

INTRODUCTION

The financial information contained in this report comes from municipal officials who filled out MMA's fiscal data survey mailed last fall and from state government sources where certain types of municipal financial data are collected. MMA's approach to the *2000 Fiscal Survey* is different from prior years. In the past, the Fiscal Survey report would show only data collected from municipalities that responded to the survey. The 2000 Report provides a financial profile for every municipality. For those that responded to the survey instrument, the financial data is more complete than for those who did not respond. However, *some* financial information is provided in this report for *all* communities.

With your help, we can build on the success of this new approach. We hope you see the value in providing financial information on every community as opposed to a few. Moreover, we hope you realize that this report will become increasingly valuable as more communities participate. We will do what we can to make requests for financial information as easy for you as possible. At the same time, we would ask that you give our requests for financial information high priority.

MMA will mail its fiscal survey for 2001 to municipalities in September. We will be requesting financial data on municipal fiscal years that ended December 31, 2000 or during 2001. Again, MMA staff will gather all the financial information that it can from available sources other than municipalities and will show that collected data (for your review) on the survey.