Skagit, Kittitas, Grays Harbor, Cowlitz, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Pacific and Wahkiakum.

The state OPD is contacting these jurisdictions this week and in August will begin working with the county commissioners, juvenile court administrators, superior court judges, and existing defense attorneys to migrate the programs from the county to the state, according to OPD Director Joanne Moore. She plans to personally visit each of the phase 1 counties in the next few weeks.

The 2005 Legislature appropriated nearly \$7 million to begin taking over this public defense function from the counties, which currently operate widely disparate programs. The state Attorney General and Department of Social and Health Services bring the cases against parents, and typically spend more than twice as much money in prosecuting the cases as counties can afford in providing constitutionally mandated defense counsel for the parents.

WSAC has for many years lobbied for state participation in providing public defense services, and over the course of the next several biennia the state plans to take over the dependency defense programs in all counties. The statewide expansion follows on the success of two pilot projects that have been operating for several years in Pierce County and Benton-

NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

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## **Budget, Finance and Taxes (Continued)**

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Franklin judicial district. OPD will enhance its programs in these two jurisdictions this biennium, and will completely take over operations as soon as funds allow.

The 10 phase-one counties were chosen by OPD based on applications submitted by the superior courts of those counties and several criteria, including attorney caseloads and contract terms,

successful family reunification rates, and whether the courts and the attorneys were willing to work collaboratively with OPD to improve both procedural efficiencies in the courts as well as outcomes for the children involved.

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## **Environment, Land Use and Resources**

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### **Clallam County Considers Farmland Preservation Tax**

Support for a tax to preserve farmland sprung up like a field of weeds last week when Clallam County commissioners received more than 4,000 citizens' signatures supporting the measure. Although the county charter prohibits a citizens tax petition, the signatures spurred commissioners to all but promise to put the question on the Nov. 8 ballot.

A July 26 Commissioners' work session has been scheduled to hammer out language for a ballot proposal under which buyers would pay a 1-percent real estate excise tax on real property transactions. With an estimated \$540 million in real estate sales in Clallam County in 2004, it would provide \$5.4 million to buy easements on about 415 acres of farmland. The fund, which could be supplemented by federal grants, would buy easements on farmland to keep it in agricultural use in perpetuity.

Clallam County had set aside \$250,000 in timber revenues for such purchases in 2002 and have spent it all, plus the interest it earned, \$60,000 of new county money and

\$10,000 in citizens' donations for an agricultural easement on 54 acres of dairy farmland in Agnew. The local money was matched by \$221,650 from the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Commissioners turned over the easement to the North Olympic Land Trust.

### **Ecology Director to Meet with Counties Regarding Future of Columbia River**

Fourteen Eastern Washington counties met on July 12 with Ecology Director Jay Manning regarding the future of the Columbia River. The Governor temporarily ceased discussions of a Columbia River Initiative proposing to both increase fish flows in the mainstem Columbia and make available new water for appropriation when she took office last winter. Now, the future of the Columbia River is again under discussion with legislators, county commissioners, agriculture and other interested groups.

Director Manning told the Commissioners he was open to their ideas about how to progress and what should be under discussion. Commissioners left the meeting

talking about convening separately to develop a proposal to discuss further with Ecology in a future meeting.

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## Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

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### New AG Opinion Addresses Medical Costs for Arrestees

The Washington Attorney General's Office has issued a formal opinion (AGO 2005 No. 8) that addresses the financial responsibility of cities and counties for the costs of medical care provided to arrestees after their detention but before they are booked into jail.

The AGO concludes that "Subject to reimbursement by arrestees who are financially capable

of paying for their medical care, and setting aside certain cases in which the state is responsible for the expenses in question, the costs of providing necessary medical care to arrestees are allocated between the arresting agency and the custodial agency according to an interlocal agreement or contract." However, in the absence of an interlocal agreement or contract, RCW 70.48.130 provides that the jurisdiction responsible for operating

the jail is entitled to reimbursement for necessary medical treatment from the government unit whose officers made the arrest.

