



UNDERSTANDING THE BENEFITS
OF THE INTELLIGENT COMMUNITY
APPROACH

THE INTELLIGENT COMMUNITY FORUM IS A GLOBAL NETWORK WITH A THINK TANK AT ITS CENTER. IT CONNECTS HUNDREDS OF CITIES AND REGIONS ON FIVE CONTINENTS FOR COLLABORATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOR EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE AND INFORMATION THAT DRIVES PROGRESS. THROUGH THIS NETWORK, ICF RESEARCHES HOW INTELLIGENT COMMUNITIES USE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY, SOLVE SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND ENRICH THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR CONNECTED CENTURY.



- Complete the benchmarking tool to better understand how you compare with 400+ communities around the world on the six ICF elements, or,,
- Use the framework as a guide to create and implement collaborative strategies that will increase your global competitiveness



Two Ways to Use the Intelligent Community Framework



THE TRIPLE HELIX

Business, Education &
Government Contributing
Financial and Human
Resources in Pursuit of a
Shared Vision

WHAT GETS
MEASURED
GETS DONE!

Understanding the Benchmarking Tool

- Questions
 - *Checkbox, fill in the blank and short essay questions*
 - *Data and storytelling*
- Reports
 - *Free snapshot report*
 - *Additional reports for a fee*
- All communities entered in annual ICF competition
- Approximately eight hours to complete



Broadband (Connect)



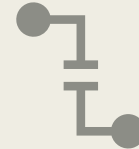
Broadband providers



Availability and Adoption



Connection speeds and pricing



Essay: Describe the most significant project within your community that promotes broadband deployment and adoption

Knowledge Workforce (Work)



Technology offerings
in schools



Education-Employer
collaboration projects



Educational
attainment



Higher education
access



Essay: Describe your
community's most
important workforce
initiative

Innovation (Innovate)



Local Innovation promotion
policies



Local Innovation programs



Local government online
services



Essay: Provide information on
an Innovation produced by a
collaboration of business,
government and institutions

Digital Equality (Include)



What facilities and services are available for those without online access?



What facilities and services are offered to organizations to promote digital adoption?



Essay: Please describe the most important program that aims to increase digital adoption by providing access, training or motivation.

Advocacy (Engage)

- Does your community have a documented digital strategy for economic and social development?
- Is there a task force or group charged with implementation?
- What are the ways that you seek to educate and involve citizens in community development?
- How do you communicate your community and economic development story to the outside world?
- Essay: Describe the most important policy/project that educates and engages citizens on important issues.

Sustainability

- Environmental quality measures
- Local government support for sustainability
- Park land and open space
- Essay: Describe the most important community sustainability project

Additional information

- Local leadership contacts
 - *Public*
 - *Private*
 - *Non-profit*
- Local/regional press/media contacts

The ICF Competition Funnel



- 400 + communities complete the benchmarking questionnaire
- Smart 21 Communities selected
 - *Additional data and information provided*
- Top Seven Communities selected
- Community visits documented
- Intelligent Community of the Year announced

BLANDIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFERING

Helping you to create your best application!



It's available for the asking!

- Two-hour community meeting with key stakeholders
 - *ICF orientation*
 - *Application review*
 - *Identify/select best stories*
- Application
 - *Review*
 - *Comment*

DISCUSSION

Questions, meeting scheduling, next steps

Contact

- Intelligent Community Forum
 - www.intelligentcommunity.org
- Blandin Foundation
 - [*ICF Description*](#)
 - <https://blandinfoundation.org/articles/intelligent-community-forum-benchmarking-assistance/>
 - [*Technical Assistance Request*](#)
 - <https://blandinfoundation.tfaforms.net/54>
- Mary Magnuson, Broadband Program Administrator
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