

The Council of State Governments West (CSG West) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving western state legislatures. Through a variety of programs and services offered to legislators and legislative staff, CSG West facilitates regional cooperation, exchange of information and strengthening of legislative institutions among its 13 member states.

CSG West is one of 4 regions of the Council of State Governments, the nation's largest nonpartisan organization serving all three branches of state elected and appointed officials. CSG's regional and national structure invites focused participation from members on a more intimate, regional level while also providing a national platform to exchange ideas and an opportunity to engage with state officials of all three branches of state government.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS COLORADO

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes, CSG is a joint governmental agency of Colorado. State dues, which are established by the bipartisan CSG National Executive Committee, enable the organization to deliver substantive programs and services to state officials across the country. State dues are leveraged with federal grants and support from private sector partners to offer forums, trainings, in-depth research, and technical assistance. CSG, through its regional and national offices, serves all members and staff of the Colorado General Assembly.



COLORADO
is one of 13
member states
in CSG West

CSG Leaders in Colorado

- **Representative Cathy Kipp** serves as CSG West's Education Committee Co-chair and as our Colorado House Liaison, providing information to colleagues about CSG programs and services, and how to get involved.
- **Senator Cleave Simpson** serves as CSG West's Colorado Senate Liaison.
- **Speaker Julie McCluskie** and **Representative Meg Froelich** attended CSG's New Legislative Leaders Academy focused on pertinent issues in healthcare.



- **Senator Jeff Bridges** serves on CSG National's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.
- **Senator Rachel Zenzinger** serves on CSG National's Interbranch Affairs Committee.

Rooted in Colorado

Colorado Senator Henry Toll founded CSG in 1933, and is the namesake of the distinguished Toll Fellowship.

Since 2000 CSG West has hosted its flagship professional development program for newer legislators - the **Western Legislative Academy - in Colorado Springs**. This program, which is conducted in partnership with **Colorado's El Pomar Foundation**, is designed to assist legislators within their first four years of service in becoming effective leaders and strengthening their legislative institutions.

Program Engagement

Developing legislative professionals

Western Legislative Academy

The Western Legislative Academy is the organization's premier training program for Western legislators within their first four years of service. Hosted in Colorado Springs, the program offers selected legislators an opportunity to sharpen leadership skills and build regional relationships. Working with faculty from academia, nonprofit, and legislative backgrounds, class members participate in sessions focused on skills development in areas such as negotiation, focus management, leadership styles, governing, and ethics.

The following members participated in the 2023 class of the Western Legislative Academy that convened December 12-15 in Colorado Springs:

- Representative Anthony Hartsook
- Representative Meghan Lukens
- Senator Janice Marchman

Leadership Excellence for Nonpartisan Staff

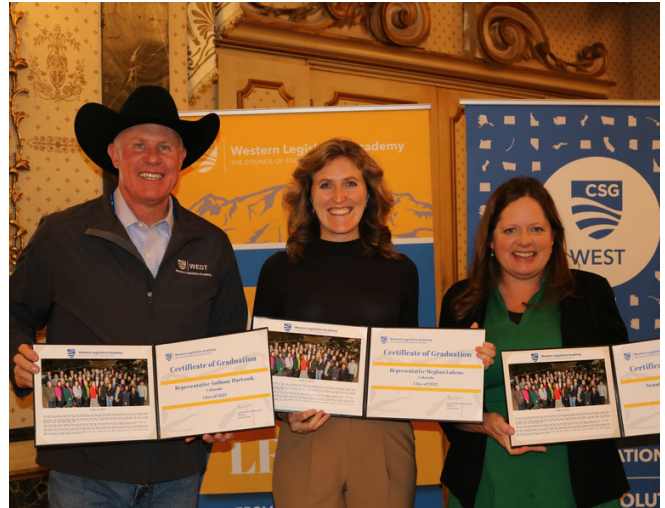
CSG West has launched an online academy for nonpartisan staff aimed at strengthening legislative institutions and providing the next generation of leadership with foundational skills and a network of colleagues from around the region. Participants in the inaugural class included:

- James Grant, Lead Systems Administrator, LCS-IT
- Conrad Imel, Senior Attorney, Office of Legislative Legal Services
- Julia Jackson, Principal Research Analyst, Colorado Legislative Council

Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors Training

Comprised of nonpartisan legislative staff directors of the West, the following members attended the annual training in Whitefish, Montana, Oct. 23-25, 2023.

