Karen D.

Intelligent Community Forum

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New Communities Blog

Intelligent Community Awards

Rural Imperative

Community Accelerator

Intelligent Community Master Class

ICF Annual Summit

Community Self-Test

Request a Speaker

Nominations

Intelligent Community Of the Year Awards Program

NOMINATE

your city or region
for the 2015 Intelligent
Community Awards
(downloadable form)

SELF-TEST

your city or region's
readiness for the
ICF Awards Program
online

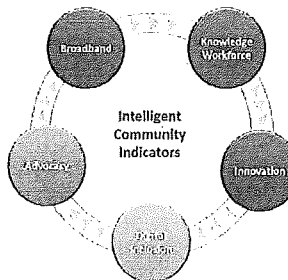**SAMPLE**

nominations from
award-winning cities.
(download here)

Description

Awarded to communities or regions with a documented strategy for creating a local prosperity and inclusion using broadband and information technology to attract leading-edge businesses, stimulate job creation, build skills, generate economic growth, and improve the delivery of government services. Evaluation of nominations is based on ICF's Intelligent Community Indicators, which provide the first conceptual framework for understanding all of the factors that determine a community's competitiveness and point to its success in the Broadband Economy.

This year, ICF is piloting the introduction of a sixth Intelligent Community Indicator devoted to environmental sustainability. This questionnaire contains questions about the sustainability practices of your community. Your response will help us determine how to evaluate sustainability in the development of Intelligent Communities but **will not have any bearing on award scoring this year.**

Intelligent Community Indicators

The 2015 Theme: The Revolutionary Community

In 2015, the Intelligent Community Forum will focus on the study of urban and regional planning and how it is impacting the way people live, work and create in their cities and towns. The work of creating an Intelligent Community often begins in crisis. It may be a severe economic downturn after major employers relocate. It may be accelerating brain drain as the community's most talented people leave in search of opportunity. Or it may be more subtle – a dawning awareness that the community faces profound risks to its future.

In response to crisis, Intelligent Communities hold public consultations, launch programs and build infrastructure that they hope will create a new foundation for prosperity and wellbeing.

Robert Bell Discusses the Revolutionary Community

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But once the crisis is past, how do Intelligent Communities maintain their momentum and avoid being caught unprepared by the next wave of change? They engage in urban and regional planning – a deliberate, strategic and collaborative effort to design a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for their people.

But this is planning with a difference. They know that today's disruptions in technology, the economy and the environment will only grow more intense. They understand the profound impact that the "Broadband Economy" will have on their physical form, the delivery of services and their competitive advantages. So they approach the planning of land-use and infrastructure, sustainability and community development in revolutionary ways. Creativity is added to the mix in ways never before imagined. In the process, they reinvent what it means to plan.

More information will become available in a white paper, *The Revolutionary Community*, to be published on this page soon.

Selection Process

The Awards are divided into three phases:

- **First Stage: The Smart21** – After review of nominations received from cities and regions worldwide by an international academic team, ICF will announce the Smart21 Communities of the Year on October 21, 2014. The announcement will be made at Walsh University in Ohio, USA, home to the first-ever Institute for the Study of the Intelligent Community.
- **Second Stage: The Top7** – ICF invites the Smart21 to complete a detailed questionnaire, which is evaluated by an independent research firm. The seven highest-scoring cities or regions are then named as the Top7 Intelligent Communities of the Year. The Top7 will be announced on January 22 in Taichung City, Taiwan, the 2013 Intelligent Community of the Year. The Top7 become the focus of intense interest around the world among governments, institutions, technology companies, the international media and the citizens of each of the seven communities.
- **Third Stage: The Intelligent Community of the Year** – ICF co-founders make two-day site visits to each of the Top7 communities and write reports, which are reviewed by an international jury of thought leaders. Their votes are combined with the analysis of the independent research company to select the Intelligent Community of the Year. Finally, during ICF's annual Summit in June 2015, one of the Top7 will be named the Intelligent Community of the Year.