Island County Prosecuting Attorney Gregory Banks requested the AG opinion, which reaffirmed conclusions first issued in an informal letter five years ago.

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## Transportation and Public Works

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### WSDOT Has Grants Available for Local Transportation Projects

Communities across the state have an opportunity to enhance their transportation system and improve safety through several grant programs being offered by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). WSDOT administers both federal and state grant funding to qualified communities and organizations and today issued a "call for projects" for five separate grant programs:

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS.** One federal program has \$42 million available to public agencies and non-profit organizations in Washington for innovative transportation-related projects that contribute to a community's transportation needs and goals. Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) will prioritize projects within their respective areas following the Enhancement Advisory Committee guidelines. The Enhancement Advisory Committee will submit

their recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation for final selections. Eligible projects may include:

- Restoring historic transportation facilities
- Building bike and pedestrian trails and walkways
- Landscaping and scenic beautification
- Treating stormwater runoff and reducing pollution from roadways

Contact: Dave Kaiser, 360-705-7381  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Enhance.htm>

Two federal grant programs offer over \$39 million to improve safety in Washington State. After reviewing accident history in the state, it was determined that rural county two-lane roadways, intersections, and high-speed corridors have the highest accidents.

- Rural County Two-Lane Roadways program is a federal pilot program targeted at reducing the accident rates on rural two-

lane roads. This program provides funding for low-cost safety improvement projects. All Washington counties are eligible to apply for the \$19.5 million available, and may receive up to \$500,000 per county for roadway safety improvements. Applications are due to WSDOT by September 12, 2005. Grants may fund safety improvements such as:

- Centerline or shoulder "rumble strips" that jar motorists when they stray out of their lanes
  - Pavement marking, guideposts, and warning signs
  - Roadside clearing to remove fixed objects and enable motorists to recover their vehicle if they run off of the road
- [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Two\\_Lane\\_Roadway.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Two_Lane_Roadway.htm)
- *Intersection and Corridor*

## Transportation and Public Works (continued)

*Safety program is targeted at reducing the accident rates at intersections and within corridors. This program provides funding for safety projects that eliminate or reduce fatal or injury accidents at high accident intersections and within high accident corridors. All cities, towns, counties, ports, and tribal governments are eligible to apply for the \$20 million available. Applications are due to WSDOT by October 10, 2005. Grants may fund safety improvements such as:*

- Intersection and roadway improvements
  - Centerline or shoulder “rumble strips” that jar motorists when they stray out of their lanes
  - Pavement marking and guardrail
  - Roadside clearing to remove fixed objects and enable motorists to recover their vehicle if they run off of the road
- [http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Intersection\\_Corridor.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Intersection_Corridor.htm)

Contact: Mike Horton, 360-705-7375

**STATE PROGRAMS.** Two state grant programs offer a total of \$5 million to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in Washington. The 2005 Washington State Legislature created the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety grant program and continued the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Applications are due to WSDOT by October 3, 2005. Recommendations will be provided to the state legislature by December 15, 2005.

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

grants are available to all public agencies for projects that make pedestrian and bicycle improvements at accident locations, intersections, and transit facilities; construct paths; and improves safety for children, elderly, and people with disabilities.

[http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Pedestrian\\_Bicycle.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Pedestrian_Bicycle.htm)

- Safe Routes to Schools grants are available to schools and school districts for projects that improve safety for children and encourage healthy lifestyles through walking or biking. Projects may include sidewalks, pathways, and other street safety measures; education programs; enforcement; and community health initiatives.

[http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Safe\\_Routes.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/ProgMgt/Grants/Safe_Routes.htm)

Contact: Mike Horton, 360-705-7375

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/HomePage/HLPHP.html>

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## Boards and Commissions

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### Real Estate Appraisers Commission Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Real Estate Appraiser Advisory Commission was held on July 8 in Tacoma. The Commission reviewed and adopted bylaws which can be viewed at the Department of Licensing (DOL) website <http://www.dol.wa.gov/app/appfront.htm>. The bylaws clarify the Commission's organizational structure, responsibilities, characteristics and procedures.