- Jeremiah Barry, Deputy Director, Colorado Office of Legal Services
- Cathy Eslinger, Research Manager, Colorado Legislative Council Staff



Representative Anthony Hartsook, Representative Meghan Lukens, and Senator Janice Marchman at the 2023 Western Legislative Academy.

Collaborating on the issues that are critical to the west

Colorado River Forum (CRF)

The Colorado River Forum provides a space for state legislators to connect and address the pressing issues and opportunities affecting water stewardship along the Colorado River states.

Members of the Colorado River Forum Committee include:

- Senator Dylan Roberts
- Senator Paul Lundeen
- Representative Marc Catlin
- Representative Karen McCormick
- Representative Julie McCluskie (non-voting)
- Representative Matt Soper (non-voting)
- Representative Barbara McLachlan (non-voting)

Border Legislative Conference (BLC)

The BLC provides policymakers from the U.S.-Mexico border region an opportunity to address important issues related to U.S./Mexico relations.

This year's meeting was in Ensenada, Mexico, on Oct. 5-7. Colorado attendees were:

- Senator Joann Ginal
- Representative Junie Joseph

Policy Committee Members

CSG West policy committees work on the urgent issues facing Western legislatures. They provide a forum for legislators to learn from each other and hear from recognized experts. Committees can recommend bipartisan positions on behalf of Western members. Members are appointed by their state's leaders.

Agriculture & Water

Senator Dylan Roberts
Senator Nick Hinrichsen
Senator Janice Marchman
Senator Kevin Priola
Senator Cleave Simpson
Senator Rod Pelton
Senator Byron Pelton
Representative Karen McCormick
Representative Marc Catlin
Representative Barbara McLachlan
Representative Matthew Martinez
Representative Meghan Lukens
Representative Richard Holtorf

Canada Relations

Representative Ruby Dickson
Representative Matt Soper
Representative Lindsey Daugherty
Representative Brianna Titone
Representative Rick Taggart

Education

Senator Janet Buckner
Senator Janice Marchman
Senator Rhonda Fields
Senator Chris Kolker
Senator Mark Baisley
Senator Paul Lundeen
Senator Janice Rich
Representative Barbara McLachlan
Representative Emily Sirota
Representative Mary Bradfield
Representative Mary Young
Representative Meghan Lukens
Representative Eliza Hamrick
Representative Jennifer Bacon
Representative Cathy Kipp

Energy & Environment

Senator Faith Winter
Senator Kevin Priola
Senator Lisa Cutter
Senator Tony Exum
Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis
Senator Byron Pelton
Senator Cleave Simpson
Senator Chris Hansen
Representative Ruby Dickson
Representative Brianna Titone
Representative Cathy Kipp
Representative Elizabeth Velasco
Representative Mike Weissman
Representative Alex Valdez
Representative Ty Winter
Representative Jenny Willford

Housing

Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis
Senator Tony Exum
Senator Julie Gonzales
Senator Dylan Roberts
Senator Byron Pelton
Senator Rod Pelton
Senator Janice Rich
Representative Meg Froelich
Representative Javier Mabrey
Representative William Lindstedt
Representative Naquetta Ricks
Representative Junie Joseph
Representative Steven Woodrow
Representative Stephanie Vigil
Representative Marc Catlin
Representative Don Wilson
Representative Tisha Mauro

Legislative Oversight

Senator Julie Gonzales
Senator Bob Gardner
Representative Marc Snyder
Representative Bob Marshall
Representative Mike Weissman
Representative Shannon Bird
Representative Lisa Frizell

Health

Senator Rhonda Fields
Senator Joann Ginal
Senator Janet Buckner
Senator Lisa Cutter
Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis
Senator Kyle Mullica
Senator Janice Rich
Senator Jim Smallwood
Senator Perry Will
Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet
Representative Lindsey Daugherty
Representative David Ortiz
Representative Kyle Brown
Representative Matt Soper
Representative Iman Jodeh
Representative Ron Weinberg
Representative Sheila Lieder

Public Safety

Senator Julie Gonzales
Senator Robert Rodriguez
Senator Bob Gardner
Senator Dylan Roberts
Representative Jennifer Bacon
Representative Leslie Herod
Representative Elisabeth Epps
Representative Said Sharbini
Representative Gabe Evans
Representative Mike Lynch

Program Engagement

CSG West Annual Meeting-Take Two! Los Angeles, California - November 2023 Attendees

The CSG West Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for Aug. 1-4, 2023, in Universal City, California, was postponed to November 12-15 due to a labor dispute and strike affecting the Sheraton Universal Hotel, which was the original host hotel for the meeting.

