

NLC 100 YEARS

1924-2024: A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

'23 ANNUAL REPORT





NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence Anthony onstage with humanitarian and chef José Andrés at the 2023 City Summit.

A message **FROM THE CEO**

Since its founding 100 years ago, the National League of Cities (NLC) has been the voice of our nation's cities, towns, and villages – relentlessly advocating for municipalities' key priorities. But over the course of the last century, our organization's role has evolved – stretching far beyond engaging with the federal government. Since then, NLC has provided on-the-ground programming through our cohorts, published valuable research and data, helped communities take advantage of federal programs and funding, and of course harnessed the power of convening by bringing local leaders together with one another.

Today, NLC is a reputable brand, a trusted space for local leaders to convene, and a go-to resource for all things municipal government. We represent over 2,700 members and are the unified voice of our nation's 19,495 municipalities – from metropolises like New York City to my own tiny hometown of South Bay, Florida. We stretch from coast to coast and have an engaged and diverse membership, with people of color, women, and LGTBQ+ leaders serving at the highest levels of our NLC leadership.

Our organization has achieved a lot, but we're nowhere near done. Over the next century, we will continue looking forward, striving to make more progress, building better communities, and delivering on our consistent mission: to relentlessly advocate for, and protect the interests of, cities, towns, and villages – by influencing federal policy, strengthening local leadership, and driving innovative solutions.

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary over the next year and look ahead to the next century the state of our organization is strong, and we look forward to working with our members to make it even stronger over the next year.



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES



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NLC All Staff Retreat 2023. NLC Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Over the last several years, NLC has expanded to take on a range of new initiatives and functions to meet the needs of our nation's cities, towns, and villages.

With this growth in mind and with the support of our Executive Committee, in 2023 we embarked on an internal reorganization to help us optimize alignment based on our function and focus areas.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

The restructuring went into effect on February 1, 2023, and included the creation of several new departments, including the Center for Municipal Practice; the Center for Leadership, Education, Advancement and Development (LEAD); and the Center for Research and Data.

THE CENTER FOR MUNICIPAL PRACTICE

focuses on core issues that our members are struggling with as municipal leaders: housing, infrastructure, racial equity, sustainability, economic development, and others. The Center provides technical assistance, member education, tools and resources, and a variety of other services – ensuring that we’re providing support in the issue areas that are most relevant and useful to our member communities.

THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

is the go-to place for leadership development for municipal officials. This Center specializes in curriculum-based learning opportunities, as well as technical assistance, fulfilling the mission of the Institute for Youth, Education and Families by focusing on issues impacting young people in cities and towns across America. This Center builds on NLC’s strong human-centered programming and local infrastructure work from the last couple years.

THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND DATA

elevates the role of data in our organization, using qualitative and quantitative research methods to provide valuable insights to our members and our organization. Knowing that local leaders are relying more heavily on data to guide their decision-making, the new Center ensures that NLC is the primary place for finding up-to-date municipal data and information.

We also used this restructuring opportunity to enhance our internal operations as our organization continues to grow, adding a new Center for Operations and Administration that bundles the important work of our information technology, human resources, and events teams, and formalizing our Center for Budget and Finance. Additionally, our human resources team has been charged with implementing our internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Advancement (DEIA) initiative.

This is an exciting time for NLC and our staff of more than 170. In an ever-changing world, our organization is committed to continuing to evolve to keep pace with the challenges and opportunities local leaders face in their communities, and this new structure is helping us to do just that.

Member & PARTNER GROWTH

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership continues to grow with more than 2,700 member cities. Most of our members continue to be in the South and West regions, but we've seen significant growth in the Midwest and Northeast/Mid-Atlantic.

2023 was an active year for NLC's constituency groups, with in-person summer meetings held by Women in Municipal Government (WIMG), the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO), and the Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) groups. A virtual LGBTQ+ Local Officials group meeting was also held, in addition to the *Experiencia Puerto Rico* conference this past August where NLC recruited several Puerto Rican municipalities. This year also marks the first anniversary of our newest constituency group, Local Indigenous Leaders (LIL), which continues to meet regularly.

More than 450 individuals took advantage of the member-exclusive resources available through NLC's member councils this year – connecting with peers from similar communities across the country and working together to solve common issues. Led by their appointed chairs and co-chairs, the NLC member councils met at each NLC in-person

conference in 2023 while also collaborating throughout the year to hear from experts and share best practices. The Small Cities Council celebrated NLC's annual Small Cities Month in a big way in June with proclamations, videos, social media posts, and success stories from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) implementation. NLC member councils include: First Tier Suburbs, Large Cities, Race Equity and Leadership (REAL), Small Cities, Youth, Education and Families (YEF), Military Communities, and University Communities.





TYLER PERRY STUDIOS WELCOMES NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES



NLC members visiting Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, GA at our 2023 City Summit Conference.

PARTNERSHIPS

Along with our membership, our strategic partnerships portfolio has experienced consistent growth from numerous companies seeking partnerships with NLC. Our organization provides a diverse set of sponsorship opportunities to companies and national nonprofit organizations, aligning reputable brands with prominent events, trusted online resources, and focused member groups. Our partners have the chance to interact with our membership at our two annual conferences, national and regional training events, and other group meetings. The ultimate objective is to cultivate robust public-private partnerships that bring tangible benefits to community leaders and residents.

