

From: Jesse Berst <chairman@smartcitiescouncil.com>
To: Kester, Tony [kester@aging.sc.gov](mailto:tonykester@aging.sc.gov)
Date: 8/5/2016 10:33:19 AM
Subject: Special Theme Edition: How to make a difference by going digital

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We're focusing on digital government in this Special Theme Edition. From **tips for getting started** to success stories from **Los Angeles, Guizhou and Peachtree, Georgia**, here are proven strategies to make a difference in your community.

Now you're caught up,
Jesse

Learn how to use data to make a difference in your city. Simone Brody, executive director of What Works Cities, a project of Bloomberg Philanthropies, is one of our keynote speakers at Smart Cities Week, September 27-29 in Washington, D.C. She will share stories about how she has helped cities use data and evidence to improve services, inform decision-making and engage residents. Make plans to attend now.

4 key points to consider BEFORE your city moves to digital services. With many cities facing chronically tight budgets and the need to expand services to meet the changing demands of growing populations, switching to digital services can often be the right choice. Our story explains some of the critical elements to consider when moving services online and how to provide maximum benefits for citizens and do it cost-effectively.

Internet, big data helping Chinese province alleviate big poverty. Leaders in the Chinese province of Guizhou have built what they call a "poverty alleviation cloud." The electronic platform pools data from a variety of sources to learn more about residents living below the poverty line so they can be helped in a more precise and targeted way. It seems to be working. [Click for details.](#)

Lessons from LA: How open data builds engagement. If one of your goals is to get the public more engaged, you should see how Los Angeles did that with open data. Deputy CIO Joyce Edson talks about the data that matters most to citizens — and explains how to engage them and startups.

New Georgia city goes digital to improve services and safety. If you're a brand new city, what can you do quickly to make your residents' lives better? Peachtree Corners, one of Georgia's newest cities, went digital — digitizing its resources to more efficiently manage its operations and make the public safer.

How digital tools are making D.C. a more connected city. The Council's Smart Cities Week returns to Washington, D.C., this year and we're looking at what the city is doing to become smarter and more connected. Read on to learn about its pilot projects, its own data network and its plans to give more people more online access.

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