

Global Network

150 cities and regions, recognized as Intelligent Communities, collaborating on economic and social development



Intelligent Community Forum

Think Tank

Studying how Intelligent Communities use ICT to build economic prosperity, solve social challenges and enrich their cultures.

Intelligent Communities

- Use information and communications technology to...
- Build inclusive prosperity...
- Solve social problems and...
- Enrich their cultures in an age of digital disruption
 - 160 global cities, metro areas and counties
 - 5 continents
 - Populations of 15,000 to 8 million



Intelligent Community Criteria



1. Broadband



2. Knowledge
Workforce



3. Innovation



4. Digital Equality



5. Sustainability



6. Advocacy



Broadband

Broadband is the next essential utility, as vital to economic growth as clean water and good roads.

In the "broadband economy" created by this infrastructure technology lies the foundation of economic competitiveness and path to prosperity and greater citizen participation.

Five approaches taken by communities to secure broadband:

- 1. Development Policy**
- 2. Networks for Government.**
- 3. Public-Private Partnerships.**
- 4. Dark Fiber and Open Access Networks.**
- 5. Direct Competition through Municipal Broadband**



Knowledge
Workforce

Creating a Culture for Knowledge Work

Intelligent Communities exhibit the determination and demonstrated ability to develop a workforce qualified to perform knowledge work.

Intelligent Communities invest in physical and digital assets that enhance their quality of life and provide ease and convenience to citizens and business.

Creating knowledge workers locally is one part of the task. Keeping them and attracting more is another.

Wise investment and smart deployment of these programs can make even small and remote communities highly competitive in the global battle for talent.

A dark blue world map with glowing yellow and white city lights, primarily concentrated in North America and Europe. A purple circle is overlaid on the left side of the map.

Innovation

Innovation

The broadband economy is an innovation-driven economy.

- 80% of all economic growth comes from the development and use of technology.
- The first requirement for innovation is knowledge: Broadband has become the knowledge pipeline
- Another critical requirement for innovation is access to talent: Broadband has allowed both multinational companies and small business to efficiently tap the world's best and brightest.
- Innovation also requires access to markets.
- The Innovation Triangle - Building Innovation Capacity
- Creating, attracting and retaining knowledge workers are the most important steps a community can take to raise its innovation rate.



Digital Equality

Digital Equality - everyone in the community deserves access to broadband technologies and the skills to use them.

- Disrupted industries from manufacturing to retail services, expand the number of people for whom the digital revolution is a burden
- Intelligent Communities promote digital equity because it is the right thing to do.
- Also for practical reasons: those excluded from the economy and society cost enormous amounts of money for social services, criminal justice and healthcare.
- Intelligent Communities work on access refurbishing used computers; providing to households in need, as well as providing free computers and broadband access at public facilities like libraries & schools.
- Affordability: subsidy programs for digital equipment and broadband connections
- Respond to skills gap with training programs for every age group

Environmental Sustainability

Sustain-
ability

Improving current living standards, while maintaining the ability of future generations to do the same, is at the core of sustainability.

- When Intelligent Communities commit their economies to a sustainable future, they seek to improve local quality of life, from cleaner air and water to improved public transportation and greater livability.
- Communities that use fewer resources to create products and provide services are also more efficient and productive, which is key to continued improvements in their standard of living and will generate substantial new opportunities for technology advance, business growth and employment in green industries.

Advocacy

Advocacy

While change is difficult, the willingness to embrace it and to help shape it, are core competencies of the Intelligent Community

- They must be cultivated, often over years, through advocacy.
- Advocacy is the ability to collaboratively engage leaders, citizens, businesses and institutions in understanding the challenge, identifying opportunities for positive change and ultimately becoming champions of that change.
- Successful advocacy provides the foundation for the community's public identity in its outreach to the world, energizing economic development, investment attraction and business generation, because the community has built a unique vision of its character and its future.
- Supported through good governance and public policy.