

# Next Century Cities' 2019 Membership Report

## Member Principles

Next Century Cities members are unique, from the 600-person coastal island town of Islesboro, Maine to bustling Los Angeles and vast Larimer County, Colorado. Despite these differences, each of our 209 members are united in a core belief: that everyone should have access to fast, affordable, reliable broadband. Our members are committed to six shared principles:

- ❖ High-speed internet is necessary infrastructure
- ❖ The internet is nonpartisan
- ❖ Communities must enjoy self-determination
- ❖ High-speed internet access is a community-wide endeavor
- ❖ Meaningful competition drives progress
- ❖ Collaboration benefits all

## Innovative Solutions

Next Century Cities members are spearheading a variety of network models and creative local solutions to close the digital divide. Overall, Next Century Cities represents over 36 million Americans in 40 states across the country.

**San Francisco, Calif.** and local wireless ISP Monkeybrains [worked together](#) to connect public housing residents to high speed in-unit internet access at no cost to the end user. In order to make the project work, the city coordinated internally to install last-mile fiber connections from the city's backbone network to housing complexes that were being renovated. San Francisco has plans to connect 20 additional public housing complexes, and to provide new technology labs and skills training.





**Lafayette, La.** became one of the first cities in America to have city-wide gigabit broadband access when it first built its fiber utility in 2009. Ten years later, the network has not only created new jobs and saved the city substantial money, but has **expanded** to offer services in three neighboring communities.

**Gaylord and Winthrop, Minn.** are member towns of RS Fiber, a cooperative network that's brought fiber to the home service to more than 20 communities in rural Minnesota. In addition to providing affordable home broadband, the network has spurred economic development, job creation, and even lured a brand new **medical school** to the region.



**Wilson, N.C.** is leveraging its city-wide fiber network to offer a fiber optics training course in partnership with Wilson Community College. The course was designed as a pragmatic, hands-on, and affordable way for students to enter a high-paying and technical field. “We are North Carolina’s first gigabit, fiber-to-home community,” said Gene Scott, Wilson Greenlight’s General Manager for Outside Plant. “We have the expertise. I think we can build on that foundation, with training and even apprenticeship programs, and give the next generation the skills to lead the deployment of this amazing technology that undergirds all modern economic activity and opportunity.”

## New Members

Next Century Cities membership continues to grow. In 2019, we welcomed 17 new members across 12 states: Ann Arbor, Michigan; Bedford, New Hampshire; Belfast, Maine; Cornwall, Connecticut; De Soto, Kansas; Haines City, Florida; Jacksonville, Illinois; Menifee, California; Mont Belvieu, Texas; New Shoreham, Rhode Island; Ottumwa, Iowa; Palm Coast, Florida; Penobscot, Maine; Rancho Cucamonga, California; Sebawaing, Michigan; South Bend, Indiana; and St. James Township, Michigan.

## The Value of Membership

Members and partners find value in Next Century Cities as a resource, partner, and advocate:

- ❖ *“As a council member, I’ve been a big advocate for broadband in my community by becoming a member of Next Century Cities to help further this initiative. Connectivity promotes creativity!”*
- ❖ *“Next Century Cities is easily one of the best in the broadband policy space. They’re truly invested in helping communities deploy next generation networks.”*
- ❖ *“Next Century Cities is providing agencies with a forum to collaborate and share best practices to overcome challenges and meet opportunities of gigabit level internet.”*
- ❖ *“Access to Next Century Cities’ rich pool of resources was not only inspirational, it further streamlined the development of the City’s strategic plan to reach the City’s broadband goals.”*
- ❖ *“Next Century Cities plays that key role of helping local communities understand the best practices for achieving broadband abundance for all their residents and in bringing the voice of local leaders and residents into the policy conversations, including a strong push back against unfair and preemptive practices that have and will leave millions unconnected.”*
- ❖ *“As I travel the country, I find that numerous communities have been empowered and emboldened by NCC and the support and content it provides... It has been a critical part of strengthening the community broadband movement.”*



For more information on Next Century Cities membership, please visit [our website](https://www.nextcenturycities.org) or contact [info@nextcenturycities.org](mailto:info@nextcenturycities.org).