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.
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

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