

Advancing Community Connectivity: A Working Session

What does it mean to be a “connected community” and how can we work together to advance broadband access, adoption and use? NTIA’s [BroadbandUSA](#) needs your wisdom and experience to define the measures that accelerate local, regional, and national broadband efforts.

A key [recommendation](#) from the [Broadband Opportunity Council](#), shaped through extensive stakeholder engagement, the [Community Connectivity Initiative](#) will empower communities to better assess their broadband access and assets, digital skills and equity, policies and funding, and alignment with local priorities.

The Initiative will include a broadband self-assessment; report, recommendations and index; supporting programs; and a broader community of practice. Join national and local thought-leaders for an in-depth **Workshop** to develop meaningful measures for community broadband access, adoption, policy and use. You’ll learn from your peers and make a lasting contribution to national and local broadband programs.

Workshop Agenda (8:30 – 12:00)

- 8:30 Registration
Coffee and Continental Breakfast provided by Next Century Cities
- 9:00 Welcome and Context
Doug Kinkoph, Associate Administrator, BroadbandUSA, NTIA
- Doug will discuss what NTIA has learned from broadband stakeholders and highlight how NTIA has built a new set of programs and services to further support local leaders as they assess broadband coverage, evaluate business models, develop public-private partnerships, expand digital access and inclusion, and leverage broadband to achieve local objectives.*
- 9:05 Connectivity Initiative Overview
Laura Spining, Director, BroadbandUSA, NTIA
- What are the ingredients that support planning and implementing next generation connected communities? Laura will outline the elements of the Community Connectivity Initiative as currently envisioned, providing a structure for discussion and further input.*
- 9:25 Partner Perspectives Lightning Round
- Georgia Bullen, Director of Technology Projects, Open Technology Institute
 - Jen Leasure, President and CEO, The Quilt
 - David Keyes, Community Technology Program Manager, City of Seattle Department of Information Technology

- Bruce Patterson – Technology Director, City of Ammon
- Will Saunders – Open Data Guy, Washington Technology Solutions

The Community Connectivity self-assessment tool will help codify some of the best practices and best thinking of broadband leaders, developing a framework to expedite planning and encourage more broadband investment, equity and value. Local and national leaders will share their perspectives on developing measures for community connectivity, building a self-assessment framework and expanding support for local practitioners.

10:00 Community Connectivity Indicators and Assessment Design
Karen Perry, Broadband Specialist, BroadbandUSA, NTIA

Karen will describe the current Indicator framework as a foundation for in-depth conversations to critique and improve the design. The framework includes a series of “benchmarks,” indicators and attributes that cover:

- *Access - wireline, wireless, infrastructure*
- *Adoption – home and mobile adoption, institutional support, skills and literacies*
- *Policy - leadership, funding, use of public assets*
- *Use – government services and civic engagement, economic development and innovation, education and continuous learning, health and wellness, energy and the environment, transportation and public safety*

10:15 Break

10:30 Indicator Review and Collaboration
All

We'll break into small groups to discuss the indicators in depth. Our objective is gain insights to strengthen the model, to ensure that the indicators are progressive and technology neutral, and to makes sure they are applicable to different types of communities. In short, our goal is to ensure the indicators reflect your best practices, best thinking, and practical experience.

11:40 Readouts and Next Steps

12:00 End

Laura Spining LSpining@ntia.doc.gov (202) 482-5637
Karen Perry KPerry@ntia.doc.gov (206) 861-6043