



**STRAAYER CENTER FOR
PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERSHIP**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



RE: Colorado Local Government Internship Program – Summer 2026 Pilot Program

- The Colorado Local Government Internship Program is a NEW 2026 summer pilot program for students at Colorado State University.
- Students register for a 3-credit class (Pols 486B), meet weekly on Teams, and complete a 9-week, 15-hour a week internship with a local government partner running from June 1 – July 31, 2026.
- The program is operated through the CSU Straayer Center for Public Service Leadership which hosts existing cohort style internship programs including the Colorado Legislative Internship Program and the CSU in Washington D.C. program.
- This program aims to introduce local government real-world work at the undergraduate level in an effort to develop local government managers, planners, economic and community development directors, community leaders, and more.
- **Melanie Brousseau** will be working with City of Fort Collins, Economic Health, and SeonAh Kendall this summer.
- The student will be supporting a Business Survivability and Strategic Plan Progress Dashboard.
- Local Government partners who provide compensation for interns exceeding \$1,000 will be eligible for \$1,000 in matching funds from the Department of Local Affairs.
- Melanie Brousseau will be working 135 hours over the summer, at \$15.16, with total summer compensation coming to \$2046.60, making City of Fort Collins eligible for DOLA matching funds.
- **Haley Rundle** will be working with City of Fort Collins, Neighborhood Services, and Marcy Yoder this summer.
- The student will be supporting neighborhood meetings and neighborhood engagement pop-up activities.
- Local Government partners who provide compensation for interns exceeding \$1,000 will be eligible for \$1,000 in matching funds from the Department of Local Affairs.
- Haley Rundle will be working 135 hours over the summer, at \$15.16, with total summer compensation coming to \$2046.60, making City of Fort Collins eligible for DOLA matching funds.
- **Mia Johnston-Martinez** will be working with City of Fort Collins, Communications and Public Involvement, and Pete Iengo this summer.



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- The student will be supporting the establishment of an engagement community of practice for the City, while also supporting through research the City's increased understanding of what is a best-in-class civic health education portfolio.
- Local Government partners who provide compensation for interns exceeding \$1,000 will be eligible for \$1,000 in matching funds from the Department of Local Affairs.
- Mia Johnston-Martinez will be working 135 hours over the summer, at \$15.16, with total summer compensation coming to \$2046.60, making City of Fort Collins eligible for DOLA matching funds.
- This pilot program will be evaluated by partners from CSU, DOLA, and CCCMA in Fall 2026 to determine enhancements and changes to improve the program for 2027.

Sam Houghteling

Program Director, CSU Straayer Center

Emily Francis

Mayor, City of Fort Collins