The Commission also approved creating a workgroup to evaluate educational and training requirements for licensees. The workgroup will ensure that Washington is competitive with other states and verify Washington meets AQB requirements. Their assignment is to evaluate the quality of current instructions, instructors and make sure there are no inconsistencies among providers leading to the erosion of the profession. They hope to improve educational quality. The key topic for consideration will be: Core curriculum/matrix, course approval procedures, provider oversight, instructor qualifications, and the newly legislated trainee/supervisor programs. They plan to restructure approval of courses, possibly recommending DOL charging fees for approval of courses. The workgroup will make recommendations to the Real Estate Appraiser Commission.

With the help of David Santhuff, Real Estate Appraiser Program Manager for DOL the Commission next analyzed revisions to WAC 308-125. There were significant changes made, particularly because of the

new trainee status created in the 2005 legislature. Santhuff will take the comments back and plans to issue a CR-101 within the next few months.

### Volunteers Needed for ORV Noise Management Task Force

The Legislature has created an ORV Noise Management Task Force to investigate issues relating to ORV noise and relating to ORV access to public and private lands. ESB 5089 calls for three county commissioners, one representing counties with a population of two hundred thousand or more people and two representing counties with populations of fewer than two hundred thousand people

Other Task Force representatives will come from port districts; the department of natural resources, the department of ecology, the interagency committee for outdoor recreation, the parks and recreation commission, off-road vehicle manufacturers, the United States forest service, recreational users and interested citizens.

The committee shall review the following issues:

- (a) The appropriateness and enforceability of current decibel requirements for off-road vehicles;
- (b) The appropriateness of any off-road vehicle usage requirements that would minimize nuisance noise impacts on those not operating the off-road vehicle;
- (c) The applicability and consistency of local ordinances concerning noise and off-road vehicle usage; and
- (d) The availability of, and barriers to, using public lands or other large ownerships to create areas where off-road vehicles can be operated with minimum noise

disturbance of neighbors.

Any county commissioner, councilmember, or staff appointee representing county officials should contact Paul Parker at WSAC staff with a brief letter or e-mail indicating interest, commitment and qualification by July 25, 2005.

### Oil Spill Advisory Council to be Appointed by Governor

Governor Gregoire is beginning the process of naming members to the Oil Spill Advisory Council newly created by the 2005 Legislature in ESSB 5432. The 17-member council, headed by a nonvoting chair-facilitator, includes three county representatives – from counties bordering Puget Sound, those on the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean, and those on the Strait of Juan de Fuca, including the San Juan Islands. By September 15, 2006, the council must make proposals for the long-term funding of the council's activities and for the long-term sustainable funding for oil spill preparedness, prevention, and response activities

Other seats on the Council include representatives from three environmental organizations; one from commercial shellfish growers; one from commercial fisheries; one from marine recreation; one from the tourism industry; two from marine trades; one from marine labor; one representing major oil facilities; one from public ports; and one individual who resides on a shoreline.

Council duties of the council include: the hiring of professional staff and expert consultants to support its work; consulting with government decision-makers; providing independent advice,

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## **Boards and Commissions (continued)**

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expertise, research, monitoring, and assessment of these programs; monitoring and providing information regarding state of the art programs; evaluating incident response reports; and seeking and promoting citizens involvement.

The council also serves as an advisory body on, and provides for stakeholder and public consideration of, matters relating to international, national, and regional oil spill issues. The council makes annual recommendations for the continuing improvement of the state's oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

**ESSB 5432** also directs the Department of Ecology to evaluate all other oil spill advisory committees and revise or eliminate functions which are no longer necessary.

Based on the wording of the statute, interested county officials should apply directly to the Governor as well as notify WSAC of their interest. The Governor will take into consideration any recommendations from WSAC, but the final decisions on appointments are hers to make.