NLC's strategic partners are acknowledged as pioneers in developing industry best practices. They are deeply committed to solidifying NLC as a pivotal resource for local governments, underscoring this commitment by providing value-added solutions and cost savings to our member communities. Since October 2022, we have been delighted to welcome 14 new corporate partners to NLC's partner ecosystem.

Last winter, NLC completed the latest series of our Capstone Challenge program, which pairs select local governments with NLC's trusted Capstone and Enterprise-level partners in short-term, pro-bono partnerships that facilitate the completion of a critical project that requires more capacity than the city can manage on its own.

This year, successful projects included the following:

General Motors Future Roads partnered with **Easton, PA** and **Redmond, WA** to enhance road safety through Safety View, a collaborative tool with INRIX. This platform enables cities to assess safety factors efficiently, assisting in initiatives like Vision Zero planning, Complete Streets, and identifying problematic intersections.

City Health Dashboard collaborated with **Charlottesville, VA; Houston, TX;** and **Rochester, NY**, to address the impacts of historic redlining on modern health and economic disparities. The project involved mapping and consultation discussions to integrate redlining maps into equity planning and creating actionable plans for lasting local change.

Esri collaborated with **Chula Vista, CA;** **Takoma Park, MD;** and **Tucson, AZ** to develop strategic equity plans. This Capstone Project involved understanding community needs, incorporating GIS for location-based insights, and operationalizing equity strategies, resulting in a guidebook for other cities.

Accela worked with **Walnut Creek, CA** to use artificial intelligence to design and build dashboards informing affordable housing policies. This project focused on visualizing key data to identify trends and outliers, and track performance indicators, aiding resource allocation and strategic goal achievement in the affordable housing sector.



The American Institute of Architects

collaborated with **Chapel Hill, NC** to establish a City Architect Advisory Board. This initiative provides access to local architects for advisory services related to the built environment, offering recommendations for projects ranging from historic rehabilitation to neighborhood conceptual reviews.

BRINC Drones partnered with **Olathe, KS** and **Tracy, CA** to pilot drone integration for first responders. Specialized for emergency situations, these drones aid in search and rescue operations, communication, building clearing, and defusing hostage situations, enhancing the capabilities of city first responders.

4 **CAPSTONE**

General Motors
Peregrine
VC3
BRINC Drones

9 **EXECUTIVE**

Crosswalk Labs
Duke's
Everytown for Gun Safety
Flock Safety
Hustle
Mercury Public Affairs
National Association of Realtors
The Sports Facilities Companies
US Green Buildings Council
FUSE Corps

Helping Cities Lead the Way **ON KEY ISSUES**

INFRASTRUCTURE

To help small and mid-sized cities compete for federal infrastructure grants, in 2023 NLC continued our successful Grant Application Bootcamps as part of the Local Infrastructure Hub, which is primarily supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The free online bootcamps feature individualized coaching sessions, office hours, and peer-to-peer learning, as well as tools including a custom data dashboard, templates, and example applications.

Since the program first launched in the fall of 2022, nearly 700 cities from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have participated, working on grant applications related to transportation, broadband, energy efficiency, resilience, workforce, and more. So far, participating cities have won over \$55 million in related grants.

Mayor Melissa Blaustein of Sausalito, CA and Mayor Sandy Hunt of New Martinsville, WV discuss their participation in the NLC/Local Infrastructure Hub bootcamps.



In Phase IV of the bootcamp program, which took place in the fall of 2023, NLC helped communities draft grant applications in the following areas:



Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity

- focusing on investments in roads, rail, transit, and pool projects to enhance passenger and freight networks;



Climate Action - focusing on projects related to clean energy, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency to meet local climate action goals;



Digital Equity - focusing on supporting local governments in expanding access to the internet and promoting digital inclusion;



Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities - focusing on hazard mitigation projects that help communities reduce the risks they face from natural disasters; and



Flood Mitigation Assistance - focusing on investments in strategies to strengthen resilience and reduce the risk of damage from flooding.

Prior bootcamps focused on the following areas:

