Next Century Cities

Connecting Communities

Next Century Cities supports mayors and community leaders across the country as they seek to ensure that everyone has fast, affordable, and reliable internet access. Across the country, innovative municipalities are recognizing the importance of leveraging gigabit level internet to attract new businesses and create jobs, improve health care and education, ensure civic participation, and connect residents to new opportunities. Next Century Cities is committed to celebrating these successes, demonstrating their value, and helping other communities to realize the full power of truly high-speed, affordable, and accessible broadband.

Our Principles

Next Century Cities believes that there is no single pathway to a smart, effective approach to next-generation broadband. What matters is meaningful choice, dedicated leadership, and smart collaboration. Our members are committed to the following principles:

High-Speed Internet Access Is Necessary Infrastructure: Fast, reliable, and affordable internet access – at globally competitive speeds – is no longer optional. Residents, schools, libraries, and businesses require next-generation connectivity to succeed.

The Internet Is Nonpartisan: Because broadband is an essential resource for residents and businesses in all communities, the provision of fast, reliable, and affordable internet access transcends partisanship. This collaboration welcomes leaders of all affiliations and beliefs who believe fast, reliable, and affordable broadband access is essential to secure America's internet future.

Communities Must Enjoy Self-Determination: Broadband solutions must align with community needs—there is no perfect model that is universally appropriate. Cities, towns, and counties should have the right to consider all options – whether public, nonprofit, corporate, or some other hybrid – free from interference.

High-Speed Internet Access Is a Community-Wide Endeavor: Building effective next-generation networks requires cooperation across communities. It is critical to involve and include multiple stakeholders and perspectives to succeed, including businesses, community organizations, residents, anchor institutions, and others. Everyone in a community should be able to access the internet on reasonable terms.

Meaningful Competition Drives Progress: A vibrant, diverse marketplace, with transparency in offerings, pricings, and policies will spur innovation, increase investment, and lower prices. Communities, residents, and businesses should have a meaningful choice in providers.

Collaboration Benefits All: Innovative approaches to broadband deployment present diverse challenges and opportunities to communities and regions. Working together, communities can learn from the experiences of others, lower costs, and make the best use of next-generation networks.

A 21st Century Partnership

We invite cities, towns, and counties to join Next Century Cities and strengthen the ability of communities nationwide to prosper and compete in the 21st century. Next Century Cities supports mayors and community leaders across the country as they seek to ensure that everyone has fast, affordable, and reliable internet access.

Elevating the Conversation: We work with leaders and their communities to share stories. Communities that have or would like to develop truly next-generation networks are visionary, and their leaders recognize what it takes to be competitive in the 21st century. Next Century Cities works with these leaders and their communities to make the case nationally and locally that next-generation internet access is an essential infrastructure that can deliver transformative benefits to communities today.

Supporting Communities: Communities stepping into the 21st century through next-generation networks face myriad challenges. It is essential to provide crucial support to facilitate these innovative projects. Next Century Cities and our members work to overcome obstacles to success.

Providing Tools for Success: Developing a next-generation network is a daunting task for a city of any size. It is important that communities have access to resources, advice, and tools to develop effective broadband internet networks. We are committed to developing and aggregating resources to guide new projects, as well as tools to help those already equipped with this infrastructure better leverage their networks to yield community benefits.

We are excited to continue working with diverse cities, towns, and counties across the country to lead a new conversation on what it will take to compete and thrive in the 21st century.

For More Information

Get in touch with our team at info@nextcenturycities.org. Find information on upcoming events, membership, and resources, including our _Becoming Broadband Ready_ toolkit, at NextCenturyCities.org.

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