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. While there is no single pathway to achieving universal next-generation connectivity, we believe meaningful choice, dedicated leadership, and smart collaboration are vital to success. Our members are committed to the following principles:

**High-Speed Internet Access Is Necessary Infrastructure**
Fast, reliable, and affordable internet access 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.

**Communities Must Enjoy Self-Determination**
Cities, towns, and counties should have the right to consider all potential broadband solutions – whether public, nonprofit, corporate, or some other hybrid – free from interference.

**High-Speed Internet Access Is a Community-Wide Endeavor**
It is critical to involve multiple stakeholders and perspectives when building effective next-generation networks, 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, pricing, 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, cities, towns, and counties can learn from the experiences of others, lower costs, and make the best use of next-generation networks.