PHASE I

Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities

Flood Mitigation Assistance

Strengthening Mobility & Revolutionizing Transportation

PHASE II

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure

Safe Streets & Roads for All

Brownfields Remediation

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants

PHASE III

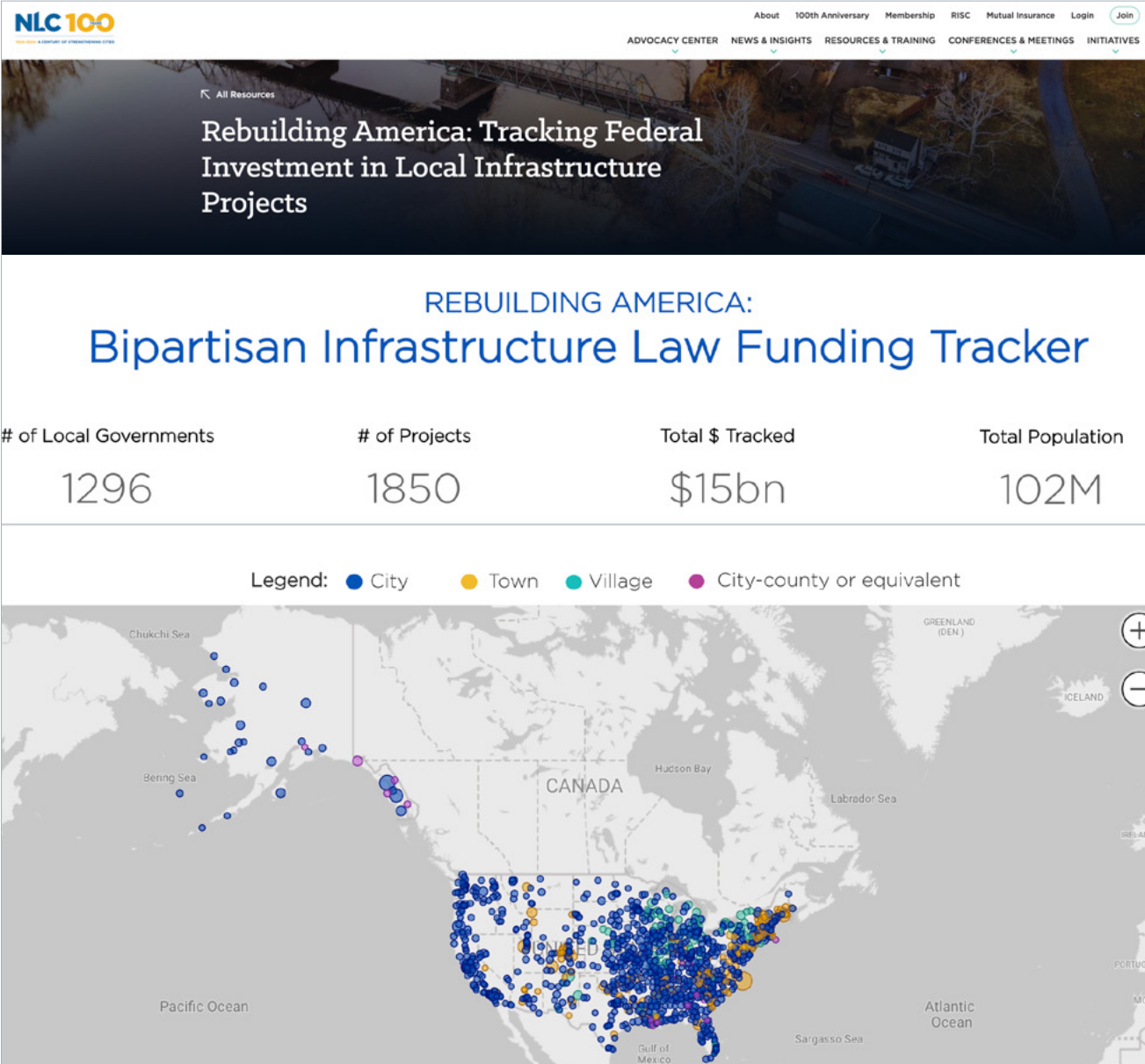
Broadband Opportunities

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Neighborhood Access & Equity (Reconnecting Communities)

Bridge Investments

Railroad Crossing Elimination



Rebuilding America (BIL) dashboard. Visit www.nlc.org/resource/rebuilding-america-tracking-federal-investment-in-local-infrastructure-projects/

Meanwhile, as more and more communities win grants and implement infrastructure projects, NLC has begun tracking them in our new **Rebuilding America (BIL) dashboard**, which catalogs more than 1,600 projects with over 1,100 local governments receiving funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Overall, the map represents \$13 billion in direct infrastructure funding that has gone to cities across the country – impacting a total of more

than 97 million people. It also indicates that the majority of the grants awarded thus far are going to small cities (827 of them, to be exact).

The dashboard contains data provided by the General Services Administration as of August 28, 2023, and will continue to be updated as more cities are awarded grant funds and data on these projects is publicly released.

In February 2024, NLC will kick off Phase V of the bootcamp program, which will focus on the following grant opportunities:



Charging and Fueling Infrastructure



Safe Streets and Roads for All



Climate Pollution Reduction



Clean Energy Tax Credits “Elective Pay”



Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation



Clean Water State Revolving Fund

WORKFORCE

In March 2023, NLC President Victoria Woodards and federal officials from the U.S. Department of Labor formally launched our new **Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy & Learning Network**, a program focused on supporting workforce development and apprenticeship programs that address our future needs, particularly when it comes to infrastructure. Since then, the cohort has formally kicked off with the involvement of 16 cities that are participating in the Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy, and 17 that are actively involved in the greater Learning Network. Funded by the Siemens Foundation, NLC and the U.S. Department of Labor are working directly with these cities to come up with innovative and scalable solutions that upskill and reskill workers into quality, high-demand jobs in infrastructure, clean energy and advanced manufacturing jobs made

possible by new federal investments. The Academy is specifically focused on supporting residents from historically underserved and underrepresented communities to address key shortcomings in their education and workforce ecosystems.

