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Rethinking GIS for Local Government

For cities and counties, implementing GIS just got easier.

Governments have demonstrated the power of GIS technology for many years, and now even more value has been added to help public-sector agencies extend their reach with ArcGIS® for Local Government. ArcGIS for Local Government consists of a set of tools, application templates, and resources that are helping government agencies rethink how they extend GIS. Part of a solution initiative at Esri, these maps, applications, workflows, and other resources are available today to be customized and used for numerous departmental functions. Local agencies can now implement applications that enhance their existing GIS immediately and more easily than ever. Many are seizing this opportunity to create more efficient government, improve workflows, increase citizen engagement, and generate productivity gains.

More than 60 maps and applications are available, and more are on the way. There are customizable applications for service requests from citizens, public comment on land use, emergency management, property taxes, and numerous other local government activities. Configurable application templates are discipline specific for areas such as land records, public safety, water utilities, public works, elections, general government, and planning and development.

Basemaps—ready-to-use maps loaded with content—give local governments a solid foundation on which they can build their own maps. Imagery and road data, demographics, topographic information, and other features, are also available—and the list of tools continues to grow.

Ready to Go

ArcGIS for Local Government is a ready-to-go set of practices and resources that enable local governments to fully utilize GIS quickly and easily—potentially saving months of development work for cash- and time-strapped agencies. The maps and applications are organized as a set of modules that can be downloaded and configured individually. They can be localized and customized, and they come with ongoing support and development from Esri. And everything's built on the Local Government Information Model—GIS datasets, web services, and maps that work across numerous departments, making collaboration and sharing easy.

ArcGIS for Local Government is focused on customer success, helping to provide better services to Esri customers and the public. It aligns perfectly with five key areas of government activity: data creation, planning and analysis, field mobility, operational awareness, and citizen engagement. The application templates, resources, and tools available also integrate with ArcGIS™ Online, a popular mapping platform that enables the sharing of maps, applications, and geospatial data.

In addition to creating ArcGIS for Local Government, Esri offers several ways to implement these tools and resources. Organizations can customize the applications themselves, of course, or, they can also get assistance from a valuable network of experts, Esri partners and consultants, and Esri Professional Services.

However it's extended, ArcGIS for Local Government will make an immediate impact—and it couldn't be easier.



New map services increase efficiency, productivity, and collaboration.

Transformation via GIS

Thanks to the latest tools, GIS plays a larger role in county government.

Sussex County, New Jersey, is providing better services, both internally and externally, thanks to Esri's ArcGIS for Local Government. Its new tools are being leveraged by the county's Office of Geographic Information Systems to create better efficiency, smoother workflows, and greater productivity for county government. The office has embedded GIS into agencies' workflows, speeding up the sharing of information. The GIS office is also helping agencies manage their own data so they will have quicker access to it.

ArcGIS for Local Government is also helping the GIS office transform itself into a more robust service provider. Previously, individual agencies had to rely on the GIS office for printed maps and data. "Now we provide dynamic, online maps where the information is not managed by the Office of GIS but it's managed by the business unit that deals with it," said David Kunz, GIS manager for Sussex County. "They (agencies) manage their information, and we're integrating it and providing it as a tool back to them. And that turns into

increased efficiencies; more outreach to the public; more transparency in government; and better, faster decisions."

Engineering, health, elections, and other departments now have GIS data they can access at any time. Consequently, agencies can work more quickly, and the GIS office can spend less time printing maps and more time providing data services and applications to help agencies achieve their goals. "It's moving us more toward being part of core government," said Kunz.

Process Improvements

With the easy-to-use templates, applications, and other tools from ArcGIS for Local Government, the county has more ways to serve the public and improve its processes. "Now we can quickly and easily roll out these template applications that are customizable, to provide this information out to the public or the individual business units," said Kunz. "We couldn't have done that before. We would have had to develop all that in-house, and that takes time."