Sample Nominations

Download the nomination forms from past Intelligent Communities of the Year:

- Riverside, California, USA (2012 Intelligent Community of the Year)
- Eindhoven, Netherlands (2011 Intelligent Community of the Year)

Other Awards

Intelligent Community Visionary of the Year

Awarded to an individual or an organization whose work promotes the development of broadband as an engine of economic growth, social inclusion and human progress. This individual or organization must have a proven track record in envisioning and creating change and must be recognized by peers as an expert field based on the development of new products, services or methods, written works or other documented activity. The Intelligent Community Visionary is selected by ICF management in consultation with its research partners and international jury. No nominations are accepted. *(Pictured right are three Visionaries: from left, Afghanistan's Communications Minister Amirzai Sangin, Australia's Communications Minister Stephen Conroy, and UN Broadband Commissioner Suvi Linden.)*

Founders Award

Presented to an individual, application, organization or innovation within an Intelligent Community that represents a global model for transforming life in the Broadband Economy for the common good. ICF's co-founders select the honoree from among the Smart21 Communities of the current year.

Deadlines

July 10, 2014	Nominations open for the first stage of the Intelligent Community Awards program: selection of the Smart21
September 22, 2014	Nominations close for the Smart21
October 21, 2014	Announcement of the Smart21 Communities of the Year
December 19, 2014	Deadline for submission of detailed questionnaires by Smart21 Communities
January 22, 2015	Announcement of the Top7 Intelligent Communities of the Year
Feb - April 2015	Top7 site visits by ICF co-founders
March - April 2015	Announcement of the Intelligent Community Visionary of the Year and Founders Award recipients.
June 2015	Announcement of the Intelligent Community of the Year at Summit 2015

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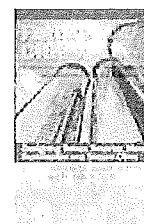
Community
Accelerator

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Master Class

ICF Annual
Summit

Community
Self-Test

Request a
Speaker

Intelligent Community Self-Test

Community leaders often ask ICF if we think their community could be a serious contender for our Intelligent Community Awards program. It is a smart question. Unless their community has a reasonable chance of success, they do not want to invest precious time and resources in completing the nomination form.

ICF is now making available a quick self-assessment test to help communities make that important decision. Provide "yes" or "no" answers to just 15 questions, and the self-assessment test will provide you with a score and advice on how to interpret it. Click on the button below to start your self-test.

Topics

- **Broadband**
  Household penetration rate • Policies and programs to increase penetration and use
- **Knowedge Workforce**
  Educational attainment of citizens • Student-to-PC ratio in schools • Availability of higher education
- **Innovation**
  Policies encouraging business startups • Business incubation • Interactivity on municipal Web site • Availability of seed capital, grants and loans
- **Digital Inclusion**
  Internet availability • Public-access computers • Digital literacy training for adults
- **Marketing & Advocacy**
  Economic development strategy based on information and communications technology • Task force or group devoted to carrying out the strategy

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Self-Test Results

Your Score is
93
out of 100 points

Thank you for completing the Intelligent Community Self-Test. Scoring is based on 100 points.

A score of 80 to 100 makes your community a strong candidate for the Intelligent Community Awards program.

A score of 60 to 79 indicates that your community is competitive with the average of communities that become semi-finalists (Smart21) in the program.

A score of 40-59 opens the possibility that your community may be able to gain a place in the Smart21, depending on the qualifications of other communities in that year's process.

For complete information and nomination forms for the Intelligent Community Awards, click the Nominations button below.

