# Why Local Solutions?

Investment from local government and co-ops improves Internet access

## #1. State and federal government won’t solve the problem.
- The federal government has offered billion of dollars to CenturyLink and AT&T, resulting in little infrastructure improvement. Despite funding, speeds still do not meet the FCC definition of broadband
- State government is too focused on Big Telecom. HB 2108 protects large, absentee Internet Service Providers and takes control from communities

## #2. Large telecom companies refuse to invest in rural areas.
- Many ISPs use outdated technology like DSL that doesn’t meet current demand for service. These companies do not upgrade infrastructure because they do not have competitors
- Mobile wireless connections are insufficient for long-term use due to bandwidth caps. Fiber-optics are future-proof and affordable with a local business plan

## #3. Local leaders can best resolve local issues.
- You know what is best for your community’s infrastructure needs. Local leaders can improve Internet access in a multitude of ways:
  - **Institutional Networks** connect businesses, schools, libraries, governments, and hospitals
  - **Municipal Fiber Networks** come in many models. Open-access networks allow multiple ISPs to operate on publicly-owned infrastructure, creating competition to improve speeds and lower prices
  - **Co-ops** are non-profit entities that may already provide utilities like telephone service and electricity
  - **Carrier Neutral Locations** promote collaboration between ISPs by acting as a major connection point. CNLs create savings by lowering infrastructure costs

These models help communities take control of their digital destiny

Looking for more information? MuniNetworks.org offers

**In-depth reports**
- Strategies for Broadband Public-Private Partnerships
- Rural Communities Made a New Internet Cooperative
- How a Small Town in Oregon Built a Network

**MuniNetworks.org**, updated daily
- Local solutions, including co-op opportunities
- Updates on communities building networks
- Profiles of long-running community networks

**Multimedia**
- Weekly Community Broadband Bits Podcast
- Interactive Map of Community Networks
- Informational Videos

**Fact sheets**
- Financing Municipal Networks
- Economic Development

**Questions? Email us!** broadband@MuniNetworks.org

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance is a people-community-policy driven non-profit that works to keep local economies strong. Since 1974, ILSR has promoted policies and ideas that empower local communities.

Publication date: January 2017