

EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO LEAD IN THE **Artificial Intelligence Age**

Our Vision: Making AI Work for Local Governments

NLC'S GOAL IS TO FOSTER A FUTURE IN WHICH:

- ▶ Cities are equipped with cutting-edge technological tools and insights that promote stronger civic engagement and streamlined decision-making
- ▶ Local leaders have the resources they need to pilot, refine, and scale AI solutions that make communities better places for residents to live
- ▶ Municipal leaders have a national network of leaders, experts, and partners they can call upon for advice and knowledge-sharing in the AI space

Through research, training, peer learning, and powerful partnerships, NLC is working to ensure that every municipality – large or small; rural, urban or suburban – can harness the potential of AI.

The Opportunity: Partnering with Cities to Shape the Future with Artificial Intelligence & Emerging Technologies

Artificial intelligence (AI) isn't just a futuristic buzzword – it's already transforming how local governments work, deliver services, and engage with residents. Local governments must be equipped to lead—not just adapt—through this technological shift.

At the **National League of Cities (NLC)**, we're ensuring that cities, towns, and villages of all sizes have the tools, guidance, and partnerships to harness AI responsibly and effectively.

Our Core Pillars



FOSTER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & EMPOWERMENT

We'll help cities use AI to enhance their civic engagement strategies — expanding local leaders' reach to more residents and amplifying community voices in decision-making.



BUILD LOCAL KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITY

Through hands-on technical assistance, training, and peer exchange, we'll support local governments in becoming AI-ready — equipped to evaluate, adopt, and govern using new technologies responsibly.



STRENGTHEN PUBLIC TRUST

We'll guide cities in using AI and data to modernize their operations while championing ethical use, transparency, and accountability, so residents know they're being served with integrity.

What We're Delivering: A Three-Part Strategy



INFORM: EDUCATE & CONVENE

NLC is launching new opportunities to educate our member cities and help local leaders make sense of emerging technologies so they can lead with confidence:

- ▶ **NLC AI Forum:** Led by AI-focused mayors, NLC is building a national coalition of local elected officials, innovation officers, city managers, nonprofit partners, and academic experts from communities of all sizes to convene regularly and drive cross-sector dialogue on AI in local government.
- ▶ **AI Integration Handbook for Local Government:** NLC will publish a practical guide, developed in collaboration with ICMA, to help cities apply AI to streamline key municipal operations including budgeting, staffing, policy development, ethics, program evaluation, and service delivery.
- ▶ **AI Innovation Sprint:** NLC will host an opportunity for city staff and tech developers to jointly explore, test, and co-create high-potential use cases for AI in cities.
- ▶ **Peer Roundtables & Case Studies:** NLC will convene role-based forums (comprised of CIOs, procurement officers and city managers) to share and discuss lessons about AI adoption, risk, and implementation, which will inform the development of tangible resources that can be used by a broader range of cities.
- ▶ **Regular Webinars:** NLC will issue quarterly or monthly briefings with trusted partners to unpack key technologies like generative AI, edge computing, and predictive analytics, and their implications for local governments.
- ▶ **AI Research Fellow Cohort:** NLC will support a small but mighty cohort of research fellows to help translate the latest and emerging academic AI research into practical guidance for city leaders.

2 EVALUATE: RESEARCH AND ANALYZE

NLC is breaking down complex AI concepts and their applications for local governments – so that city leaders don't have to:

- ▶ **Resident Sentiment Surveys on AI:** NLC will conduct national and regional polls to help gauge how people feel about AI in their local governments – with the ultimate goal of helping city leaders develop communications and public engagement strategies around AI that build public trust.
- ▶ **Local Government AI Use Case Library:** NLC will maintain and grow a repository of real-world examples, adoption patterns, and measurable impacts about how cities are using AI, from across the country.
- ▶ **Model Generative AI Policy for Cities:** NLC will develop a customizable policy framework that provides local leaders with a template to support responsible, values-based AI use in municipal operations.

3 APPLY: PILOT & SCALE

We're taking AI from theory to action—by connecting cities and tech companies to pilot and scale new solutions that better address local needs:

- ▶ **Technical Assistance for Cities Piloting AI Solutions:** NLC will work with a cohort of leading cities to test AI in high-interest areas identified by local leaders, such as 311 responsiveness, civic engagement, and chatbot-powered services—with support every step of the way.
- ▶ **Dissemination of Trusted Open-Source AI Tools:** NLC will vet a variety of AI tools tailored to local needs, like zoning assistants and budget bots, that cities of all sizes can adapt, even with limited resources.

Get Involved: Join Us on the Frontlines of Innovation

NLC is building the connective tissue between local government and the frontier of AI technologies. With the right partnerships, we can ensure that the next era of technology is shaped by communities, for communities.

We invite cities, companies, nonprofits, and institutions to partner with us—to ensure that every city, town, and village is not just ready for AI, but is leading the way.

To learn more, connect with **Joshua Franzel**, senior executive and director for research and data analysis at franzel@nlc.org.