SOLUTION SESSIONS

In addition to workshops, conference attendees can enjoy sessions led by industry experts.

Leading Ahead of the Trends: Today's Top Ten Community Needs

Many facets of livability – such as infrastructure, public safety, and housing – work together to form a great community. This session puts the spotlight on ten priorities that matter most to U.S. residents today. Come hear public opinion experts and local government thought leaders discuss national trends that have the greatest impact on cities. Take a closer look at Polco's nationwide community survey and government performance databases and gain new insights into residents' perspectives on community livability. You'll also discover proven, practical strategies to harness community data for the most successful outcomes.

Becoming a City of Service

JustServe appreciates the power of service and volunteering to build unity in the community, and its platform links opportunities to serve with community needs. This session will highlight ways to engage youth in identifying needs in your community, help them collaborate with organizations that meet those needs and then see their efforts make a difference in the community. It also will introduce the new program that JustServe is launching to recognize cities and youth for their efforts in bringing their communities together. Come and learn how your city can be recognized as a City of Service!

Reimagining Recruitment and Retention

Given the structural changes in the nature of work and workforce competition over the last few years, it is time for local government managers to take a hard look at the recruitment process, experiment with new outreach and engagement methods, restructure interviews, and consider ways in which full-time vs. part-time may no longer be the only options. MissionSquare Research Institute will share data from public sector employees, HR managers, and job candidates for a discussion on how government can remain competitive in a difficult hiring market. Particular attention will be given to hard-to-recruit positions, the use of technology to reconfigure both recruitment and the workplace, and new findings

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among employees 35 and younger about what factors motivate them to seek or remain in public sector employment.

Inclusive Mental Health Policies for the City Workforce

Rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions are on the rise, creating a dual challenge for local communities. Communities need to provide their government workforce with the mental health-related services and supports they need to perform their jobs. They also need to ensure that there are enough well-trained mental health providers to meet the growing demand for services and treatment. This panel will explore some the innovative ways that local governments are addressing these challenges—from work-related mental health policies, plans and practices to efforts to bolster the behavioral health workforce.

This session will be facilitated by the State Exchange on Employment & Disability (SEED), a state-federal collaboration. The discussion will feature NLC members sharing their firsthand experiences and solutions for advancing inclusive mental health policies.

Redlining and Health: A Look at Impacts in Three Cities

As part of the NLC Capstone Challenge, the City Health Dashboard is working with three cities that have dealt with historic redlining – Charlottesville, VA, Houston, TX and Rochester, NY – to understand how this practice continues to impact current health and economic disparities. The goal is to help cities integrate historic redlining maps into their equity planning processes and create action plans for impactful and lasting local change for displaced populations and disinvested neighborhoods. Learn about these unique collaborations to combine mapping and data expertise with city representatives' collective local knowledge. You'll also hear directly from cities who are thinking critically about how the past can inform the present to create more widespread, equitable opportunity for all communities in the future.

Data, Insights and Innovations for Mental Health Solutions

Join leaders of Care Solace and Be Well OC as they delve into the pressing issue of mental health among vulnerable populations. Drawing on data-driven insights from city partners, this session explores innovative strategies and solutions that can transform the mental health services and support systems available for individuals who are facing homelessness and other challenging circumstances. A combination of case studies, discussions among experts and collaborative problem-solving will give participants fresh ideas and new tools to respond to mental health issues that cities of all sizes are facing. This session will be valuable for both elected officials and municipal staff seeking to strengthen the mental well-being of their communities.

Reimagining Commercial Space as Housing

Communities across the country are struggling to provide high-quality affordable housing, and Freddie Mac estimates a current shortage of 3.8 million units nationwide. At the same time, changes in the commercial real estate market – driven by more flexible work patterns – have created an abundance of vacant office space and, perhaps, new opportunities to expand the housing supply and create 24/7 neighborhoods. The American Institute of Architects will present five key takeaways for city leaders who are considering office-to-residential conversions as part of a comprehensive strategy to address housing shortages.

Good Neighbors: A Commitment to Protect Housing Affordability

Housing affordability, and the pressing need to build more housing supply, is an issue facing cities large and small across the country. Airbnb is engaging with policymakers, community groups, housing policy experts, and thought leaders to help support solutions. During this discussion, Airbnb will outline how the company is partnering with local communities to advocate for sensible policies that will boost affordable housing supply and address housing affordability challenges.

Creating Resilient and Healthy Communities

Resilient cities recognize the importance of equitable solutions that serve all members of the community, including our most vulnerable. That includes community members who are experiencing homelessness. Community leaders play a critical role in addressing the issues of housing and homelessness, and they understand that homelessness can arise from various circumstances, including mental health issues, the opioid/fentanyl crisis, extreme weather events, natural disasters and economic problems. With this in mind, community and local leaders seek ways to offer immediate shelter and establish pathways toward more permanent housing solutions. This session will focus on ways to build a comprehensive approach that combines immediate relief with sustainable strategies to build resilient cities where everyone has access to safe and stable housing.

Socially Responsible Purchasing with Amazon Business

Supporting local, veteran-owned and minority-owned businesses and improving sustainability are important for city growth. Join this session as representatives from Amazon Business share innovative ways for city leaders to define, meet and proactively measure progress toward socially responsible

purchasing goals. Learn how the buying process for city governments can be simplified and how the playing field can be leveled to create more opportunities for small businesses.