With the tools in place, there have been many benefits. "We've seen improvement

in getting our information out to the public, promoting transparency in government, and providing tools for county and local government to be more efficient," said Kunz.

With the Local Government tools, the county provides citizens with an application for finding polling places. There's also an application for finding government services such as libraries, police stations, and post offices. And the Local Government Information Model—a common database used by several agencies—creates greater efficiency. "Our county executives have found the Local Government Information Model and the web templates to be very beneficial for providing real-time information to the public as well as elected officials," noted Kunz.

ArcGIS for Local Government is helping Sussex County expand its use of GIS further across the enterprise. Subsequently, the GIS office is better able to help other agencies. "We've turned it all around," Kunz said. "We've provided them with GIS tools, and embedded the tools into their individual workflows, so they're managing their data. That's something that hadn't really happened before."





Get Started with ArcGIS for Local Government

To support evolving government needs, Esri created ArcGIS for Local Government—a solutions approach to improving government processes. ArcGIS for Local Government helps public-sector agencies with data collection, planning and analytics,

field work force support, operational efficiency and awareness, and citizen engagement. It provides a platform for jump-starting new GIS projects with map templates, applications, and more. Esri provides the resources to get things started. With Esri's core offerings and

ArcGIS for Local Government, public-sector agencies can increase efficiency, productivity, and citizen engagement. Whether it's for public works, planning and development, or numerous other activities, ArcGIS for Local Government can help.



For more information and resources on ArcGIS for Local Government, please visit esri.com/govtechag.

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Maximizing GIS

Esri's newest resources are designed to improve information flow in and outside the organization.



With budgets constrained and demand for services escalating, government leaders are searching for new opportunities to promote efficiency in their operations and expand their relationship with their constituents while capping or even reducing costs.

To meet this pressing need, Esri, the Redlands, California-based market leader in geographic information systems (GIS), has just launched ArcGIS® for Local Government, a complete system for designing and managing solutions through the application of geographic knowledge. It was created for government officials who want to improve information flow within the organization and offer more convenience to constituents. This exciting set of ready-to-use applications is free and available for current customers by simple download from the Esri website.

"This is something that Esri is doing for our customers to help them move ahead quickly," explains Christopher Thomas, Esri director of government markets. "ArcGIS for Local Government puts them in position to deploy applications tied to their workflow without adding to their expenses."

practices, and provide feedback and input to Esri and its developer partners. Contributions by users and partners, based on their experiences in implementing the apps and maps in ArcGIS for Local Government, are also incorporated into its templates to enrich its capabilities.

As a member of the local government's project team, Esri will apply its extensive application development experience and the lessons learned through nearly 40 years of building innovative GIS solutions. The project solutions are based on the solid foundation of core Esri® technology. Access to a large network of partner organizations supplies additional resources to meet the technological and business requirements of local governments.

50 Applications Ready to Download

Whether using in-house resources or bringing in additional team members, governments gain access through ArcGIS for Local Government to more than 50 (and growing) applications and maps ready to download and configure so they fit easily into a government's existing infrastructure. Once added to the module, a government's geographic information comes to life inside and outside the organization as well as being accessible to citizens on the web through desktop browsers, and through the latest mobile devices.

ArcGIS for Local Government maps and apps

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ArcGIS for Local Government

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With the local government version of the ArcGIS for Desktop you can create maps, reports, and web services that are accessible to your citizens and staff. ArcGIS for Local Government is a powerful tool for managing your community's resources and providing services to your citizens.

Capabilities

- Public GIS
- Land Records
- Surveying
- Planning and Development
- Right-of-Way
- Public Works
- ArcGIS for Local Government for the web

Products

- ArcGIS 10.1
- ArcGIS 10.0
- ArcGIS 9.6
- ArcGIS 9.5
- ArcGIS 9.3
- ArcGIS 9.2
- ArcGIS 9.1
- ArcGIS 9.0
- ArcGIS 8.5
- ArcGIS 8.0
- ArcGIS 7.3
- ArcGIS 7.2
- ArcGIS 7.1
- ArcGIS 7.0
- ArcGIS 6.0
- ArcGIS 5.0
- ArcGIS 4.0
- ArcGIS 3.0
- ArcGIS 2.0
- ArcGIS 1.0
- ArcGIS 0.0

Gallery

More to explore...