The 16 cities participating in the Academy are working closely with their local employers, workforce development boards, and other cross-sector partners to take bold and innovative actions to build strong onramps to in-demand infrastructure occupations for workers facing barriers to career success. These cities participated in a kickoff convening in July 2023 where they set their intentions for their projects, began putting together plans, and started taking action on projects like launching apprenticeship programs in future-focused sectors, designing comprehensive youth workforce strategies, and developing regional sector partnerships in growing industries.

To provide broad support to cities dedicated to the goals and objectives of Good Jobs, Great Cities, the Learning Network is supporting 17 cities by providing opportunities to learn from their peers and other national resource providers as they build a strong local ecosystem for workforce development. This includes participation in quarterly networking calls, and ready access to NLC and U.S. Department of Labor tools and resources to accelerate their efforts to promote workforce success in key local industries.

Mayor Woodards, Clarence Anthony, and David Etwiler, CEO of the Siemens Foundation, speaking at the U.S. Department of Labor.



The cities participating in the **Good Jobs, Great Cities Academy and Learning Network** are as follows:

ACADEMY CITIES

Birmingham, AL
Chattanooga, TN
Duluth, MN
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Frederick, MD
Jamestown, NY
Kokomo, IN
Lansing, MI
Missoula, MT
Monroe, NC
Newark, NJ
San Antonio, TX
Santa Fe, NM
St. Louis, MO
Tacoma, WA
Tempe, AZ

LEARNING NETWORK CITIES

Baton Rouge, LA
Bridgeport, CT
Dallas, TX
Forest Hill, TX
Greeley, CO
Houston, TX
Maywood, IL
Memphis, TN
New Orleans, LA
Pearland, TX
Portsmouth, VA
Rancho Cordova, CA
Richmond, VA
Sacramento, CA
St. Petersburg, FL
Stonecrest, GA
Tampa, FL



Mayor Woodards moderating a panel on housing featuring Mayor Corey Woods of Tempe, AZ; Mayor Angela Birney of Redmond, WA; and Mayor Mark Shepherd of Clearfield, UT.

HOUSING

In January 2023, NLC and the American Planning Association launched the Housing Supply Accelerator (HSA), a national campaign for locally driven housing supply solutions with a narrow focus on ways to expand, preserve and improve the quantity of quality housing units.

Led by NLC President Victoria Woodards, American Planning Association President Angela D. Brooks, and Mayor Corey Woods of Tempe, AZ, the HSA has partnered with a range of stakeholders, such as the National Association of Home Builders, National Realtors Association and Mortgage Bankers Association, to align the efforts of public and private stakeholders including local governments, community planners, developers, financial institutions, housing policy associations, and state and federal partners to meet housing needs at the local level.

Since the program's announcement, HSA and its steering committee, which is made up of local leaders and planners, each with unique perspectives and experience in housing policy, planning or development, have hosted four convenings with local government leaders and our cross-sector partners.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES REPRESENTATIVES

MAYOR ANGELA BIRNEY

Mayor

City of Redmond, WA

JOLIEN CARABALLO

Vice Mayor

City of Port St. Lucie, FL

CAROLYN COLEMAN

Executive Director

League of California Cities

THERESA KUHNS

CEO

Maryland Municipal League

BIANCA MOTLEY BROOM

Mayor

City of College Park, GA

VOP OSILI

Council President

City of Indianapolis, IN

AFTAB PUREVAL

Mayor

City of Cincinnati, OH

ADRIANA ROCHA GARCIA

Councilmember

City of San Antonio, TX

MARK SHEPHERD

Mayor

City of Clearfield, UT

AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

VINCENT BERTONI

AICP Planning Director

City of Los Angeles, CA

ANDREA BROWN

AICP Executive Director

Michigan Association of Planning

KIMBERLY DRIGGINS

Executive Director, Washington

Housing Conservancy

Washington, D.C.

TAIWO JAIYEGBA

City Manager

City of Greensboro, NC

EMILY LIU

*FAICP Director, Louisville Metro Office
of Planning and Design Services*

Louisville, KY

SARAH MARCHANT

AICP Chief of Staff

New Hampshire Community Loan Fund

JENNIFER RAITT

*Executive Director, Northern Middlesex
Council of Governments*

Lowell, MA

ANGELA SELF

AICP Planning Administrator

City of Garland, TX

ARLOVA VONHM

AICP Zoning Division Chief

City of Arlington, VA

JOHN ZEANA

*AICP Director, Division of
Planning & Development*

City of Memphis & Shelby County, TN

Convening topics have included construction and development, finance, land use and regulations and housing supply challenges related to infrastructure and workforce development. In addition to these broader topic-centered convenings, our team also conducted a nationwide survey of local leaders between January 18 and March 1, 2023, to better understand their most pressing concerns and perspectives on possible solutions and hosted a series of regional listening sessions across the country and met with a number of committees, councils and constituency groups. Once the findings and lessons learned from this initiative are finalized, NLC will be releasing a series of helpful resources and programming for our members and municipal leaders.

