

# City Innovation Snapshot | Lansing, United States

## Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Andy Schor
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Samantha Harkins
- ▶ Population of municipality: 116,986 (2017)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: <http://data-lansing.opendata.arcgis.com/>

## Spotlight on Lansing | New initiatives through partnership

Lansing has been building up partnerships with various stakeholders from the private and civic sectors. For instance, the city is **collaborating with eBay for Retail Revival for small business promotion and growth** as well as **coordinating volunteer work with many community partners** through a city-wide plan called “*Serve Lansing*”.

## Vision and approach to innovation capacity

### The city's innovation strategy

Along with 56% of cities surveyed, Lansing does not have an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Resident engagement

Experimentation

### Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to over one-third of cities surveyed, Lansing approaches innovation capacity in **specific policy areas**.

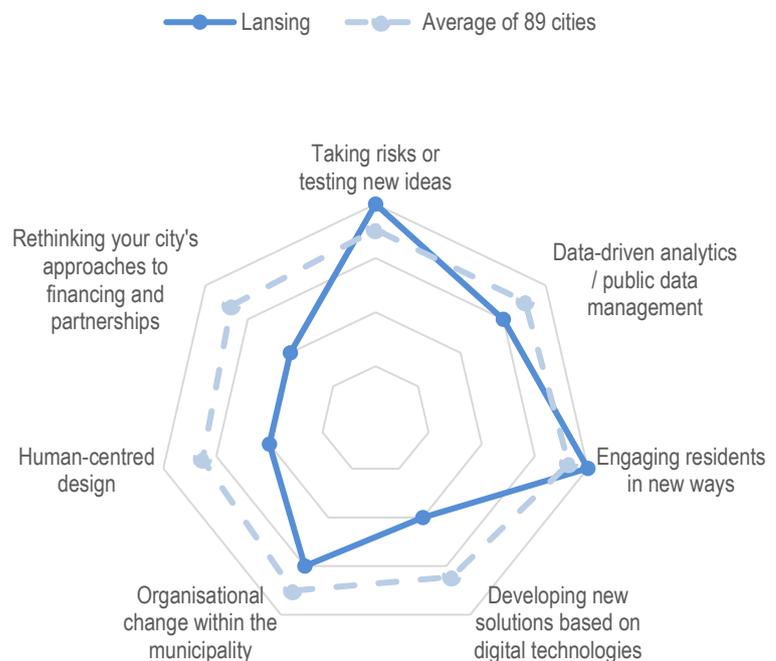
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Economic development

Transport / mobility

### Most common innovation activities

Lansing's most common innovation activities are **taking risks and testing new ideas** and **engaging residents in new ways**. Its innovation activities also include **promoting data-driven analytics** and **facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration**.



Funding for innovation capacity	
<p><b>Funding to support innovation capacity</b></p> <p>Like 23% of cities surveyed, Lansing does not have dedicated funding to support innovation capacity.</p>	<p><b>Types of activities being funded</b></p> <p>Among all cities surveyed, <b>launching or sustaining a project</b> and <b>generating ideas &amp; brainstorming</b> are the two most commonly funded activities.</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap; justify-content: space-around; text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0; margin: 5px;"> <p>Launching or sustaining a project</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0; margin: 5px;"> <p>Idea generation &amp; brainstorming</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0; margin: 5px;"> <p>Investing in digital systems</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0; margin: 5px;"> <p>Investing in physical infrastructure</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0; margin: 5px;"> <p>Paying for services</p> </div> </div>

Organisational structure & staffing	Partnerships for innovation & data
 <p>Lansing does not have a dedicated team for innovation.</p>	 <p>Lansing has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with <b>other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents/resident associations.</b></p> <p>To improve data use, the city has also developed <b>data partnerships with academia and think tanks</b> to collect and analyse data.</p>

Measuring outcomes	
<p>Policy areas that <b>benefit from sufficient data</b>, or <b>lack sufficient data</b>, to support innovation capacity in the city:</p> <div style="display: grid; grid-template-columns: repeat(5, 1fr); gap: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #90c060; color: white; text-align: center;">Transport / mobility</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #90c060; color: white; text-align: center;">Economic development</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Housing &amp; built environment</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Policing &amp; law enforcement</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Health</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Water</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Waste and sewage</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Labour markets &amp; skills</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Environment &amp; climate change</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Education</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Culture</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Social inclusion, equity</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #a0a0a0; color: #666; text-align: center;">Public works</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Tourism</div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; background-color: #c04040; color: white; text-align: center;">Digital governance</div> </div> <p><i>NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.</i></p>	<p>Innovation is <b>helping the city</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Save costs and gain efficiency within the public sector</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Improve service delivery</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Simplify administrative procedures for firms and residents</b></li> </ul> <p>The most <b>critical success factors</b> in supporting the city's innovation work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Dedicated funding</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Focus on measurement</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Dedicated innovation team</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Leadership from Mayor</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Culture of innovation in city</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Engagement with partners</b></li> <li>✓ <b>Support from outside city administration</b></li> </ul>