Chicago 10.1.0

Chicago 10.1.0

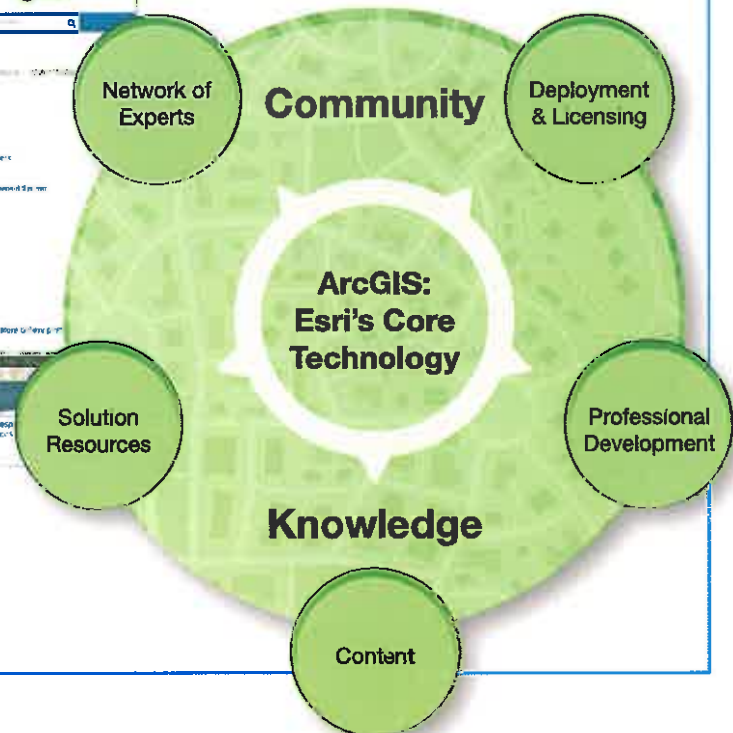
Chicago 10.1.0

Chicago 10.1.0

Chicago 10.1.0

Chicago 10.1.0

Solution Resources



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"It would have taken months to develop an app from scratch. We would have had to devote resources and money to a third party. This was a time-saver and a money saver. And we were able to provide an app for end users quickly. We've gotten a lot of good feedback."

— Todd Shanley, IT Manager for Cabarrus County, North Carolina

are organized into modules to support functions for a number of departments across local governments. Each module covers a core set of work tasks, including a series of maps and apps that are built on the common information model of data, services, and cartographic designs. Implementing the module is as simple as loading a government's datasets into the information model.

Currently, the growing list of modules includes the following:

- Land Records
- Elections
- Planning and Development
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Water Utilities
- General Government
- Citizen Engagement

Examples abound of how governments are taking advantage of these new applications. Quick deployment of an election tool was an objective of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, officials, who had a congressional runoff election approaching and an early primary soon to follow. They wanted to offer voters a convenient tool for finding their polling place. With a template application provided by ArcGIS for Local Government from Esri, their problem was easily solved.

Since the tool was implemented, city residents are able to click to the polling information page on the county's website, point to their home on a map (or enter their address into a search tool), and find their voting precinct and polling place. They are able to point to a set of tabs at the bottom of the page that showed additional information on the polling site, including the address, its hours of operation, registration deadlines, election date, and a contact person. A second set identifies their current elected officials, and future enhancements will provide driving directions and ballot information.

"It would have taken months to develop an app from scratch," says Todd Shanley, IT manager for Cabarrus County. "We would have had to devote resources and money to a third party.

This was a time-saver and a money saver. And we were able to provide an app for end users quickly. We've gotten a lot of good feedback."

