nextERA, an Alliance for Innovation advisory group, continues to seek and test out new opportunities to live into its mission to “serve as an advocacy group for 21st century innovative local government.” As stated in its bylaws, nextERA has these roles: engage, research and advise.

- **Engage:** Serve as connectors for Alliance for Innovation local government ambassadors through connection with resources, other governments with similar issues or programs, and promoting Alliance for Innovation resources (member and non-member organizations).
- **Research:** Assist in researching information and providing recommendations to inform the Board regarding best practice strategies to sustain innovation in local government organizations.
- **Advise:** Advise the AFI Board on strategic plan initiatives and emerging innovation issues/ideas, as well as provide nextERA insight to Board or AFI strategic partner questions.

**Status Report:**

- **Bylaws Changes:**
  - Upon approval by nextERA, the group will be seeking AFI Board approval of amended protocols specifically focused on membership tenure enhancements.
  - nextERA plans more-intentional recruitment of new members (e.g., at TLG Conference, outreach to Innovation Academy alumni organizations, and via social media postings).
- **Consulting and Testing:**
  - A continued focus on expanded advising and consulting with AFI Board and Staff.
  - The potential to “test” AFI programs and concepts in team members’ communities before full-scale launch.
  - Early example: nextERA is in talks with AFI leadership about advising and providing input on how the organization may be able to best support and connect Innovation Academy alumni.
- **Leadership:**
  - This summer, four nextERA members agreed to lead AFI “uncommittees” and Communities of Practice on virtual learning, member communication, economic development and county governments. Due to the departure of Cory Poris Plasch, who had been leading this effort, these groups currently have been put on hold.
- **Communications and Storytelling:**
  - nextERA continues to produce high-quality monthly articles for the AFI website highlighting best practices and key concepts at member organizations. Recent articles have included “Potential Improvements to Loose-Leaf Collection” by the City of Raleigh’s Toy Beeninga and “Transforming Change into an Invitation to Innovate” by the City of Goodyear’s Pam Davis.
- **Shared Learning:**
  - This spring, nextERA began “monthly challenges” on its calls. Members share a particular policy, programmatic or culture issue they are facing in their organizations and seek input and suggestions from fellow group members via email and during monthly calls.
- **TLG Engagement:**
  - nextERA is planning to continue its presence at TLG and working with AFI staff to explore other engagement opportunities at the conference.