Nominate Your Community

NOMINATION FORM
Intelligent Community of the Year Awards
Phase One: Smart21 Communities of the Year

2015

The Intelligent Community Forum will use the data provided on this form for the first stage of its international awards program: the selection of the Smart21 Communities of the Year, semi-finalists for the Intelligent Community of the Year award. The Smart21 will be announced on October 21 at a ceremony hosted by the Institute for the Study of the Intelligent Community at Walsh University in Canton, Ohio, USA. After the announcement of the Smart21, the Awards program will proceed as follows:

October-December 2014
Each of the Smart21 Communities is required to complete a detailed questionnaire in order to be considered for ICF's Top7 and Intelligent Community of the Year (ICY) awards. The information in this form will be evaluated by an independent research firm, which produces numerical scores for each community.

January 2015
The seven top-scoring communities are named as ICF's Top7 Intelligent Communities (finalists) online and at an event at Taichung City, Taiwan, the 2013 Intelligent Community of the Year.

Feb-April 2015
The Top7 Communities host an ICF co-founder for not more than two business days, at the community's expense, for a site visit to validate the information provided to the Forum. The co-founder's report on the community is reviewed by an international jury, which votes on its choice for ICY. To select the ICY, ICF combines the scores of the independent research firm on a weighted basis with the votes of the jury.

June 2015
ICF invites representatives and citizens from the Top7 to its annual Summit. Each of the Top7 will participate in panels, a ceremony honoring their achievement and an individual interview on stage. On the final day of the Summit, one of the Top7 will be named Intelligent Community of the Year. The ICY is barred from entering the Awards program again but is named to the international jury.

Association
Communities named to the Smart21, Top7 or Intelligent Community of the Year become eligible to join the ICF Foundation, the membership association of the Forum, which provides a permanent platform for collaborative economic development and peer learning.

Completing the Application. Fill in the fields below. Each field will expand to make room for your complete answer. Save the file to your computer and email it to ICF at awards@intelligentcommunity.org **by September 22, 2014.** The Analysts for the Smart21 will use only the information on this form in making its evaluation. Do not send additional information or attachments.

Deadline for Nominations: 22 Sept 2014

    Answering the questions below May require you to gather information and hold discussions across multiple government departments: economic development, administration, IT and telecom, education, planning and community relations. You will also benefit by consulting with higher education, healthcare and other institutions, as well as with the business leaders who are champions of progress in the community. The communities that succeed in our program tell us that **completing the questionnaire helped bring about community-wide collaboration – and that collaboration proved to be the critical ingredient for a better future.**

Pilot Introduction of a New Indicator. This year, ICF is piloting the introduction of a sixth Intelligent Community Indicator devoted to environmental sustainability. This questionnaire contains questions about the sustainability practices of your community. Your response will help us determine how to evaluate sustainability in the development of Intelligent Communities but **will not have any bearing on award scoring** this year.

2015 Theme: The Revolutionary Community. In the 2014-15 Awards cycle, ICF will focus on urban and regional planning. The work of creating an Intelligent Community often begins in crisis. It may be a severe

economic downturn after major employers relocate. It may be accelerating brain drain as the community's most talented people leave in search of opportunity. Or it may be more subtle – a dawning awareness that the community faces profound risks to its future. In response to crisis, Intelligent Communities hold public consultations, launch programs and build infrastructure that they hope will create a new foundation for prosperity and wellbeing.

But once the crisis is past, how do Intelligent Communities maintain their momentum and avoid being caught unprepared by the next wave of change? They engage in urban and regional strategic planning – a deliberate and collaborative effort to design a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for their people. But this is planning with a difference. They know that today's disruptions in technology, the economy and the environment will only grow more intense. They understand the profound impact that the continuing broadband revolution will have on their physical form, the delivery of services and their competitive advantages. So they approach the planning of land-use and infrastructure, sustainability and community development in revolutionary ways. In the process, they reinvent what it means to plan. More information will become available in a white paper, *The Revolutionary Community*, to be published on the Nominations page www.intelligentcommunity.org/nominations.

Nomination
Name of Community
[   ]

The following questions provide an opportunity to tell the community's story: its recent history and background, the challenges it faces, how the community has met those challenges, and the results it has achieved. **Before answering the questions, review the description of the Intelligent Community Indicators and Success Factors** beginning on page 5 or visit ICF's Web site at www.intelligentcommunity.org. Your nomination will be more successful if you fully understand how ICF analyzes a community's development.

