

LGHN 2026 Conference Preliminary Program at a Glance

Westin Resort Westminster, CO

Tuesday April 7, 2026

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 AM	5:30 PM	Registration	Westin Resort Legacy Foyer
9:00 AM	3:30 PM	<p>Preconference Session: The Finance Skills We All Need: A Leader’s Guide to Building Financial Capacity hosted by Government Finance Officers Association. <i>See agenda and register online.</i></p> <p>Description: All leaders in local government need to work with their finance peers to serve critical stakeholders both within the organization and throughout the community. This requires each to understand key finance principles, identify trends in public finance, and develop finance competencies. It also requires that leaders develop a cooperative and trusting relationship with finance. In this session, speakers will provide a quick, yet comprehensive overview of the state of public finance in 2026. Key topics for discussion will be fundamental finance principles, best practices in budgeting, considerations for the current revenue climate, emerging trends and innovations related to finance technology, modernized policy examples, and new regulations and formats for financial reporting. The session will also highlight essential finance skills that all local government leaders should have and strategies that everyone can implement to create a better working relationship with your finance team.</p>	Westin – Meadowbrook I
9:00 AM	3:30 PM	<p>Preconference Session: Trust, Collaboration and Teamwork: Managing Yourself and Working with Others hosted by University of Colorado-Denver Certified Public Management Program. <i>See agenda and register online.</i></p> <p>Description: Effective teamwork and collaboration are essential in local government work, especially during times of fewer resources and rapid organizational change. Good teamwork starts with a foundation of self-awareness and builds with perspectives and skills that help all members be their best selves. This session will be useful for supervisors, managers and team members who want to be more intentional with their leadership and management approaches. Through neuroscience and psychology, we know how our instinctual ways of thinking can prevent us from seeing a bigger picture and reinforce negative biases. Participants will name and observe unhelpful thinking patterns in themselves and practice ways to overcome them. Trust and psychological safety are key components of successful organizations doing complex work. Especially with public sector employee protections, being able to work through an issue of trust can help teams heal. We’ll explore how we build trust and create a trustful culture. Beyond trust, participants</p>	Westin – Meadowbrook II

		will learn strategies for creating a workplace culture where all employees feel valued and connected, through feedback and performance management, with common local government policies and requirements in mind. Participants will also develop authentic ways to respond when they feel challenged and when they make mistakes, to help create psychological safety and lead by example. This session pulls from leadership and team management topics explored in the Colorado Certified Public Manager Program and leadership programs offered at University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs . Participants will experience an engaging and insightful workshop facilitated by four Colorado CPM instructors and will leave with clear ways to incorporate the learning into their daily work.	
9:00 AM	3:30 PM	<p>Preconference Session: Core Strengths Relationship Intelligence using the Strength Development Inventory® hosted by Matt Rivera, Adams County, CO and LGHN board of directors. <i>See agenda and register online.</i></p> <p>Description: Ever walked into a meeting and thought, “<i>Why is this so awkward?</i>” Or wondered why you and your boss (or teammate, or client) just don’t click—no matter how hard you try? You’re not imagining it. What really drives workplace success isn’t just skills or strategy—it’s relationships. In this interactive and insight-packed session, you’ll explore the Strength Deployment Inventory (SDI) from the creators of <i>Crucial Conversations®</i>—a powerful personality assessment that reveals what motivates people, how they behave under pressure, and why conflict unfolds the way it does. The result? Better conversations, stronger relationships, and more effective results at work.</p> <p><i>*Pework required (Completing the SDI personal assessment)</i></p>	Windsor
5:30 PM	7:30 PM	Welcome Reception and Raffle	Westin – Legacy Courtyard Patio

Dinner on your own

April 8, 2026

START	END	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 AM	8:45 AM	Buffet Breakfast and Sponsor Networking	Westin – Legacy Foyer and Ballroom
8:45 AM	10:15 AM	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Acknowledgement • Welcome – Marcus Steele, LGHN President and Pam Davis, ICMA Board of Directors • Tomas Stanton, Story Telling and Community Engagement, City of Mesa, AZ 	Westin – Legacy Ballroom
10:30 AM	3:30 PM	Mobile Tours (<i>Lunch on Your Own Facilitated By Guide</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City and County of Broomfield - <i>Community Partnerships</i> • City of Arvada – <i>Redevelopment Best Practices</i> • City of Aurora – <i>Regional Unhoused Navigation Center (and Adams County Café)</i> • Adams County HSC – <i>Public Facilities: New Ways to Build Partnerships</i> 	Depart and Return to Westin Lobby
3:30 PM	5:30 PM	Member and Sponsor Networking Ice Cream Break	Westin – Legacy Foyer and Ballroom
5:30 PM	8:00PM	Sponsor Appreciation, Awards Reception and Raffle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome: City of Westminster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jody Andrews, City Manager • Sponsor and Affiliates Recognition – Marcus Steele, LGHN President and Matt Rivera, LGHN President Elect • Emerging Leader Award Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grisell Pérez-Carey, City of San Marcos, TX (Central Texas Chapter) ○ Diana Puga, Village of Western Springs, IL (Illinois Chapter) 	Westin – Legacy Ballroom

Dinner on your own

April 9, 2026

START	END	EVENTS	LOCATION
7:00 AM	8:45 AM	Buffet Breakfast, Sponsor Networking and Professional Headshots	Westin – Legacy Foyer and Ballroom
8:45 AM	10:00 AM	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome – Marcus Steele, LGHN President • Candid Conversations with Hispanic Leaders: Moderator, Joelle Martinez, Latino Leadership Institute (LLI) with Katherine Archuleta, former Director of the Office of Personnel Management and Obama Administration Chief of Staff 	Westin – Legacy Ballroom
10:15 AM	11:15 PM	Concurrent Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LLI and LGHN Members in <i>Partnership to Boost Community Economic Development</i> • CPM and UC-Denver: <i>Overview of Custom Programs for Personal Professional Development</i> • GFOA: <i>Making the Case - A Guide to Build Stronger Department Budget Requests</i> 	Legacy Ballroom Meadowbrook I and II Lake House
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMA: <i>Behind the Curtain – Conversations with City Managers</i> • City of Westminster and Native American Partners: <i>Place Matters</i> • MissionSquare: <i>New Trends from the Research Institute: When do you know you are ready for retirement?</i> 	Legacy Ballroom Meadowbrook I and II Lake House
12:30 PM	1:15 PM	Buffet Lunch, Sponsor Networking and Professional Headshots	Westin – Legacy Foyer and Ballroom

1:15 PM	2:15 PM	<p>Concurrent Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUB International and Corebridge Financial: <i>The Convergence of Health and Wealth - Healthcare Savings Strategies for Public Sector Employees</i> • Juntos Colorado Chapter: <i>Seeing Clearly with Cameras in Your Community</i> • Cigna Healthcare: <i>“The Anxious Workforce”</i> 	<p>Legacy Ballroom</p> <p>Meadowbrook I and II</p> <p>Lake House</p>
2:30 PM	3:30 PM	<p>Concurrent Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGHN International Committee: <i>Program Services for Latin America Government Leaders Interest Meeting</i> • ICMA: Behind the Curtain – <i>Conversations with Assistant City Managers/Department Directors</i> • Juntos Colorado Chapter: <i>Digital Accessibility: Laws, Responsibilities, and Technology Insights for Local Government</i> 	<p>Legacy Ballroom</p> <p>Meadowbrook I and II</p> <p>Lake House</p>
3:30	5:00	Closing Reception and Raffle	Westin – Legacy Foyer

Dinner on your own

April 2, 2026, Version