MN County IT Leadership Association

The Minnesota County Information Technology Leadership Association (MNCITLA) was created in 2004 by a small group of 18 county technology professionals with a desire to compare ideas and share knowledge. Since then, our association has grown to a membership of over 60 counties, actively sharing ideas, collaborating on projects, and equipping county technical staff with the expertise of their peers and leaders in the field. MNCITLA prides itself on successfully integrating counties of all sizes into an active organization.

MNCITA's purpose is to support Minnesota county information technology leaders through collaborative communication between counties, state agencies, the legislature, and public sector organizations. Our goals include providing education and advocacy that reinforce how foundational information technology is to every county function. As an association, we believe that IT must be valued as an integral part of public service and governance, as opposed to being viewed simply as technical support. In 2019, MNCITLA formally affiliated with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) to establish an advocacy presence at the State Capitol and to collaborate more effectively across county professional associations.

For the 2020 Legislative Session, MNCITLA's priorities include:

GIS Data Requirements for Next Generation 911

Next Generation 911 (NG911) technology is necessary for the safety of our communities so that individuals can be located with a high degree of accuracy when calling from a mobile device, or texting 911. This technology will be implemented by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety in response to the NG911 Advancement Act of 2012. MNCITLA recognizes the enhanced partnership between County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and 911 services, due to counties being tasked with building the emergency management maps that are foundational to NG911 technology.

- MNCITLA supports dedicated, short term funding for the current County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping efforts until NG911 is implemented state-wide, as well as ongoing, dedicated sources of funding for NG911 specific GIS maintenance and future requirements.

Digital Resources

Digital resources have become integral in how citizens understand and interface with their county governments. As these technologies continue expanding, MNCITLA understands this increase in interaction and transparency requires a simultaneous focus on digital accessibility and inclusion.

- MNCITLA supports funding streams and other resources focused on implementing best practices in digital accessibility.

County IT Complexity

The challenges County IT faces are distinct and complex because of the County role in administering state and federal services to Minnesota's residents. Successfully navigating these challenges requires the ability to bridge specialized public sector knowledge with technical implementation, which can present a barrier in understanding for those outside of public sector IT.

- MNCITLA is dedicated to providing information for elected officials and state agencies in an approachable way to cultivate an understanding of the complex issues facing County IT and find solutions that best serve the citizens of Minnesota.

Data Management

Counties create and are entrusted with a significant amount of sensitive data. As the volume of data generated, collected and stored by counties grows, so do the challenges of securing, maintaining and sharing data.

- MNCITLA supports clarification and simplification of existing data practices statutes.
- MNCITLA supports funding allocations for County Governments to offset the growing costs associated with securing, maintaining, and sharing government data.

Technology RFP Process

The Request for Proposal (RFP) process in Minnesota provides competition and essential transparency when making substantial expenditures of taxpayer dollars. As County Governments utilize more complex technology the limitations of Minnesota's RFP process in technology contracting have become evident, particularly when County business needs change.

- MNCITLA supports modifications to the RFP process that allow for more innovation and adaptability in technology contracting.

For additional information, please contact MNCITLA's Director, Leah Patton, at lpatton@mncounties.org.