As you answer the questions, you will find overlap in content among them. This is deliberate: it offers you the opportunity to tell multiple stories about your community's experience. Wherever possible, avoid repeating information from one question to another.

Vital Statistics

Population   Municipality [   ]   Metro Area (if applicable) [   ]

Labor Force   Municipality [   ]   Metro Area (if applicable) [   ]

Area   Municipality [   ]   Metro Area (if applicable) [   ]

1. **Background** (Maximum: 1 page) Describe the community's location, features of interest, demographics and history that relate to current conditions.
    [   ]

2. **Challenge** (Maximum: 3 pages) Describe the economic, social, political, and technological challenges to the community's future that led it to begin a process of change using information and communications technology.
    [   ]

3. **Strategy & Programs** (Maximum: 3 pages) Explain the ideas, plans and process that the community put into place to address these challenges and seize opportunities. Please organize your response by Intelligent Community Indicator. Broadband
    [   ]

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Knowledge Workforce

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Digital Inclusion

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Innovation

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Advocacy

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Sustainability

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4. **Results** (Maximum: 3 pages) Describe the results produced to date by the strategy in terms of new infrastructure, new investment, better quality of life, improved educational achievement, employment growth, income growth, new industries or growth in existing industries and new efficiencies for citizens and organizations. Please organize your response by Intelligent Community Indicator.

Broadband

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Knowledge Workforce

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Digital Inclusion

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Innovation

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Advocacy

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Sustainability

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5. **The Revolutionary Community** (Maximum: 3 pages)

   a. Check the box that best describes the current state of your plan for the future of the community over the next 5-20 years.

    ☐ None   ☐ Under discussion   ☐ In formal planning   ☐ Approved   ☐ Being implemented

   b. Check the boxes that indicate what aspects of development are included in the plan in its present stage.

INFRASTRUCTURE
☐ Improvements in broadband capacity and access
   ☐ Government-owned fiber or wireless network connecting government facilities
   ☐ Government or public-private fiber network

INNOVATION
☐ Promoting start-ups and business acceleration
☐ Investments in e-government and cloud-based government services delivery
☐ Innovation district
☐ Improved health outcomes

serving the public

☐ Government or public-private wireless network serving the public

☐ Transportation (road, rail, port, airport) and transit improvements

☐ Downtown revitalization

☐ Upgrading water and sanitation systems

☐ Upgrading power distribution

☐ Adapting to population growth or decline

☐ Remediating pollution-affected property

KNOWLEDGE WORKFORCE

☐ Improved educational outcomes

☐ Attracting or expanding higher education

DIGITAL INCLUSION

☐ Programs to deliver broadband access and computer technology to the digitally excluded

☐ Digital skills training for the digitally excluded

ADVOCACY

☐ Increasing collaboration among business, institutions and government

☐ Citizen engagement

☐ Improving environmental sustainability

c. Please summarize the top priorities of your plan at its current stage of development and explain briefly why those priorities were selected.

Key Contacts

6. Please provide contact information for a key public-sector, private-sector and nonprofit leader involved in your community's Intelligent Community programs.

Public-Sector Official

| Name: |
| Title: |
| Organization: |
| Telephone: Email: |
| Contribution to the Community: |

Private-Sector Executive

| Name: |
| Title: |
| Organization: |
| Telephone: Email: |
| Contribution to the Community: |

Nonprofit Executive

| Name: |
| Title: |
| Organization: |
| Telephone: Email: |
| Contribution to the Community: |

7. Please provide the name and contact information for the person to be contacted by ICF in connection with this application.

| Name: |
| Title: |
| Organization: |

Telephone:	Fax:
Email:	

8. Please provide from your own press list up to 10 local and regional media (print, broadcast or online), including the publication's name, the name and title of an editor or reporter, and an email address.