### **County Member Sought for Capital Projects Advisory Review Board**

County representation is sought for a new advisory board on capital projects created by **ESHB 1830** in the 2005 legislative session. The Capital Projects Advisory Review Board is tasked with evaluating public capital projects construction processes, including the use of contracting methods on project outcomes, and to advise the legislature on alternative public works delivery methods.

Two members of the Board will represent local public owners (counties, cities, and ports) on a rotating basis. In discussion with AWC and the Washington Public Ports Association, we have determined that the organization without a seat shall supply the first alternate.

Any county commissioner, councilmember, administrator or public works director interested in representing counties on this board should contact Paul Parker at WSAC staff with a brief letter or e-mail indicating interest, commitment and qualification by July 25, 2005.

### **County Rep Needed for Puget Sound Council**

With the departure from office of San Juan County Commissioner Rhea Miller, the Governor will be appointing a new county representative to the Puget Sound Council. The 11-member Council includes representatives of business, agriculture, the environmental community, tribes, the shellfish industry, counties, cities and the legislature. It recommends projects and activities to the agency-coordinating Puget Sound Action Team and also recommends amendments to the Puget Sound Management Plan.

The Puget Sound Council meets at least four times a year, twice in a joint meeting with the Puget Sound Action Team. County elected officials or staff interested in serving should contact Paul Parker or Vicki Kirkpatrick at WSAC as soon as possible. This position may have new importance to counties on Puget Sound, with the Governor preparing to announce a major Puget Sound initiative this fall.

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## **Association News**

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### **Washington Association of County Commission and Council Clerks' Scholarships Available for Summer Conference**

Calling all County Commission and Council Clerks! It's conference time again. This year our conference is in Vancouver, Washington, September

20-23, 2005. Scholarships to attend our conference are now available and the application only takes a minute to complete! Clerks and/or deputy clerks may apply for a full or partial scholarship to attend this year's conference. Don't pass up the opportunity...these scholarships may be used to cover registration,

travel, and lodging expenses. Application forms may be obtained by calling Holly Pfenniger, Wahkiakum County Commissioners' Office at (360) 795-8048 or E-mail: [pfennigerh@co.wahkiakum.wa.us](mailto:pfennigerh@co.wahkiakum.wa.us). **The deadline to have them in is Friday, August 19.**

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## Good Things

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### Pierce County Councilmember Calvin Goings Honored

Pierce County Councilmember Calvin Goings has been honored by the Puyallup South Hill Rotary Club as one of four recipients of the new Community Vocational Recognition Award. The awards were presented June 29 in a ceremony at the High Cedars Golf Course clubhouse, and Goings received the award for excellence in government service.

Elected to the council in 2000 after serving five years in the Washington State Senate, Goings was cited for leadership in providing parks and recreational facilities, preserving local farms, protecting the environment and ensuring livable neighborhoods. He spearheaded council approval of appropriations providing more than 3,000 acres of parks and open space, including the Heritage Recreation Center near Rogers High School, Pacific National Soccer Complex in Fife, extension of

the Foothills Trail in the Orting/Sumner area, and expansion of Northwest Trek at Eatonville.

The award program's purpose is to encourage excellent performance on South Hill by recognizing vocational excellence, according to Dr. Ed Pullen, the club's new president and award committee chairperson. Other winners were Nola B. Renz, executive director of Helping Hand House; Evelyn Brooks, Pierce College faculty member and PierceWorks program director; Dr. Henry Reitzug of Sunrise Medical Campus and participant in several medical team trips to refugee camps in countries experiencing civil strife and-or natural disaster.

### Governor Proclaims 'Tom Green Day' in Honor of Former Chelan County Commissioner

Tom Green, former Chelan County commissioner, was honored at the

July Emergency Management Council (EMC) meeting with a governor's proclamation declaring July 7 as "Thomas A. Green Day" in Washington state. The meeting was Green's last as chair of the state EMC, which he has served on for more than 19 years. He chaired the committee for seven years.

