



## TOP Supports Cities

**Neighborhood Knowledge Los Angeles (NKLA)** is a prime example of the innovative use of information technology to address a set of significant social, economic, and cultural issues. It developed out of a planning grant TOP awarded in 1996 that brought together non-profit community-based groups, government agencies, foundations, financial institutions, and institutions of higher education, one of whom was UCLA. The focus of this project was on concrete data-management issues—tax delinquencies, mortgage defaults, health and safety code violations, drug abuse—and the benefits of making this information accessible and usable online. In 1998, TOP funded the launch of NKLA. NKLA became a national model, indeed an international model, of how community leaders and residents of low-income neighborhoods can use information tools to strengthen their communities. Tools that were once considered cutting-edge are now, through the example of NKLA, taken as basic strategies, including online mapping of community assets, constantly updated statistics, and community online forums.

The Cleveland Housing Network's **Bringing IT Home** initiative uses Internet-based technology to enable community-based organizations to share data resources, collaborate on community revitalization projects, and build capacity for successful home ownership and financial strength among low-income families.

In Portland, Oregon, the city's **Housing Connections** initiative has created a virtual one-stop housing center to integrate the work of over 75 housing-related agencies and enable residents of Multnomah County to find affordable housing and gain access to a continuum of housing services.



More recently, the **New York City Housing and Neighborhood Information System** developed by the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University focuses on integrating data on housing stock, home ownership, housing affordability, housing quality, mortgage lending, foreclosures, tax delinquencies, land use, population statistics, immigration, racial demo-graphics, income, crime, etc.—making it searchable, using online mapping, and creating a new electronic Neighborhood Information Exchange.

The online Home Ownership initiative of the **National Council of La Raza** in Washington, DC, is a project to help thousands of Latino families across the United States realize the dream of home ownership. The Digital Bridge Project in San Diego, California, is helping to revitalize one of San Diego's most distressed neighborhoods, a 3,000-square-acre triangle of land that is home to nearly 80,000 citizens, by working with a number of public and private partners to integrate wireless broadband into the economic life of the City Heights area.