Publication	Editor/Reporter	Email Address

Ownership of Information

By submitting this information, the above-named community attests and acknowledges that:

*   All information provided is accurate and fairly represents the past and current condition of the community to the best knowledge of the individual submitting the information.
*   All information submitted to the ICF in connection with its international awards program becomes the property of the Intelligent Community Forum and will be used for the purposes of research, analysis and publication in pursuit of its global mission.

Intelligent Community Indicators

For a complete description of the Intelligent Community Indicators, visit www.intelligentcommunity.org and select "Intel Comm Indicators" on the Intelligent Communities menu.

1. **Broadband Connectivity.** Broadband is the new essential utility, as vital to economic growth as clean water and good roads. Intelligent Communities express a clear vision of their broadband future and craft policies to encourage deployment and adoption.

2. **Knowledge Workforce.** A knowledge workforce is a labor force that creates economic value through the acquisition, processing and use of information. Intelligent Communities exhibit the determination and demonstrated ability to develop a workforce qualified to perform knowledge work from the factory floor to the research lab, and from the construction site to the call center or Web design studio.

3. **Innovation.** Intelligent Communities work to build the local innovation capacity of new companies, because these produce all of the job growth in modern economies, and invest in e-government programs that reduce their costs while delivering services on the anywhere-anytime basis that digitally savvy citizens expect.

4. **Digital Inclusion.** As broadband deploys widely through a community, there is serious risk that it will worsen the exclusion of people who already play a peripheral role in the economy and society, whether due to poverty, lack of skills, prejudice or geography. Intelligent Communities promote digital inclusion by creating policies and funding programs that provide "have-nots" with access to digital technology and broadband, by providing skills training and by promoting a compelling vision of the benefits that the broadband economy.

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5. **Advocacy.** The citizens and institutions of a community can either support positive change or become its biggest opponent, depending on how they perceive the community's present and future. Intelligent Communities engage with citizens and institutions to build a shared vision that makes citizens and businesses the community's most powerful advocates for progress. That shared vision also becomes the basis of effective marketing to the outside world.

6. **Sustainability (In Pilot).** To improve current living standards, while maintaining the ability of future generations to do the same, is at the core of sustainability. Throughout human history, economic growth has always involved the consumption of more resources and the production of more waste. As humanity begins to push up against the limits of the ecosystem to provide resources and absorb waste, we need to find ways to continue growth – with all of its positive impacts on the community – while reducing the environmental impact of that growth.

Success Factors

In evaluating nominations, ICF looks for trends that characterize successful Intelligent Communities. We suggest that, where appropriate, your nomination refer to the following success factors in describing your strategy and results.

Collaboration. The development of an Intelligent Community typically requires intense collaboration among government, businesses, universities and institutions. Few organizations have enough resources, political capital or public backing to drive a community-wide transformation. But collaboration is challenging. It demands vision, flexibility, and a high degree of trust among the partners. Intelligent Communities develop the vision, find the flexibility and create trusting relationships among key constituencies. Effective collaboration is typically the result of the working environment created by effective leaders.

Leadership. It is fair to say that no Intelligent Community has succeeded without strong leadership. Effective leaders identify challenges, set priorities, communicate a compelling vision and foster a sense of urgency in achieving it. They establish a collaborative environment that encourages risk-taking and creates win-win relationships with partners in government, businesses and institutions. It matters little where leadership comes from. In the Intelligent Communities that ICF has studied, leadership has emerged from elected officials, government employees, business executives, universities and nonprofit organizations. What matters is the character, motivation and talents of the individuals who commit themselves to improving the economic and social wellbeing of the community.

Talent and Investment Attraction and Retention. Intelligent Communities leverage all of the Indicators to create the best opportunities for attracting and retaining talent and investment. Intelligent Communities develop strategies, pursue opportunities aggressively and ensure they are able to differentiate themselves in the market by projecting their competitive advantages to the outside world. Intelligent Communities also develop and support an ecosystem that entices investment and talent to thrive.