Governor Christine Gregoire issued the proclamation in appreciation of Green's "significant contribution to Washington State's Emergency Management and Homeland Security programs."

In addition to his tenure on the EMC, Green served four years on the Washington Transportation Commission and 20 years as a Chelan County Commissioner.

Succeeding Green as EMC chair is Thurston County Commissioner Diane Oberquell.

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## Courthouse Ramblings

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Pierce County Chief Deputy Auditor **Keri Rooney** has been named "Star of the Year" for her outstanding work during the 2005 Legislative Session. The recognition was made by the Legislative Liaison Committee during the Washington State Association of County Auditors recent annual conference in Walla Walla.

"Pierce County and the State of Washington are fortunate to have Keri Rooney's fine skills and expertise work on our behalf in the legislative arena," said Auditor Pat McCarthy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Douglas County Sheriff **Dan**

**LaRoche** should be back in Seattle today to undergo a stem cell transplant. We wish the best for Dan and will shoot a lot of positive thoughts upwards for him!

Mason County Coroner **Martha Reed** is now at the Pete Gross Apartments at 525 Minor Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109 in Apt. 406, phone (206) 262-9035. Martha will enter the hospital the 25th and have a bone marrow transplant on the 29th. Martha visited Dan at the hospital recently and says he looks good.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are saddened by the news that Clallam County Assessor **Linda**

**Owings-Rosenburgh** died July 17 in Seattle. There will be a memorial for her at the family home Saturday, August 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The address is 1452 Jamestown Road, in Sequim. Drennen-Ford Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements and has an online guestbook available for your messages to the family at [www.drennenford.com](http://www.drennenford.com)

Memorials may be sent to Linda's favorite charity: Hospice of Clallam County, 540 E. 8th Street, Port Angeles, Wa 98362.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Linda's family and friends in Clallam County.

## Calendar of Events

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.</b>			
<b><u>JULY 2005</u></b>			
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Training, 1 pm	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 26	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Annual Board Workshop, 1 - 5 pm	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 27	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Annual Board Meeting, 9 am	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 28	(360) 586-7447
<b><u>AUGUST 2005</u></b>			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual Conference	Davenport Hotel, Spokane	August 8-11	(360) 753-7319
Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Board Only 2006 Rate Setting	Prime Hotel at SeaTac (formerly Wyndham Gardens)	August 18	(360) 586-0466
<b>Ethics – CPO Program</b>	Spokane	August 24	<a href="http://www.cpoprogram.org/">http://www.cpoprogram.org/</a>
<b>Meet the Media – CPO Program</b>	Spokane	August 25	<a href="http://www.cpoprogram.org/">http://www.cpoprogram.org/</a>
<b><u>SEPTEMBER 2005</u></b>			
<b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>WA Counties Bldg CLOSED</b>	<b>September 5</b>	<b>(360) 753-1886</b>
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Juvenile Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 11-13	(360) 753-2175
WA Finance Officers' Association (WFOA) Annual Conference	SeaTac	Sept. 13 -16	(360) 753-7319
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	Sept. 13 - 16	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/wsacrpd">www.geocities.com/wsacrpd</a>
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Special Assault Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 14 -16	(360) 753-2175
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Boards & Insurance Advisory Committee	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	Sept. 15	(360) 586-0466
International Association of Assessing Officers' (IAAO) Annual Conference	Anchorage, Alaska	Sept. 16-21	(360) 753-7319
13 <sup>th</sup> NW Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course & Equipment Exhibition	Seattle, WA - hosted by University of Washington	Sept. 19 - 20	Christy Roop Pack (206) 543-5539
WA State Assn of Local Public Health Officials	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	Sept. 19 - 20	(360) 753-1886
WSAC 99 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Fall Western District	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	Sept. 20 – 23	<a href="http://www.wacounties.org/wsac">www.wacounties.org/wsac</a>