Adds Debbie Brannon, the county's IT director, "These targeted applications are what the public expects from a government, and they are exactly what we in IT are looking for in one application to meet our specific needs."

Ft. Lauderdale Develops App Gallery

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the GIS department has pulled together a number of modules into an app gallery that delivers information on a variety of services through maps and related tables, allowing residents to drill down for data related to their local neighborhood.

One of the modules helps citizens find services provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Type in "basketball," and the tool immediately locates 20 parks in the city with basketball courts and shows the closest location on the map, along with address, phone number, days and hours of operation, and additional features at the park such as swings and picnic tables.

"We had this up in a matter of days," says Ian Wint, the city's GIS manager. "Had we not used the templates, development would have taken months."

Wint is especially pleased that the templates that Fort Lauderdale has developed with ArcGIS for Local Government are formatted to work across the variety of devices now used to access information through the Internet. "Instead of spending time to develop an application for the web and separate applications for multiple devices, these applications work on computers, mobile devices—all platforms," he says. "It saves lots of time."

Wint is also enthusiastic about the city's ability to use a single template to produce three applications that provide a wealth of information on a variety of subjects. In this case, the primary application is a module that the city calls My Government Services. With this module, a range of services provided by the city is all laid out together. By entering an address, the user's home is located on the map. In a series of tabs below, a broad picture of city services is on display.

For a given location, for example, My Government Services shows the frequency and day of the week



The City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has created a GIS Application Gallery on its website to provide key information, such as polling places in the county, to its residents.

for trash pickup, recycling, yard waste, and bulk trash; the name of the drinking water provider; information about the neighborhood schools; identification of the hurricane zone; location of the nearest emergency shelter; and the nearest police and fire stations. For each, the module lists relevant information, such as address and phone number.

From the same basic template, the city has also developed a module with more extensive information on emergency services, including data on the number of fire calls and false alarms, and education facilities, including private schools and higher education. "Once you get the template and information together," Wint says, "you can do whatever you want with it."

As a next step, Fort Lauderdale is launching an outreach program to local civic associations, with the goal that they will spread the word about the new online capabilities. "We want to educate people on the new products that are available to them," Wint says.

Wint believes that the common platform provided by ArcGIS for Local Government will promote more sharing of data among local governments. As more governments adopt the templates, he foresees modules that integrate data from a variety of sources for more comprehensive presentations. For example, a map might show emergency routes for the entire metropolitan region rather than for a single community.

On its drawing board, the city has a project to bring together information from an array of

sources into an executive management system, or an executive dashboard, using the templates of the ArcGIS for Local Government, Wint says.

By focusing on police activities by location, for example, the city will be able to identify crime hot spots, or by using reports from public works, it will be able to learn where there are exceptional issues. In addition, Twitter and news feeds will be integrated into the program, which will be designed for a tablet device.

"This is an opportunity to put GIS directly in control of the city manager and elected officials who handle the budget," he says.

Brannon, the Cabarrus County information director, says that ArcGIS for Local Government templates, which are flexible, easy-to-use, and integrated into the normal workflow, are a great tool for the work of local government, especially in times of resource constraints.

"ArcGIS for Local Government saves us time and resources," she says. "In this economy, anything that improves service delivery without added expense is a tremendous value to local government."

Get Started

Whether you are new to Esri technology or a longtime user, ArcGIS for Local Government will propel your GIS initiatives forward.

New to Esri GIS?

Visit esri.com/localgov to learn more about implementing the ArcGIS platform through various tested and government-approved deployment and licensing options. Once you have core ArcGIS software, ArcGIS for Local Government best practices and resources will be available to you at no additional cost.



Already Using Esri's Core Technology?

Whether your organization currently deploys GIS at a small or large scale, you can take advantage of ArcGIS for Local Government resources today to maximize your return on investment.



Visit esri.com/acclocal to access best practices, applications, and resources that will extend the reach of your GIS.



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