PREEMPTION

Since releasing a new brief on removing state barriers to expanding broadband at the local level in June 2023, our team has continued to closely track state efforts to preempt local governments on a wide range of issues. NLC has been a leading voice in the media on this issue, with citations and quotes in outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, *CNBC*, and more over the last several months. Our team's research shows that the severity of state preemption of local governments, as well as the frequency with which this approach is used, is on the rise. As we continue to observe this trend, NLC's Research and Data Analysis team is preparing to launch a new report tracking historical preemption trends over the last several decades in early 2024.

Mayor Nancy Rotering of Highland Park, IL discussing innovative approaches to public safety.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Knowing that public safety is a persistent challenge for local leaders, NLC has focused on providing technical assistance and support to cohorts of municipalities as they stand up violence intervention and alternative response programs, recognizing that improving safety in the community is a responsibility shared beyond traditional law enforcement.

Under a grant provided by Wells Fargo, our Justice Initiatives team is running deep-dive technical assistance programs in five cities to build capacity and help provide seed funding for alternative response models – for example, standing up new violence intervention offices, gaining access to more data, and adjusting measurement approaches to better target these interventions. Our team is also working with the Pohlad Family Foundation and municipalities in the Twin Cities region to focus on racial equity and community engagement in law enforcement.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

NLC recognizes the growing role artificial intelligence is playing in helping local governments provide more efficient city operations and services. Of course, there is a good deal for city leaders and staff to consider when it comes to ethical implications, transparency issues, and privacy concerns when using this technology. NLC is working to help city leaders sort through the uncertainty and big questions around these issues, while also exploring how to harness this rapidly evolving technology to optimize its benefits and solve real-world problems.

Building on the *Introduction to AI in Municipal Government* webinar NLC hosted in partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in August 2023, over the last year, NLC produced a series of blogs covering everything from generative AI regulation to establishing proper safeguards for facial recognition. At this past fall's City Summit, NLC provided key programming focused on artificial intelligence, including a panel session that included Mayor Tim Kelly of Chattanooga, TN; Donald Beamer, Atlanta's Senior Technology Advisor, and international AI expert Dr. Ashok Goel from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Knowing that artificial technology will continue to be top of mind for local leaders, NLC will be releasing several new relevant resources in 2024.



Mayor Tim Kelly of Chattanooga, TN discussing artificial intelligence at City Summit 2023.

Advocating for Cities AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

NLC has had some incredible federal advocacy accomplishments over the last year. In September, leadership from our Federal Advocacy Committees flew into DC for a series of congressional meetings on a variety of topics - including infrastructure, emergency funding for local governments in the aftermath of natural disasters, broadband access, and more. Participants in these meetings also advocated for a bipartisan solution to avoid a government shutdown.

These congressional meetings build on the robust presence NLC had on “Hill Day” as part of our 2023 Congressional City Conference. In total, 805 local leaders met with 119 members of Congress and 169 congressional staff. These advocacy efforts are in addition to the fly-ins NLC hosted throughout the year with member cities and state municipal leagues, and the ongoing member education NLC’s federal affairs team provides throughout the year. In fact, NLC’s Federal Advocacy Newsletter saw an impressive increase of 43,000+ new subscribers since November 2022.

Our advocacy team has also been supporting the formation and activities of the **Congressional Caucus of Former Local Elected Officials** in the 118th Congress. This caucus, first formed in 2021 in coordination with NLC and the National Association of Counties, brings together members of Congress with prior service in local government to improve our nation’s intergovernmental partnership, provide up-to-date information about municipal policy

interests, and ensure the local government voice is heard in federal decision-making. **Using NLC’s strong congressional connections, we were able to get the ARPA Flex bill passed in December 2022**, which gave local governments more flexibility in how they spend their Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

In 2023, NLC teamed up with the National Association of Counties, the International Municipal Lawyers Association, and the Government Finance Officers Association, to launch the **Local Government Legal Center**. This new entity provides a strong and unified local government voice before the U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts in cases that are consequential to municipal government operations. The Center also serves as a resource for municipalities, educating local governments about the Supreme Court and its impact on local officials.

Finally, at the 2023 City Summit in Atlanta, NLC kicked off the next iteration of our **Presidential Election Task Force**, as we prepare for the lead-up to the 2024 presidential election. The purpose of this task force, which is co-chaired by NLC President David Sander and NLC First Vice President Sharon Weston Broome, is to ensure cities’ voices and perspectives are part of the national conversation in the coming year.



First Lady Dr. Jill Biden addressing NLC at Congressional City Conference 2023.



Association of Washington Cities CEO Deanna Dawson speaks at an NLC press conference on Capitol Hill.

ADVOCACY SPOTLIGHT:

ADVANCING RAIL SAFETY FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

NLC has been relentless in our advocacy efforts supporting stronger rail safety in communities across America. With more than 1,000 trains derailed in multiple states last year alone and more than 140,000 miles of track crossing directly through many of the nation's cities, towns and villages, rail safety is an issue that all communities – and especially smaller and more rural ones – should care about.

