

## Automation and the Future of Work

Few issues shape a society as crucially as work. It is the way we support our families, contribute to our communities, and generate an identity. Automation will profoundly change the jobs we know today and what is required to earn a good living. The scale and pace of change demands urgent action.

Communities across America will be at the frontlines of these changes. Leaders are grappling with many questions: What kind of work will people do in five, ten, and twenty years? Do emerging jobs provide the stability workers expect? What are the best ways to empower workers with skills and opportunity? How will the future of work transform our communities?

## Empowering Communities

New America works in partnership with communities to address these questions. That's why we are launching a new initiative, ShiftLabs, with five pilot communities to prepare for a future of automation and foster innovation. Beginning in Phoenix, Indianapolis, Miami, Detroit and Oklahoma City, we will collaborate with local leaders to develop a long-term vision for economic vibrancy. Bringing together leaders from technology, industry, policy, philanthropy and culture, ShiftLabs will harness each city's strengths to catalyze social innovation to address automation.

## How ShiftLabs Work

- **Community Engagement.** New America will partner with local institutions to engage the community in a public discussion on automation and the future of work.



Shift members brainstorming in Detroit.

- **ShiftLab Convenings.** New America will use data-driven analysis to identify automation trends and identify regional strengths. The convenings will support local leaders in developing priorities to prepare for automation and pathways to achieve those goals.
- **Social innovation competition.** Built around local priorities, New America will launch a social innovation competition to connect workers with opportunities, skills, or support. The best 1-3 applications from each city will be selected for funding.
- **Scaling what works.** As the pilots are implemented, New America will work to surface, support and expand the most successful local innovations.

## New America

ShiftLabs builds on insights developed through the 2017 Shift Commission, a joint partnership between New America and Bloomberg, which examined the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on work.

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