NCC RESPONDS TO CUYAHOGA COUNTY’S RFI TO EXPAND AFFORDABLE, HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND SERVICES FOR OHIO RESIDENTS

Washington, D.C. (January 15, 2021) – On January 15, 2021, Next Century Cities responded to a request for information (RFI) issued by the Cuyahoga County Office of Innovation and Performance. County officials are soliciting ideas for potential strategies and partnerships that expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband services.

Next Century Cities’ Executive Director, Francella Ochillo stated:

“Like municipalities across the country, Cuyahoga County is taking the necessary steps to close its digital divide. For the 19% of County residents who do not have broadband service of any kind – including small business owners and displaced workers suffering from economic hardship – robust connectivity introduces new opportunities for residents to work from home, and possibly upskill or retrain. While COVID-19 restrictions remain in place, access to high-speed service and digital tools also enable students to comply with remote learning mandates and adapt to hybrid learning models. Residents who must travel for miles to obtain medical care or public health information will experience better outcomes and be able to age in place.

“We applaud Cuyahoga County’s efforts to cast its net for ideas far and wide. Expanding broadband access and increasing adoption will be a community-wide endeavour with benefits that go far beyond county borders.”

Next Century Cities’ Policy Counsel for Local and State Initiatives, Corian Zacher remarked:

“As communities across the country are seeing first hand, reliable and high quality home broadband service is essential for every resident in the United States. Cuyahoga County’s request for information is an excellent step to making connectivity a reality for everyone who calls the county home.”

Read the public comments here.

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