In two letters to Congress signed by more than 500 mayors, councilmembers, and other local leaders, NLC urged Congress to pass the bipartisan Railway Safety Act of 2023, legislation that would help prevent train derailments and enhance rail safety across the

country, in turn making all of our cities, towns and villages safer places to live. This included a dedicated effort by our Small Cities Council to sign on more than 150 local leaders in a separate letter highlighting how destructive train derailments can be for small communities, by displacing residents, shuttering businesses, causing health and safety problems, and creating long-term economic devastation.

To support our advocacy, NLC held two press conferences to draw attention to this issue – one with our state municipal league leadership in Washington, D.C. on Capitol Hill in partnership with U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (who chairs the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation) and one with local leaders in Houston, TX in partnership with Mayor Sylvester Turner, focused specifically on the detrimental effects blocked rail crossings can have on communities. NLC also hosted a webinar for members on this important topic featuring a bipartisan group of three U.S. senators.

Finally, to support our efforts, our Research and Data and Federal Advocacy teams teamed up to release a new Interactive Rail Safety Map, which helps make the case for rail safety in a visual way. The map allows users to easily see the frequency and severity of train derailments across America by state, region, locality, and congressional district, making it a useful advocacy tool.



Mayor Lee Kilbourn of Auburn, MI on Capitol Hill.

NLC as your STORYTELLING ADVOCATE



One of the ways NLC is constantly advocating for our member communities is through our role as a trusted resource for reporters covering issues that impact local governments. From national outlets like *The New York Times* to industry publications like *Route Fifty*, NLC provides policy expertise and serves as a champion for the nation's cities, towns and villages.

Governing
For the people making governments work.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure 'Boot Camps' Help Small Cities Get Grants

A training program operated by the National League of Cities helps small cities apply directly for federal infrastructure funding. Participating cities have won \$428 million since last summer.

NBC NEWS

CLIMATE IN CRISIS

Local officials want extreme heat to be declared a federal disaster

In the letter from the National League of Cities, addressed to Gallego, CEO Clarence Anthony wrote: "By including extreme heat events in the definition of a major disaster ... this legislation will empower local governments to establish cooling centers, support vulnerable populations, assist the homeless, and enhance healthcare services during extreme heat events."

ROUTE FIFTY

How cities can navigate their state's broadband preemption laws

By [Kaitlyn Levinson](#) | JULY 6, 2023

The National League of Cities takes a look at how municipalities can expand broadband even when state authority may limit their ability to do so.

The New York Times

States Are Silencing the Will of Millions of Voters

June 3, 2023

"We are seeing a real increase in the pre-emption of local authority," said Clarence Anthony, the chief executive of the National League of Cities and a former mayor of South Bay, Fla. "Local officials are elected by citizens to represent them, and they're the ones who know what their citizens need the most. But we've been seeing state legislators trying to have control over local communities, and that's not good governance at all."

npr [DONATE](#)

YOUR MONEY

Rental application fees add up fast in a tight market. But limiting them is tough

UPDATED JANUARY 13, 2023 · 8:10 AM ET

... such a law. It's part of a broader push for tenant protections after the pandemic drove home the threat of housing instability and eviction, says Lauren Lowery with the National League of Cities.

"We're taking into consideration everything to ensure that people can be housed, and remain housed," she says.

CitiesSpeak

with Clarence Anthony

In July, NLC celebrated the first anniversary of our podcast, *CitiesSpeak with Clarence Anthony*, which features conversations with local leaders on the top issues and challenges they're facing today.

Fighting the Opioid Crisis

with Arkansas Municipal League Executive Director Mark Hayes and Wife, Alison Hayes

Transforming Community Mental Health

with Dr. Arthur Evans (CEO of the American Psychological Association)

Growing Affordable Housing

with Redmond Mayor Angela Birney & Clearfield City Mayor Mark Shepherd

Helping Communities Heal from Gun Violence

with Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering and Monterey Park Councilmember Henry Lo

Supporting LGBTQ+ Leaders

with former Houston Mayor Annise Parker

Supporting Resident in Recovery

with Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Tom Coderre

Using Data to Inform Local Policymaking

with Harvard Kennedy School Professor Stephen Goldsmith

Building Safe & Inclusive Communities

with Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao

Reflecting on Public Service

with Steve Benjamin, Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement

Defining Leadership in a Polarized World

with Mesa Mayor John Giles

Expanding Access to Affordable Housing

with Tempe Mayor Corey Woods

Pairing People and Partnerships to Create

Possibilities with Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards

Building Resilient Cities

with Duluth Mayor Emily Larson

Building Innovative Communities

with Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum

Protecting the Right to Vote

with Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner & Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt

KEY METRICS

Website Visitors



103K

↑ 27%
Sept. 2023



Facebook Followers

18,738

↑ UP 7%
in Sept. 2023



Instagram Followers

4,691

↑ UP 23%
in Sept. 2023



LinkedIn Followers

22,384

↑ UP 25%



Twitter/X Followers

35,436

↓ DOWN 1%
in Sept. 2023

* U.S. usership
dropped 18% in 2023.

