The Intelligent Community Institute (ICI) is part of the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF).

By using the ICF indicators as a guideline, the ICI created a four-step outreach process that will ensure participating communities become more aware and knowledgeable on how to think and act digitally.

ICI Mission

Assist rural communities - through outreach and research - transition to a digital mindset to build prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

ICF Indicators

- Broadband Connectivity
- Innovation
- Knowledge Workforce
- Digital Equality
- Marketing
- Sustainability

Events By ICF Indicators

- Broadband Connectivity (10%)
- Innovation (53%)
- Knowledge Workforce (8%)
- Digital Equality (30%)

1,503 people reached
85 events
24 communities
21 in Mississippi, 1 in Nebraska, 1 in Colombia, 1 in Canada
Intelligent Community Outreach Process

4 Steps of ICOP

Awareness
Meetings & presentations take place to educate & increase awareness regarding the digital age & its implications for rural communities. Communities where awareness presentations are completed may or may not continue in the ICOP.

Checklist
The Community fills out an online checklist (asset-mapping) for which a report is prepared & discussed with key leaders & stakeholders. This group also defines priorities from the report & an action plan is formulated.

Implementation
Extension & non-extension programs & resources are deployed to address the priorities identified. Documentation of outputs & outcomes take place.

Nomination
If the community decides to, the Institute can submit a nomination package on behalf of the community to the annual award process managed by the ICF.

Research
A total of $4,000 was awarded to develop white papers that look into the implications of the digital age in rural communities. The selected white papers include:

* Are Intelligent Communities more likely to be Civically Engaged?
* Broadband and Civic Engagement in Rural Areas: What Matters?
* Design and Implementation of eBaby4U: Filling the Gap in Culturally Relevant eHealth Outreach to Minority Teen Mothers
* Telemental Health in Rural Communities in Mississippi: Investigating Opportunities and Barriers of Developing Intelligent Communities

Communities participating in ICOP
Checklist reviewed, priorities identified & action plan formulated

30 Presentations in 19 communities

25 Hands-on workshops in 5 communities

6 Output events that include placing a 3-D printer in a public library, installation of a free Wi-Fi hotspot, volunteers loading Ubuntu on 3 donated laptops, and a municipal website launched

$231,938 Funding from public and private sources