## ***Calendar of Events (continued)***

Assn of County Human Services	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver, WA	Sept. 21 - 23	(360) 753-1886
<b>Course TBD – CPO Program</b>	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver, WA	Sept. 23	<a href="http://www.cpoprogram.org/">http://www.cpoprogram.org/</a>
<b><i><u>OCTOBER 2005</u></i></b>			
Washington Association of County Officials' Annual Conference	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	October 4–7	(360) 753-7319
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) ACE Committee (HR & Payroll Only)	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	October 12	(360) 586-0466

## ***Training and Upcoming Events***

### **Annual Housing Conference Announced**

*Housing Washington 2005* is the largest annual conference on affordable housing in the region. Taking place September 11-13, 2005 at the Spokane Convention Center, *Housing Washington* is a comprehensive event exploring new pathways in the affordable housing arena, focusing on issues from around the world and in our communities.

This conference is an important statewide resource for nonprofit organizations, public agencies, housing-related associations and private businesses and more who are engaged in the affordable housing industry. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to engage in a collaborative forum with your colleagues and listen to local, regional and national experts.

Some of the top speakers at Housing Washington 2005 will include:

- Governor Christine Gregoire (invited)
- Avi Friedman, McGill University
- Robert Rapoza, Rapoza Associates
- Frances Fox Piven, The Graduate Center

A sample of scheduled presentations include:

- The Next Decade for Housing and Mortgage Finance
- Raising the Bar in Designing Senior Environments
- Creating Urban Villages
- Expanding Farm Worker Family Homeownership
- Plus informative workshops on housing, bonds, and taxes!

The conference is presented by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission and the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development in partnership with the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. For more information, visit [www.wshfc.org/conf](http://www.wshfc.org/conf), e-mail [conf@wshfc.org](mailto:conf@wshfc.org), or call the conference hotline at 1-800-767-HOME (4663) ext. 773.

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## Attachments

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### Data Exchange Growth Exceeds Expectations

The Public Entity Risk Institute's Data Exchange is growing ahead of expectations and PERI expects this trend to continue for the remainder of the year. As of July 1, more than 2,200 public entities in 17 states are providing data to the Data Exchange, either directly or through the risk pools and third-party administrators (TPAs) that handle their claims.

The most impressive growth has been on the workers' compensation side. The Data Exchange now contains more than 900,000 workers' compensation claims, from more than 1,900 public entities. This growth trend is likely to continue throughout the year, according to Mary Stewart, ARM-P, CPCU, Director of Research and Development. "This data will really be just the tip of the iceberg," said Stewart. "We see more and more interest in participating in the Data Exchange, and we anticipate the database growing substantially over the course of the year, and with data coming in from more states."

The rapid growth in the volume of data means the benchmarking and performance measurement analysis capabilities envisioned for the Data Exchange have begun to take shape. "As the collection of claims data continues to grow in the database, participating local governments and pools will start seeing the benchmarking information they need to analyze their programs," said Gerry Hoetmer, PERI's Executive Director. "The PERI Data Exchange will be able to deliver analytical information that isn't available to local governments from any other source."

The PERI Data Exchange is a national database of public sector liability and workers' compensation claims that allows public entities to compare their loss performance and benchmark against the experiences of other jurisdictions.

Participating public entities and risk pools voluntarily contribute claims data to the Data Exchange. In return, they receive a free set of benchmarking reports known as "Prime Reports." Participating entities can access the reports via the Internet. Sample benchmarking reports designed for public entities and risk pools are available in the Data Exchange section of PERI's Web site ([www.riskinstitute.org](http://www.riskinstitute.org)).

Descriptions of the full set of Prime Reports that will be offered initially in the liability and workers' compensation report libraries are also available. Public entities and pools that provide data receive Prime Reports at no cost. "The sample reports and descriptions show the value of the information the Data Exchange provides," said Stewart. "And the value will continue to rise as the number of participants grows."

For information on how to participate in the PERI Data Exchange, please visit the Data Exchange section of PERI's Web site ([www.riskinstitute.org](http://www.riskinstitute.org)) or call (703) 352-1846.

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