



Explore the topics and issues planned for City Summit. Workshops will be led by national experts and nonprofit leaders. Please note that workshops are subject to change.

Building Bridges to Trust & Civility

Critical quality-of-life issues often are identified and addressed through genuine grassroots and community-based conversations. Municipal leaders can help set the tone for civility and model effective civil discourse in these discussions, which ultimately can lead to more effective problem solving, deeper public engagement and greater trust in government. This workshop will provide strategies and best practices for encouraging civil discourse and broadly inclusive community input for government decision making.

Film Screening: Join or Die

The documentary Join or Die features the observations of Robert Putnam, author of Bowling Alone, and spotlights the need for greater civic engagement. People find simple fellowship in joining a club, service organization, charity, faith institution or other group, and these community bonds, in turn, can strengthen public institutions. Come learn how these bonds have unraveled over time, and how civic groups and social organizations can become the backbone for greater community engagement.

The Nuts & Bolts: AI in Municipal Government

How often is artificial intelligence (AI) coming up in your workplace conversations? Local leaders sense that AI has the potential to transform municipal operations, yet they also want a better understanding of AI's risks, rewards and costs. This session will walk you through the fundamentals of AI, help you understand its potential to streamline

government functions and give you insights into managing community expectations and concerns.

Building Your Preemption Toolbox

This workshop will give attendees an insider's look into current strategies that state municipal leagues and NLC are using to counter the effects of preemption on local communities. Hear about state-specific strategies, learn how to tap into direct federal funding, and take home ideas on how to work with state and federal partners. Attendees also will explore ways to develop communication strategies.

Housing Strategies to End Homelessness

Over 600,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in America, a 12-percent increase from 2022 according to HUD's 2023 Point-in-Time count. While the issue seems intractable, cities big and small recognize that increasing the housing supply is one practical step toward reducing the number of people who experience homelessness. This workshop will show you how some cities are developing housing through public-private partnerships, increasing housing typologies and appropriating funding for housing production and preservation.

Get Current with New Drinking Water Regulations

Make sure your community is on track for compliance with new U.S. EPA regulations for drinking water. This workshop will cover new requirements regarding PFAS and lead pipes. Come learn what is being asked of cities, towns and villages; how to pay for the upgrades and capital improvements needed to reach and maintain compliance; and learn from municipalities that have had success navigating these complex issues.

Climate-Ready Futures II: Financing Infrastructure and Community Initiatives

Local governments have access to more resources to help them prepare for a just, thriving and climate-ready future than ever before. This workshop – part of NLC's two-session workshop on climate preparedness – will walk municipal officials through major federal funding programs, like elective pay, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and the Climate Pollution Reduction Fund. Opportunities available through NLC's participation in the

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program (EJ TCTAC) and Local Infrastructure Hub will also be showcased. After a panel discussion with experts, small group discussions give you a chance to raise questions with a subject matter expert.

Securing Capital for Housing Development: Strategies and Partnerships for Success

As cities work to produce, preserve, and improve their housing supply, they often face financial limitations. Successfully funding housing projects requires federal funding, strategic partnerships, and effective local policy interventions. This workshop will explore new federal funding sources, public-private partnerships, and local policy strategies to spur housing development. One key focus will be the Inflation Reduction Act's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The groundbreaking \$27 billion initiative mobilizes financing and private capital to address the climate crisis and strengthen economic competitiveness. Participants will learn how local governments can connect their residents and stakeholders to capital and how to forge key partnerships with private entities to pursue diverse, attainable and equitable housing.

Moving the Needle on NIMBY & Housing

Skill in navigating Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) attitudes serves local officials well – especially when it comes to diversifying housing options or moving forward on affordable housing development. These issues inevitably generate pushback and heated debate within communities, and call for honest, fact-based responses. Come hear your peers share tools and strategies they use in their cities to counter NIMBY arguments and build coalitions to expand housing options that are attainable, diverse and equitable to their community.

Community Engagement: It Starts with Authenticity

Community members and the community-based organizations (CBOs) that serve them offer a unique blend of grassroots knowledge, lived experience and community networks. That adds up to an invaluable resource for catalyzing change on challenges ranging from economic development to the environment to community safety. Hear directly from community leaders and city staff on their successes and challenges as they worked

together to put community at the center of decision making. Learn best practices to authentically engage community members to improve trust, mobilize capacity, address diverse community needs and ultimately increase impact.

Climate-Ready Futures I: City Profiles in Action

From nature-based solutions to programs that promote health equity, local leaders are stepping up to build a just, thriving and climate-ready future for their residents. At this workshop – part of NLC’s two-session workshop on climate preparedness – you will hear from local leaders about the strategies they are developing and the challenges they face in turning plans into action. Explore opportunities to launch your climate resilience journey with NLC technical assistance programs like Cities for Smart Surfaces, Nature Everywhere and Cities for Opportunity. After a panel discussion with municipal leaders, join small group discussions to get your questions answered about these technical assistance opportunities and to exchange ideas with other leaders about ways to create healthier, more resilient communities.