Drones as First Responders

Drone technology is increasingly becoming an integral part of a first responder's toolbox. Drones allow for safer research and rescue, identifying safe pathways of entry and exit for first responders, opening two-way communication between an officer and a suspect in barricaded and unsafe situations and increasing situational awareness. They also can deliver payloads like medical kits and NARCAN. This session will feature some of the ways that state and local agencies and communities can benefit from using drone technology, aligned with correct policies, in responding to a range of emergency situations.

Integrated Public Safety: Developing a Holistic Response

Public safety is no longer the sole domain of police, fire and offices of emergency management. The challenges cities face — from homelessness to violent crime — can only be tackled by strategizing and collaborating across municipal agencies and by bringing diverse skills, data and interventions together in meaningful ways. At this session, participants will learn about innovative ways cities are breaking down silos between city departments and addressing their most difficult challenges in building safer and healthier communities. Practical advice from police, housing and technology leaders will show what's required to build and execute cross-departmental strategies, including how to engage stakeholders across your city and how data tools can drive collaboration.

Gaining Community Support for Crime-Solving Technology

Cities across the country face a challenging equation: rising crime, particularly firearm violence, and increasingly understaffed police departments. Real-time crime centers and policing technologies like license plate readers and gunshot detection systems are proven to be effective force multipliers for both real-time emergency situations and investigations. But in order to see maximum benefits, the process of implementing these technologies must involve the community. In this session, law enforcement and city leaders who have successfully deployed crime-solving technology will walk through a framework emphasizing transparency, accountability and equity. Topics of discussion will include choosing technologies/technology vendors that reflect the community; bringing together residents, community groups, elected officials, law enforcement and other stakeholders to be a part of the conversation; using a data-driven approach to technology deployment; and maintaining open lines of communication between police and community residents.

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Nine Non-Techie Things to Help Keep Your Municipality Safe

City leaders can't afford to ignore cybersecurity risks. Even if your technology experience is limited, you need to be part of decision-making processes to protect municipal systems. This session will cover the three biggest leadership mistakes that can leave a city vulnerable to cybersecurity breaches, understanding big-picture implications and what successful leaders are doing to change their outcomes even when they don't understand anything about IT. Join this session for a plain-language discussion and walk away with a nine-step practical checklist that you can start applying immediately.

Generative AI: What Mayors and Managers Must Know

Easy access to artificial intelligence and cloud technologies opens up new opportunities for city governance. This session will review the digital landscape and deliver clear, practical and responsible examples of how AI can be used to propel your daily operations and policies. Speakers will provide real-world examples and highlight how very simple tools can support your work. They also will share best practices that protect against unwelcome uses. Regardless of your familiarity with these technologies, you'll leave with new insights and actionable strategies tailored to the needs of your office and community.

Helping Cities with Google's Generative AI

In this age of artificial intelligence, companies are inspired to think big while balancing the need to act responsibly. For Google Cloud, that means delivering innovative products, developing transformational uses for your city and continuing to build an open ecosystem for AI innovation. Our work is driven by a commitment to apply AI safely and responsibly—in how we develop our models, how we partner with customers to evaluate risk and how we help ensure you maintain full control of your data. This session is an opportunity to gain knowledge and ideas to help you map out AI plans for your community.

The Role of Data and Analytics in Building Safer Communities

Data-driven insights are critical for creating safer communities. This session will cover the latest technology to help cities solve safety challenges, including software solutions that can accelerate the pace of safety initiatives with predictive features. Participants also will learn how technology can be used to gauge progress on safety initiatives and provide required reporting for funding opportunities.

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Helping the Advanced Air Mobility Industry Take Off

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) has the potential to make current transit networks more efficient by reducing carbon emissions, lowering congestion and adding transportation solutions to traditionally underserved communities. Learn about the AAM-driven benefits and what factors local leaders should consider to implement AAM safely and equitably. Speakers will address policies and measures that cities can take to spur investment and workforce development in AAM.

Electric Vehicles, Energy Companies, and Equitable Solutions

More than 26 million electric vehicles are expected to be on U.S. roads by 2030. To meet anticipated demand to power those vehicles, and to ensure electric vehicles and their benefits are accessible to all, it is imperative for charging infrastructure to be strategically deployed in cities and counties of all sizes. This panel will discuss the partnerships necessary among energy companies, local governments and other key stakeholders to successfully align charging infrastructure build-out with equitable solutions.

Five Things Every City Leader Needs to Know About GIS

GIS is engrained in local government operations and it delivers significant benefits for community life. Cities of all sizes use GIS to understand their challenges and improve the quality of life for residents. Like other technologies, GIS has undergone massive advancements, which cities can use to address equity, housing, transportation, public safety, economic development and more. This session will highlight five GIS application areas city leaders need to be aware of as they seek to execute more data-driven policy. You will leave this session with new ideas on how GIS can help you solve the challenges your community faces as well as questions to take back to your GIS staff.

Leveraging the Cloud to Elevate the Digital Resident Experience

Digital government services are rapidly evolving, with cloud technology at the forefront. Cloud-based solutions not only provide seamless, integrated services but also significantly enhance the resident experience. How does the cloud facilitate this transformation, and what are its implications for your digital government services? Attend this session to better understand how your government can leverage cloud technology for staff and resident services.

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