

# REBUILD WITH US.

## REBUILD AND REIMAGINE AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

[WWW.NLC.ORG/INFRASTRUCTURE](http://WWW.NLC.ORG/INFRASTRUCTURE)

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#### ▶▶ SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

Together, cities and our federal partners must address the existing core infrastructure backlog, reestablish long-term funding and use new technologies that will serve America's cities for the next 100 years.

#### ▶▶ EXPAND REVENUE TOOLS

Cities should be given more flexibility to raise revenues and use innovative financing techniques while protecting existing tools, such as tax-exempt bonds, to drive regional investments that tie into the national network.

#### ▶▶ LOCALLY-DRIVEN PROJECTS

Local leaders, from cities large and small, are best positioned to identify where infrastructure needs are greatest and should be given a stronger voice in how limited federal dollars are invested.

#### ▶▶ REBUILD AND REIMAGINE

Cities are leading the way in building intermodal, sustainable and interconnected infrastructure networks that support a modern economy. Congress must invest in cities' vision to rebuild and reimagine America's infrastructure.

#### ▶▶ FEDERAL-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

Cities are already paying their fair share and need a steady federal partner to fund existing national programs and make significant capital investments for the long-term benefit of the economy.





# WATER



# BROADBAND

## NLC calls on Congress to improve our nation's water infrastructure by passing legislation that will:

- Reauthorize and provide federal funding for water infrastructure improvements through the **Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)** programs;
- Provide full appropriation to the **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)** for loans and loan guarantees for water infrastructure projects, to jump-start the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers WIFIA program, and to permanently establish the program beyond a pilot program;
- Remove the **federal volume cap** on tax-exempt bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects, which will make additional private capital available for water projects;
- Establish a comprehensive and flexible **integrated planning and permitting process** for local water, wastewater and stormwater management that will allow communities to meet their requirements under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act in an efficient and cost-effective manner through the sequencing and scheduling of projects;
- Incentivize **green infrastructure techniques** that can reduce flooding and help manage stormwater runoff in a more cost-effective way; and
- Clarify that **rebates provided by local water utilities to homeowners** for water conservation and water efficiency are not subject to a federal income tax.

## NLC calls on Congress to update our nation's broadband infrastructure by passing legislation that will:

- Expand **broadband access** to underserved neighborhoods by eliminating state barriers to municipal broadband networks;
- Target federal money to community institutions, underserved communities, and low-income families by fixing funding shortfalls in the **Federal Communications Commission's Universal Service Fund** and modernizing contribution methods;
- Establish a **broadband grant program** to accompany the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service Broadband Loan program and increase the population threshold for eligible areas to at least 20,000;
- Increase funding for **Community Development Block grants and Choice Neighborhoods grants**, so that local governments can allocate funding for broadband planning and deployment alongside affordable housing and neighborhood improvement projects;
- Expand the **HUD ConnectHome** program to ensure a growing number of HUD-assisted households with children have Internet access; and
- Increase the financial viability of middle- and last-mile broadband infrastructure investment with **dig once policies** for inclusion of conduit or fiber placement in federally-funded infrastructure projects.



# WORKFORCE



# TRANSPORTATION

## NLC calls on Congress to invest in our nation's workforce by passing legislation that will:

- Build on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by creating additional **workforce funding and training programs through joint partnerships** between the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Expand dedicated funding for **sector-based partnerships** that would jump-start local infrastructure projects and maintain necessary skilled labor;
- Expand funding and opportunities to bridge the skills gap for those interested in an **apprenticeship program**;
- Connect investments to existing local **Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs** and workforce development board initiatives focused on infrastructure skill development;
- Maintain our current workforce by ensuring **protections for immigrants**, including those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status; and
- Improve **housing affordability** by incentivizing mortgage lending for workforce housing.

## NLC calls on Congress to modernize our nation's transportation infrastructure by passing legislation that will:

- Identify a long-term, sustainable revenue source that keeps the **Highway Trust Fund fully funded** to be used for both rebuilding and maintaining new investments;
- Fund transportation infrastructure projects by putting money directly into the hands of local governments, who are best equipped to identify **high priority projects** and invest in a coordinated, intermodal network;
- Increase federal funding for **existing programs** that support all modes of transportation, including the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, Transportation Alternatives, the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, New Starts, and the Smart City Challenge; and
- Create greater **flexibility for private investment** in infrastructure, while also recognizing that public-private partnerships may only be viable for a limited number of infrastructure projects.



#### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES**

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

**#REBUILDWITHUS**