Blogs Published



335

Monthly readers

47K

↑ 36%
READERSHIP
in Sept. 2023



Kicking Off NLC's 100th YEAR

Having kicked off NLC's centennial celebration at City Summit, we recognize how important it is to use this moment as a chance to *both* reflect on and celebrate the impact NLC has had on the municipal landscape in America. To do this effectively, we're putting everything we have into an array of events and programming over the next year, which will culminate at City Summit in Tampa Bay, FL next November.

To help plan our celebration, NLC assembled the 100th Anniversary Honorary Advisory Committee, which includes the voices of NLC's past and present elected leadership. Members of this Committee include:

KAREN ANDERSON

Past President; Former Mayor of Minnetonka, MN

CLARENCE ANTHONY

Past President; NLC CEO & Executive Director; Former Mayor of South Bay, FL

DENNIS ARCHER

Past President; Former Mayor of Detroit, MI; Former Justice, Michigan Supreme Court

CHRIS BECKER

Former NLC Deputy Director

DON BORUT

Former NLC Executive Director

HENRY CISNEROS

Past President; Former Mayor of San Antonio, TX; Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

CHRIS COLEMAN

Past President; Former Mayor of St. Paul, MN

KAREN FREEMAN-WILSON

Past President; Former Mayor of Gary, IN; Former Indiana Attorney General

GLENDA HOOD

Past President; Former Mayor of Orlando, FL

CLIFF JOHNSON

Former IYEF Director

GREG LASHUTSKA

Past President; Former Mayor of Columbus, OH

RONALD LOVERIDGE

Past President; Former Mayor of Riverside, CA

CHRIS MCKENZIE

Former Executive Director of the League of California Cities & Kansas Municipal League

MICHAEL NUTTER

Former Mayor of Philadelphia, PA

DAVID SANDER

NLC President; Mayor of Rancho Cordova, CA

MIKE SITTING

Former Executive Director of the Florida League of Cities

MARK STODOLA

Past President; Former Mayor of Little Rock, AR

SHARON WESTON BROOME

NLC First Vice President; Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA

ANTHONY WILLIAMS

Past President; Former Mayor of Washington, DC

VINCE WILLIAMS

Past President; Mayor of Union City, GA

VICTORIA WOODARDS

Past President; Mayor of Tacoma, WA

MATT ZONE

Past President; Former Councilman, Cleveland, OH

Photo opposite page: Members of the 100th Anniversary Honorary Advisory Committee gathered at NLC's Washington headquarters.

We have also convened a “staff spirit committee” that is focused on ensuring the involvement of NLC staff in our centennial celebration. NLC intends to acknowledge and honor our past organizational history, capturing NLC's moments of influence and impact, while also looking toward the future. We have a lot of exciting things planned for our centennial year, including:

- ◆ A book that details NLC's founding and the role it has played in America over the last 100 years. The book is being developed in partnership with *Washingtonian* magazine and will be shared with attendees at the 2024 City Summit conference in Tampa Bay, FL.
- ◆ The launch of a special centennial website (NLC100.org) that tells the story of NLC, state municipal leagues, NLC Mutual and RISC, and much more.
- ◆ An NLC roadshow featuring an NLC-branded bus that will visit 100 cities, towns and villages throughout 2024.
- ◆ An awards ceremony and reception in partnership with the U.S. Library of Congress.
- ◆ A multimedia contest for youth to highlight the significant contributions U.S. cities have made over the last 100 years.
- ◆ An anniversary gala and interactive exhibit at the 2024 City Summit in Tampa Bay, FL.

NLC's officers officially kicking off the start of our 100th anniversary celebration at City Summit 2023.

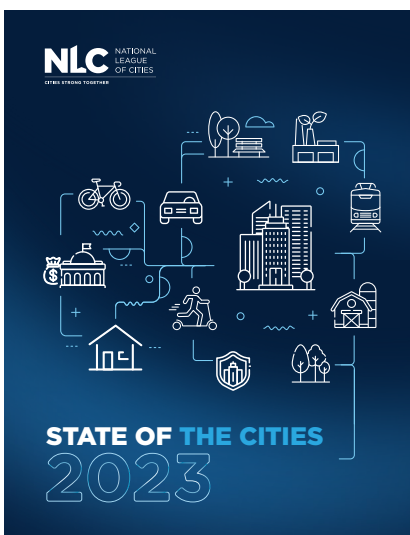


Tools and **RESOURCES**

NLC's is the go-to resource for local leaders looking to enhance their policy knowledge and learn about new and emerging trends that affect local government. Throughout 2023, NLC released dozens of resources and publications on topics including infrastructure, creating green jobs, how cities are adapting to retail changes, and much more.

