Community
Accelerator

Accelerating your community's
progress in the Broadband Economy

economic

social

cultural

Intelligent Community Forum
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T he Community Accelerator program provides your city or region with a set of development tools to improve competitiveness, deepen social inclusion and enhance your ability to adapt in today's fast-moving Broadband Economy. Based on years of research by the Forum, the Community Accelerator:

- **Educates your community** on the factors that will determine its economic future and social health

- **Engages and energizes the key stakeholders** in the community development process to take leadership roles in creating progress

- **Provides metric analysis** that identifies where you stand today and offers specific guidance on where to focus efforts in the future

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Getting started is the always the hardest part.   The Accelerator offers a mix of vision, practical guidance, motivation and measurement that spurs key stakeholders to undertake projects that produce results.   By organizing for action and gaining short-term successes, community groups develop an appetite for more, and become your most powerful advocates for positive change.

The Community Accelerator is not a consulting service. It does not assess feasibility or develop requests for proposal. Instead, it delivers education and analysis that you can use to plan and execute your future as an Intelligent Community, and a global context for action based on the actual practices of cities and regions around the globe.

Accelerator Services

The Community Accelerator offers three integrated services to accelerate community development through a combination of short-term action and long-term strategy.

Master Class → Mentoring → Metrics

Master Class

The Master Class is a focused day-long workshop for the governmental, institutional and business leaders of the community. It offers education to give the champions of change in your community a common understanding. It provides facilitation that spurs near-term action to improve the community in visible and measurable ways.   These near-term achievements demonstrate the value of the effort and motivate more citizens and organizations to support progress. The Master Class provides:

Education on...	**Facilitation of...**
• How to bring competitive broadband to your city or region	• Group identification of key strengths and competitive advantages
• How to leverage broadband for economic, social and cultural growth	• Group brainstorming on core challenges and possible solutions
• Specific success strategies in network development, creation of a knowledge-based workforce, innovation-stimulation programs, digital inclusion and community engagement	• Group engagement in new projects to address the core challenges and leverage key strengths

Outcomes. What will the Master Class deliver?

- Shared understanding of 21st Century economic and social development
- Recognition of core challenges and the impact they have on every constituency
- Definition of potential projects that engage group members in creating positive change
- Identification of champions interested in taking projects from concept to results

Mentoring

The Master Class is a beginning, not an end.   To help you harvest its potential, ICF provides mentoring for project groups that are addressing core challenges.   Mentoring is no substitute for local leadership and motivation but can significantly improve the experience and outcomes of your stakeholders. Experienced ICF staff members provide advice, based on the experience of more than one hundred other cities and regions, as well as a strategic understanding of how Intelligent Communities develop.

Mentoring is provided remotely by telephone and Web conference as well as onsite. Engagements last from 6 to 24 months, depending on requirements. The scope of mentoring is based on the needs of project teams, but typically involves:

- Monthly or quarterly mentoring sessions
- Guidance in formulating development goals, timelines and expected deliverables
- Strategy advice on leveraging resources, building partnerships and setting goals
- Connection to peers in Intelligent Communities

Outcomes. What can you expect from Mentoring?

- Higher success rate for project teams, with fewer dead ends
- Better definition of goals and deliverables with greater transparency and effectiveness
- Enhanced personal engagement of team members, with less burnout

Metrics

How ready is your community to turn broadband into economic and social value? The Accelerator Metrics provides an analysis of community readiness and performance based on more than 40 data points related to ICF's Intelligent Community Indicators. The majority of the information comes from national and state/provincial data, with supplemental information provided by local government. ICF analyzes the data and provides written report detailing the community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and obstacles, and identifies areas where the community can most effectively focus its efforts to make sustainable progress, based on the experience of more than 125 Intelligent Communities around the world.

Sample Data Points	
Broadband	• Residential, business and government availability • Residential, business and government penetration
Knowledge Work	• Educational attainment of residents • Ratio of students to PCs in elementary and secondary schools
Innovation	• New business registrations per capita in most recent year • Transactional capabilities of government and school Web sites
Digital Inclusion	• Pricing for broadband services • Availability of locations with free public access to broadband
Advocacy	• Quality of online economic development marketing materials • Strategy for economic and social development using ICT

Outcomes. What benefits do Metrics offer?

• A detailed, objective assessment of development to date, based on field-tested international standards

• Identification of existing strengths and the highest-potential areas for development

• Guidance to relevant models of action from comparable communities around the world

Timeline

The duration of an Accelerator project depends on the community's needs and funding requirements. The following illustration shows the usual flow of activities.

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2

Prep   MC

Mentoring

Metrics

Pricing

The Community Accelerator is priced as shown below. Travel expenses for onsite participation are additional at net cost.

Assessment — Introducing the Accelerator through an inspiring presentation to key decision-makers and face-to-face education and counsel (one day). From **US$5,000.**

Master Class — Offsite preparation, onsite workshop leadership, with local meetings, social events and press interviews. U**S$10,000.**

Metrics — Analysis of data submitted by the community, using ICF's proprietary analytic tools, including submission of the written report. Onsite presentation of the report is available for an extra per-diem charge. **US$15,000**

Mentoring — Offsite preparation, onsite and remote meeting facilitation. Pricing can vary depending on duration and number of projects. **US$25,000**.