From Basic Needs to Thriving Communities

Cities have a stake in the well-being of their residents. When they meet their residents’ basic needs – with access to quality and affordable housing, childcare, eldercare, health care, grocery stores, and education – they deepen the commitment of current residents and attract newcomers seeking a good quality of life. This workshop will showcase how cities are implementing policies and programs that enable residents to meet their basic needs and set the foundation for thriving communities.

Meeting the Moment on Immigration I: Community Impact

Recent influxes of refugees, asylees, migrants and immigrants have intensified demands on local infrastructure and resources in communities across the country. The need for effective shelter, services and support for these new populations is urgent, but the challenges of meeting these needs can vary significantly from border cities to interior towns. In this session – Part I of NLC’s immigration workshop – leaders from cities, towns and villages will share their strategies and solutions to meet the diverse needs of arrivals, while ensuring the resilience and well-being of their communities.

Meeting the Moment on Immigration II: Roundtable Conversations

This roundtable discussion – Part II of NLC’s immigration workshop – will focus on local response strategies for economic development, housing, workforce, and public health and safety. Come join your peers to share challenges, concerns and best practices in responding to economic development, housing, workforce and public health and safety. It’s also a chance to engage with NLC experts and federal and non-federal partners on issues and plans.

The New Downtown: Dynamic, Inclusive & Creative

In recent years, downtown revitalization has become an avenue to enhance economic activity and foster inclusive and creative communities. Join us for a panel discussion with practitioners from the Economic Recovery Corps (ERC), a national program from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA), as they share their work leading current revitalization initiatives in small to large cities. Learn about the opportunities available to enhance communities for all residents, and strategies for embracing change to accelerate growth.

The Future of Work: Preparing Your Community

Gain the tools to navigate the emerging trends and technologies shaping the workplace. In this interactive session, participants will hear from a wide range of industry and municipal government experts about the green economy and artificial intelligence. Connect with your peers to share techniques and resources to address workforce challenges and anxieties. This world-cafe session also will enable participants to engage in one-to-one conversations with experts.

Opening New Pathways to Public Service

A thriving municipal workforce is critical for the economic vitality of cities, yet local governments need an average of 130 days to find qualified candidates to fill open positions. This interactive workshop will highlight strategies local leaders are pursuing to better attract and retain workers, build skills and pathways for advancement, support employees outside of work, create welcoming work environments and generally position the city as a model employer. Learn new ways to expand your talent pipeline and build a workforce for today and tomorrow.

Empowering the Early Childhood Workforce

More local leaders are recognizing that the early childhood workforce is an essential component to a thriving local economy. This workshop will explore practical strategies that municipalities of all sizes can implement to empower the early childhood workforce as entrepreneurs, and highlight ways that all city staff, regardless of department, can actively support the entire early childhood workforce. Representatives from diverse cities will discuss how communities can fully invest in this crucial workforce, with the ultimate goal of supporting families, children, and the community while driving economic growth.

Harnessing the Power of Inclusive Procurement

Inclusive procurement promotes purchasing goods and services from diverse businesses – including small, local, minority- and women-owned enterprises – to drive social and economic development. The result: expanded local workforce opportunities, sustainable supply chains and direct investment in marginalized communities. Discover the transformational impact inclusive procurement can have when amplified by federally funded infrastructure projects and return to your own jurisdiction with an array of strategies to leverage the power of local procurement. Whether it's installing a first EV charging station, replacing aging infrastructure or designing new bike lanes, significant capital investments can create lasting economic opportunity for local suppliers.

Honest Conversations: Public Safety & Community Perception

Many municipalities have experienced historic declines in crime, yet their residents still perceive crime as a significant concern. Come learn strategies for communicating your city's public safety story, while recognizing that the definition of safety differs from person to person. Draw on data to break down myths and build an accurate narrative about public safety in your community. Find ways to share your story through community conversations and the media.

Moving Residents to Financial Security & Well-being

Helping residents to become economically secure is a growing priority for municipalities of all sizes. Learn about cities that have implemented successful strategies to boost the economic mobility of residents through workforce development, growing small

businesses, financial empowerment and connecting residents to public benefits. Get introduced to tools that provide economic mobility data specific to your community that can help move residents down a path toward prosperity.

Integrating Racial Equity: Transforming Communities with Municipal Bonds

Municipal bonds are key for funding public infrastructure in America and can significantly impact environmental justice, health and well-being. Learn how applying a racial equity lens to these investments can benefit historically underserved populations. NLC, in collaboration with the Public Finance Initiative and PFM Financial Advisors, is providing unique technical assistance to government leaders to integrate racial equity in bond issuance and capital projects. Join our panel discussion with cities from the Racial Equity and Bond Markets cohort, sharing their experiences in using finance to address racial inequities. The panel will highlight strategies from the Bond Markets & Equity framework, developed by the Public Finance Initiative. This initiative is supported by partners like the National League of Cities, The Government Alliance on Race & Equity, The Urban Institute, The Milken Institute, the Harvard Initiative for Responsible Investment, and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Capital One.