NLC is known for providing expertise and answers on nearly any question city governments could be interested in through our research and data resources. Below is a comprehensive list of resources published from September 2022 through August 2023:

REPORTS



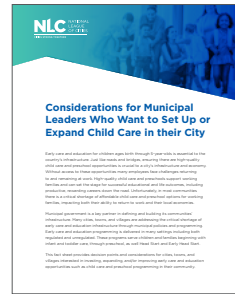
[State of the Cities 2023](#)



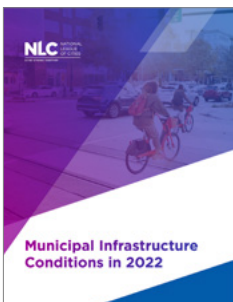
[City Fiscal Conditions 2023](#)



[Creating Good, Green Jobs in the Building Sector, Part I: Making the Case](#)



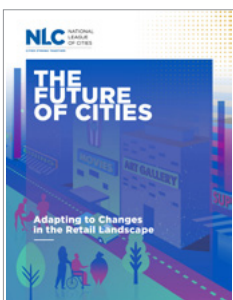
[Considerations for Municipal Leaders: Intersections of Early Childhood & Environmental Impacts](#)



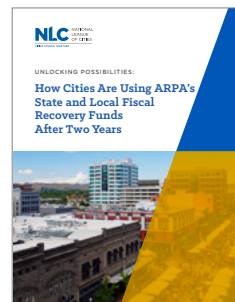
[Municipal Infrastructure Conditions 2023](#)



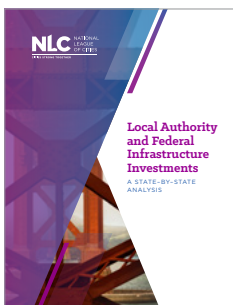
[Expanding Equity in the Democratic Process](#)



[Future of Cities: Adapting to Changes in the Retail Landscape](#)

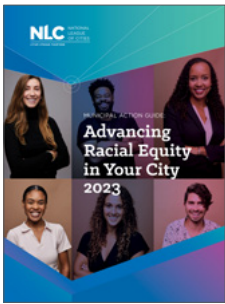


[Unlocking Possibilities: How Cities Are Using ARPA's State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

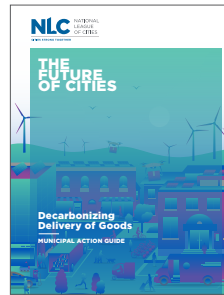


[Local Authority & Federal Investments: A State-by-State Analysis](#)

GUIDES



[Advancing Racial Equity in Your City](#)



[Decarbonizing Delivery of Goods](#)



[Building Innovative Digital Services](#)



[Building a Municipal Workforce for the Future](#)



[Municipal Strategies to Narrow the Racial Wealth Divide](#)

BRIEFS, TOOLKITS & FACT SHEETS

[Promoting Student Reengagement: High-Quality Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs](#)

[Promoting Student Reengagement: An Equity-Centered Tool](#)

[Removing Barriers to Expanding Broadband in American Communities](#)

[Municipal Dig Once Policies for Resilient Communities](#)

[Mayoral Network on Community Safety & Violence Prevention Summary Report](#)

[Approaches to People-Centered Innovation](#)

[An Overview of the Housing First Approach](#)

[Housing Supply: A High Priority for Local Governments](#)

[Engaging Students Through Community Schools](#)

[Why Student Engagement & Attendance Matters](#)

[Getting Started with Key Federal Opportunities](#)

[Landlord Engagement Toolkit](#)

[Boosting Economic Mobility for Residents](#)

CASE STUDIES

[Hartford, Connecticut's Efforts to Address Chronic Absenteeism](#)

[Avondale, Arizona Lens Support to Increase Student Engagement](#)

[Philadelphia Supports Student Engagement Through Community Schools Model](#)

[Co-Creating Public Safety with Communities](#)

[Equitable Access to City Services Through AI-Driven SMS Messaging](#)

[Data Storytelling to Help Small and Mid-Sized Cities Compete for Federal Grants](#)

[Housing Crisis at the Forefront: Foreclosure Registry Informs Policy & Action](#)

[Addressing Homelessness Through Holistic Plans & Innovative Programs](#)

[Leveraging Knowledge of Property Conditions for Neighborhood Advancement](#)

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Enterprise Partner CGI Digital (CGI) being presented with the esteemed 2023 NLC Service to Cities Award.

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The National League of Cities and its subsidiaries generated revenues in excess of \$50 million for the first time in its 99-year history. The success of our grant programs is a major part of that growth, allowing NLC to deliver critical programs in areas such as public safety, housing, federal infrastructure grant access, and workforce development. The organization's Future Fund reserves stand at \$22 million, providing working capital, rainy day support, and financial resources to make strategic investments. As NLC enters its 100th year, the organization is solidly positioned for the future.

REVENUE	FY2023
CONTRIBUTIONS AND CONTRACTS	\$ 26,933,907
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 6,970,580
SERVICE FEES	\$ 4,768,360
CORPORATE PARTNERS/SPONSORSHIPS	\$ 5,394,259
ANNUAL CONFERENCES	\$ 2,700,243
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS	\$ 1,149,014
OTHER	\$ 3,586,236
	\$ 51,502,599



EXPENSES	FY2023
LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	\$15,720,077
CENTER FOR MUNICIPAL PRACTICE	\$14,053,204
BUSINESS EVENTS	\$3,495,305
FEDERAL ADVOCACY	\$ 2,225,412
RISC PROGRAM	\$747,382
NLC MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY	\$4,007,037
MEMBER & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT	\$3,992,808
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	\$2,227,721
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$5,559,925
FUNDRAISING	\$327,292
	\$52,356,163



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