The November event was a huge success with members raving about the location, content, hospitality, and ability to have relationship-building opportunities with other Western legislators.

- Senator Tom Sullivan
- Representative Jennifer Bacon
- Representative Meg Froelich
- Representative Eliza Hamrick
- Representative Mandy Lindsay



CSG National Conference, Raleigh, North Carolina - December 2023 Attendees

- Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis
- Patty Salazar, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies

CSG National Center for Innovation

Objective, in-depth analysis of data and policy best practices.

The CSG National Center for Innovation (COI), based in CSG's headquarters, provides policymakers across the country with objective, in-depth analysis of data and policy best practices on a variety of issues, connects policymakers with subject matter experts, provides technical assistance, and has a broad policy portfolio that supports diverse populations and policy concerns.

In 2023 the Center for Innovation focused on workforce development, both publicly and privately through the following publications:

- [Colorado Shifts to Skills-Based Hiring to Fill State Government Workforce Needs and Hire More Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- [Representation in Colorado's State Government Workforce](#)

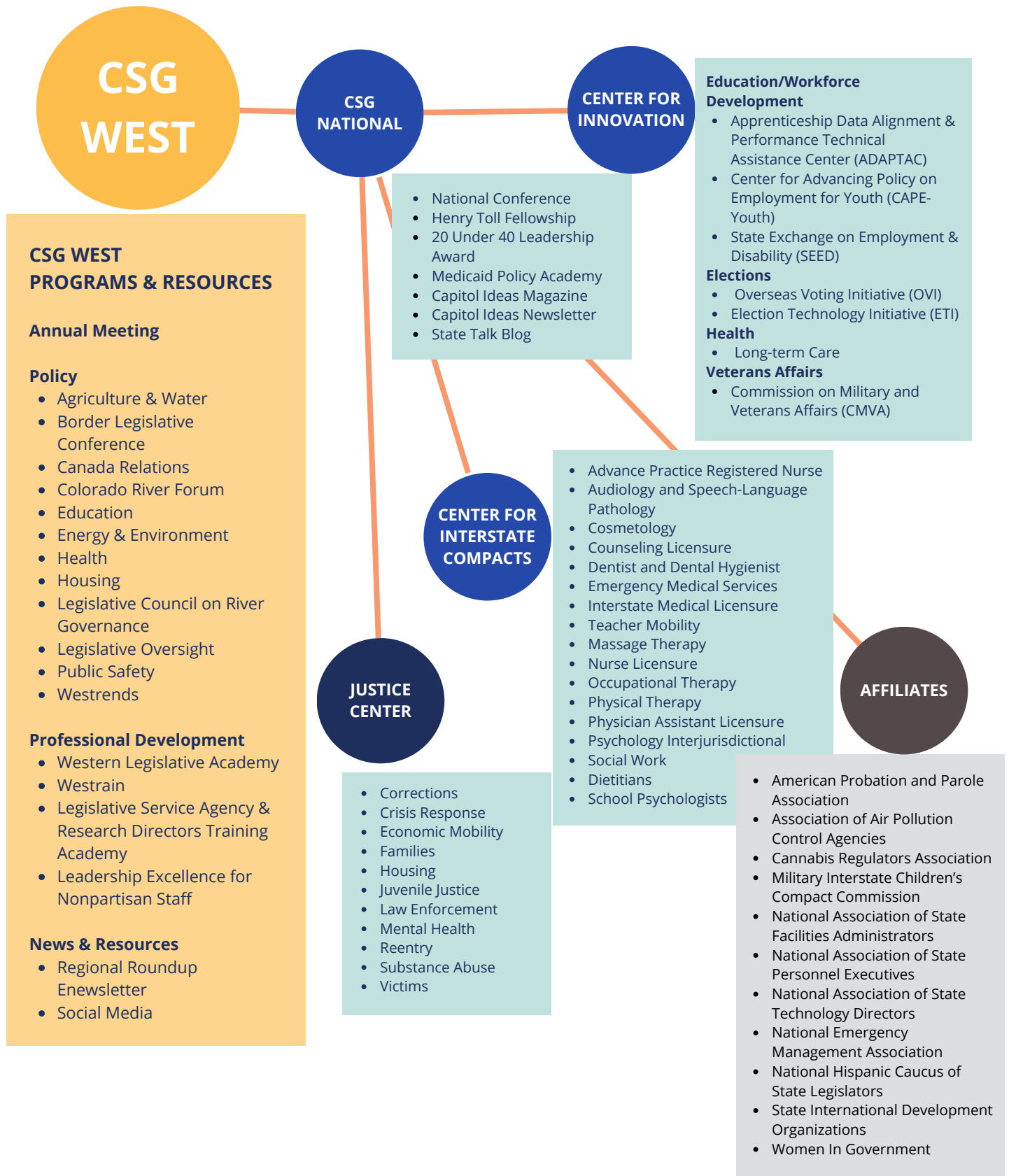
Related to this work, CSG has been meeting with leaders on this work in partnership with Representative Democracy. [Learn more about the CSG State Exchange on Public Servant Recruitment and Retention.](#)

CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts

The CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts promotes the use of interstate compacts to meet the demand for cooperative state action. Acting as an information clearinghouse, as well as providing training and technical assistance, the Center works with states to review, revise, and create new interstate compacts designed to address multistate problems and provide alternatives to federal preemption.

In 2023 team members testified twice on the [Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact](#) while also meeting with the Colorado State Education Department.

Connecting the Colorado Legislature to a Broad CSG Network



ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

CSG West is one of 4 regions of the Council of State Governments that form part of a national community of states. CSG's regional and national structure invites focused participation from members on a more intimate, regional level while also providing a national platform to exchange ideas and information access a myriad of national policy research, and to stay abreast of national trends and developments in Washington, D.C. impacting state governments.

CSG WEST STAFF

Serves as an extension of legislative staff through research, analysis, and providing resource connections. Please reach if we can help you with anything. You can reach us at csgw@csg.org or (916) 553-4423.



WESTRAIN

In-state training for legislators and staff on various professional development topics such as communication, time management, negotiation and consensus-building, media relations, conflict resolution, and ethics. Expert trainers offer nonpartisan perspectives and hands-on instruction.



CENTER FOR INNOVATION

Objective, in-depth analysis and technical assistance on the states' critical issues, including occupational licensing, workforce development, election policy, and health and human services policy.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Assistance for states in the development of interstate compacts, promoting multi-state problem-solving. Search the more than 200 interstate compacts in effect today by state, name, or year on the CSG website.



JUSTICE CENTER

Effective, data-driven practices and solutions where the criminal justice system intersects with other disciplines, such as public health and education.



SHARED STATE LEGISLATION

Effective, data-driven practices and solutions where the criminal justice system intersects with other disciplines, such as public health and education.



STATE RECOVERY RESOURCE CENTER

Analysis of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, which impacts states in their budgets and specific policies. The Center also provides other resources that state leaders can use to inform state economic and civic recovery.



BOOK OF THE STATES

A state government encyclopedia featuring easy-to-read summaries, tables, and charts that serve as an invaluable reference tool that has withstood the test of time.

2024 PROGRAMS & EVENTS



CSG WEST ANNUAL MEETING

Western members engage regionally on relevant topics, connect and develop relationships with colleagues, and learn from experts. All policy committees, working groups, and leadership convene at the Annual Meeting.

July 9-12, 2024 | Portland, Oregon



HENRY TOLL FELLOWSHIP

One of the nation's premier leadership development programs for state government officials. Each year, the Toll Fellowship brings 48 of the nation's top officials from all three branches of state government for an intensive five-day "leadership boot camp."

September 5-10, 2024 | Lexington, KY



COLORADO RIVER FORUM

Legislators connect and address pressing issues and opportunities of this vital river system to the Western region. Appointed members convene annually to exchange information and identify basin-wide strategies.

Dates TBD | Arizona



BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Legislators from the ten U.S. and Mexico border states convene for ongoing dialogue to strengthen bilateral cooperation and develop solutions to shared challenges along the border.

Dates TBD | New Mexico



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON RIVER GOVERNANCE

Legislators from the four Columbia River basin states of Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington, facilitates discussion on the everyday challenges of managing water resources in the basin. Legislative leaders appoint members.

Dates TBD | Washington



CSG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Brings together state-elected and appointed officials from across the country, providing a space for policymakers to engage on many policy issues facing the country.

December 4-7, 2024 | New Orleans, LA



WESTERN LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY

An intensive professional development program designed to help newer legislators become more effective leaders and strengthen legislative institutions. Admission to the program is by application, and the selection process is competitive.

December 10-13, 2024 | Colorado Springs, CO



LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE SERIES

Legislators and legislative staff can participate in virtual gatherings focused on training and policy issues affecting the Western region. Complimenting the work of the policy committees and programs, the series provides insightful and interactive sessions.