

Smarter States, Smarter Communities

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Across the United States, communities are working to grow their economies, improve quality of life, enhance resilience and make government more responsive through the deployment of connected technologies. These “Smart technologies” offer opportunities to transform how citizens, businesses and governments interact. To fully harness the value of these technologies and protect citizens from security vulnerabilities, there exists a need for governors to coordinate local adoption efforts, include rural areas alongside urban ones, and foster economies of scale.

About Smarter States, Smarter Communities

To help states navigate and advance this transition and make sure “smart” is for all, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) launched the **Smarter States, Smarter Communities** initiative. This initiative will help governors develop state-wide programs that build upon local successes and expand them to new geographies and sectors.



States participating in the Smarter States, Smarter Communities initiative also receive the benefits of a diverse advisory group consisting of representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, academic institutions, and private sector supporters of the initiative.

Major Activities

EDUCATE: In October, 2018, NGA Center hosted a **Smarter States, Smarter Communities Learning Lab** in Chicago, IL so governor-designated teams from five states could learn about successful approaches to becoming smarter states. Each state developed actionable recommendations for their respective governors.

ACCELERATE: The NGA Center is now assembling lessons learned into a comprehensive **Smarter States, Smarter Communities Roadmap** that will help all states accelerate their efforts.

REPLICATE: From July 2019 – 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**. States will be selected in via a request for applications. The policy academy will culminate in a **Smarter States, Smarter Communities National Summit** for all states and partners.

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 Energy Policy Learning Network is spearheaded by the Environment, Energy & Transportation Division.