

# Broadband Utility Resolution

Intelligent Community Forum

V2 – April 17, 2017

APPROVED BY THE ICF BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 6, 2017 FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCILS

WHEREAS many jurisdictions are implementing programs and initiatives to transform themselves into Intelligent Communities, which build inclusive prosperity, solve social problems and strengthen local culture on a foundation of broadband and information technologies;

WHEREAS the complete success of these initiatives requires the ubiquitous deployment of reliable, high-speed, high-capacity broadband, which will make significant contributions to economic growth, innovation by business and government, the skills and knowledge of employees, the health and welfare of citizens, and the social and cultural bonds that unite the community.

WHEREAS commercial broadband service providers face business model constraints that often preclude them from ubiquitous deployment of broadband networks and services;

WHEREAS, as a result, broadband service in rural communities, as well as in low-income and geographically challenged districts of urban communities, is typically slower, offers less capacity and costs more than in densely populated and affluent centers;

WHEREAS the local market represents the most effective place to experiment with and prove the effectiveness of operating models that promote ubiquitous deployment and continuous improvement of broadband service at affordable prices;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT [Municipality, County or Regional Government] declares high-speed, high-capacity, affordable broadband to be a utility, defined as an essential infrastructure service provided principally for public benefit, which enables economic growth and greater quality of life when it achieves ubiquitous coverage;<sup>1</sup>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT “high-speed, high-capacity broadband” be defined as minimum speeds of 50 Mbps down and 10 Mbps up, with an aspirational goal of 100 Mbps symmetrical service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this declaration does not recommend or require public ownership of broadband assets; rather, it is meant to encourage an increasing diversity of operating models including private ownership, public-private partnerships, open-access networks and community-owned networks to achieve the goal of ubiquitous coverage;

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<sup>1</sup> A utility may also be termed an “essential service” or “service of general interest,” and municipal, county or regional government should employ the term best understood in its area.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT [Municipality, County or Regional Government] will take appropriate action at the local, state, provincial and national levels of government, and in cooperation with other communities, to fulfill the spirit and terms of this resolution. Among appropriate actions may be a recommendation to national government to bring the resolution to the United Nations for inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals.