

Smarter States, Smarter Communities

Dan Lauf | Energy Program Director | Environment, Energy & Transportation Division
dlauf@nga.org | 202-624-5427

Across the United States, communities are working to deploy connected technologies that can help grow their economies, improve quality of life, make government more responsive, and enhance safety, mobility, sustainability and resilience. Governors can harness the value of these technologies by improving communications networks and IT systems, enhancing data governance, coordinating local efforts, including rural areas alongside urban ones, addressing cyber concerns and fostering economies of scale.

About Smarter States, Smarter Communities

To help states navigate and advance the transition to a smarter state, and make sure “smart” is for smart for all, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) launched the **Smarter States, Smarter Communities** initiative. The initiative is helping governors develop state-wide programs that build upon local successes. The work is guided by an expert advisory group consisting of representatives from academic institutions, non-profit organizations, the federal government and the private sector innovators.



Learning about digital manufacturing at UI Labs at NGA Smarter States Learning Lab in Chicago

Major Activities

EDUCATE: In October 2018, NGA Center hosted a **Smarter States, Smarter Communities Learning Lab** in Illinois, where governor-designated teams from Colorado, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota and Virginia learned about successful approaches to becoming smarter states. Each state developed actionable recommendations for their respective governors.

ACCELERATE: The NGA Center is assembling lessons learned into a **Smarter States, Smarter Communities Roadmap** that will be shared with all governors in April 2019.

REPLICATE: From July 2019 to July 2020, the NGA Center will use the roadmap to support governor-designated teams from four states in a year-long **Smarter States, Smarter Communities Policy Academy**. The policy academy will culminate in a **Smarter States, Smarter Communities National Summit** in July 2020.

About NGA’s Center for Best Practices

The NGA Center develops innovative solutions to today's most pressing public policy challenges and is the only research and development firm that directly serves the nation's governors. The Center has five divisions; the Smarter States, Smarter Communities initiative is spearheaded by the Environment, Energy & Transportation and Homeland Security and Public Safety Divisions.