

What role can a local government play in a broadband network? Potential roles and policy options can be summarized as follows:

As a Broadband User, Local Government Can...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ stimulate broadband demand by sponsoring things such as community technology centers, tele-health and e-education programs ◆ can aggregate broadband demand through wholesale pricing ◆ can be the anchor tenant for a broadband project
As a Rule-maker, Local Government Can...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ provide access to city-owned facilities to entice development ◆ coordinate installation of broadband infrastructure ◆ coordinate broadband planning across their region ◆ create industry specific regulations such as acceptable use policies and protection of end users rights ◆ regulate subcontracting such as establishing levels for local, minority, or women-owned business participation.
As a Financier, Local Government Can...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ provide loans, tax breaks or direct subsidies network deployers and operators. ◆ Can provide grants to community technology initiatives.
As Infrastructure Developer, Local Government Can...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ measure broadband demand ◆ focus on the needs of particular users (like government, businesses, residents) ◆ choose the type of network technology ◆ choose uses and services available on the network ◆ choose whether to build and operate the network, or contract another entity to do so ◆ choose the revenue model for the network
Policy Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ develop a city-owned infrastructure ◆ add to existing public or private infrastructure ◆ develop public/private partnerships ◆ develop public/non-profit partnerships ◆ encourage competition in the local broadband market

Learn More:

Bakowski, A. (2005). Municipal Telecommunications Policy: A Guide to New Technologies. The Municipal Advanced Telecommunication Infrastructure Project (MuniTIP) CACP Policy Report. <http://www.cacp.gatech.edu/Policy/munitip.php>

Gillett, S., W. Lehr and C. Osorio (2004). Local Government Broadband Initiatives. Telecommunications Policy 28, August/September 2004, p. 537-558. http://cfp.mit.edu/groups/broadband/muni_bb_pp.html