

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

September 14 – 16, 2016

Cleveland, OH

Partner Staff Participant List

<i>Name</i>	<i>Partner City</i>	<i>Email</i>
Mike Carnathan	Atlanta	mcarnathan@atlantaregional.com
Bernita Smith	Atlanta	bsmith@atlantaregional.com
Seema Iyer	Baltimore	siyer@ubalt.edu
Nancy Jones	Baltimore	njones@ubalt.edu
Jessie Partridge	Boston	jpartridge@mapc.org
Alicia Rouault	Boston	arouault@mapc.org
Andrew Bowen	Charlotte	abowen@charlottenc.gov
Ashley Clark	Charlotte	ashley.clark@uncc.edu
Beth Anthony	Cleveland	exa136@case.edu
Mark Chupp	Cleveland	mark.chupp@case.edu
Claudia Coulton	Cleveland	claudia.coulton@case.edu
Rob Fischer	Cleveland	fischer@case.edu
Taryn Gress	Cleveland	taryn.gress@case.edu
Eamon Johnson	Cleveland	ebj8@case.edu
Mark Joseph	Cleveland	mark.joseph@case.edu
Francisca Richter	Cleveland	fxr58@case.edu
Mike Schramm	Cleveland	schramm@case.edu

<i>Name</i>	<i>Partner City</i>	<i>Email</i>
Laura Schuch	Cleveland	lms230@case.edu
April Urban	Cleveland	april.urban@case.edu
Lynnette Cook	Columbus	lcook@researchpartners.org
Megan Johanson	Columbus	mjohanson@researchpartners.org
Anthony Galvan	Dallas	anthony.galvan@utdallas.edu
Mingming Zhang	Denver	mzhang@garycommunity.org
Erica Raleigh	Detroit	erica@datadrivendetroit.org
Noah Urban	Detroit	noah@datadrivendetroit.org
Brian Herron	Grand Rapids	herronrb@gvsu.edu
Jodi Petersen	Grand Rapids	peterjod@gvsu.edu
Jeremy Pyne	Grand Rapids	pyneje@gvsu.edu
Kelly Davila	Indianapolis	davilak@iu.edu
Donovan Lee-Sin	Miami	donovan@thechildrenstrust.org
Lisa Pittman	Miami	lisa.pittman@thechildrenstrust.org
Katie Pritchard	Milwaukee	kathleenpritchardphd@gmail.com
Matt Richardson	Milwaukee	matt@smartwave.biz
Jeff Matson	Minneapolis-St. Paul	jmatson@umn.edu
Mark Abraham	New Haven	mark@ctdatahaven.org
Caroline Heffernan	New Orleans	carolineh@datacenterresearch.org

<i>Name</i>	<i>Partner City</i>	<i>Email</i>
Keisha Smith	New Orleans	keishad@datacenterresearch.org
Maxwell Austensen	New York	maxwell.austensen@nyu.edu
Stephanie Rosoff	New York	stephanie.rosoff@nyu.edu
Rania Ahmed	Oakland	raniaa@urbanstrategies.org
Spike Spiker	Oakland	steves@urbanstrategies.org
Bobby Stahl	Oakland	roberts@urbanstrategies.org
Sabina Deitrick	Pittsburgh	sabinad@pitt.edu
Bob Gradeck	Pittsburgh	rmg44@pitt.edu
Liz Monk	Pittsburgh	monk.e@pitt.edu
Sheila Martin	Portland	sheilam@pdx.edu
Liza Morehead	Portland	more@pdx.edu
Randy Morris	Portland	rmorris@pdx.edu
Laura McKieran	San Antonio	laura.c.mckieran@uth.tmc.edu
Clarissa Ozuna	San Antonio	clarissa.r.ozuna@uth.tmc.edu
Louise Carter	Seattle	louise.carter@kingcounty.gov
John Cruz	St. Louis	johnc@risestl.org
Peter Tatian	Washington, DC	ptatian@urban.org
Katya Abazajian	Urban Institute	kabazaji@urban.org
Leah Hendey	Urban Institute	lhendey@urban.org

<i>Name</i>	<i>Partner City</i>	<i>Email</i>
Kathy Pettit	Urban Institute	kpettit@urban.org
Rob Pitingolo	Urban Institute	rpitingolo@urban.org
Maia Woluchem	Urban Institute	mwoluche@urban.org

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Guest Participant List

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email</i>
Michael Banks	City of Cleveland	mbanks2@city.cleveland.oh.us
Monique Baptiste-Good	Strong Healthy Communities Initiative	monique@shci.org
Brett Barkley	Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland	Brett.Barkley@clev.frb.org
Joy Bonaguro	City and County of San Francisco	joy.bonaguro@sfgov.org
Tony Brancatelli	Cleveland City Council	tonyb@slavicvillage.org
Lisa Camp	Case Western Reserve University	lac100@case.edu
Emily Campbell	The Center for Community Solutions	ecampbell@CommunitySolutions.com
Ali Carella	Heartland Alliance	accarella@heartlandalliance.org
Mordecai Cargill	HackCLE	MCargill@clevelandnp.org
Amy Carroll-Scott	Drexel University	amy.carroll-scott@drexel.edu
Cherie Chung	Digital C	cherie.chung@digitalc.org
Jake Cowan	Independent Consultant	jake@jakecowan.com
Brian Cummins	Cleveland City Council	bcummins@clevelandcitycouncil.org
Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz	Cleveland Public Library	anastasia.diamond@gmail.com
Alyssa Doom	Sunlight Foundation	adoom@sunlightfoundation.com
Rebekah Dorman	Cuyahoga County, Office of Early Childhood	rdorman@cuyahogacounty.us

Name	Organization	Email
Peter Eckart	Illinois Public Health Institute	peter.eckart@iphionline.org
Kyle Fee	Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland	kyle.d.fee@clev.frb.org
Kelsi Feltz	AcademyHealth	kfeltz@academyhealth.org
Justin Fleming	Cleveland Neighborhood Progress	jffleming@clevelandnp.org
Frank Ford	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	fford@wrlandconservancy.org
Scott Frank	Case Western Reserve University	scott.frank@case.edu
Bill Fulton	Rice University	wbf1@rice.edu
Ryan Gerety	Ford Foundation	lil@cs.unm.edu
Katy Getsie	MetroLab Network	katy.getsie@metrolabnetwork.org
Lev Gonick	Digital C	lev.gonick@digitalc.org
Elizabeth Grossman	Microsoft Corporation	elizabeth.grossman@microsoft.com
Cindy Guy	Annie E. Casey Foundation	cguy@aecf.org
Adam Hecktman	Microsoft Corporation	adamh@microsoft.com
Taylor Henschel	Cleveland City Council	thenschel@clevelandcitycouncil.org
Katherine Hillenbrand	Ash Center at Harvard Kennedy School	katherine_hillenbrand@hks.harvard.edu
Nina Holzer	Cleveland Neighborhood Progress	nina.holzer@cwru.edu
Kara Hornikel	Cleveland Co-Labs	karahornikel@gmail.com
Greg Jordan-Detamore	Sunlight Foundation	gjordandetamore@sunlightfoundation.com

Name	Organization	Email
Devin Keithley	Groundwork Ohio	dkeithley@groundworkohio.org
Lisa Kessler	Allegheny County	lisa.kessler@alleghenycounty.us
John Killeen	City of Durham	john.killeen@durhamnc.gov
Chris Kingsley	Better Measured	chris@bettermeasured.com
Ben Levine	MetroLab Network	ben.levine@metrolabnetwork.org
Denise Linn	Smart Chicago Collaborative	dlinn@cct.org
Charlotte-Anne Lucas	NOWCastSA	calucas@nowcastsa.org
Shannon McKay	Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond	shannon.mckay@rich.frb.org
Laura Meixell	City of Pittsburgh	laura.meixell@pittsburghpa.gov
Jill Miller Zimon	OpenNEO	jill@openneo.org
Sarah Morgan	Allegheny County	sarah.morgan@alleghenycounty.us
Lisa Nelson	Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland	lisa.a.nelson@clev.frb.org
Gary Painter	University of Southern California	gpainter@price.usc.edu
Richard Parks	University of Southern California	richard@price.usc.edu
Stephanie Parry	Strong Healthy Communities Initiative	stephanie@shci.org
Merissa Piazza	Cleveland State University	m.c.piazza83@csuohio.edu
Jeffrey Poirier	Annie E. Casey Foundation	jpoirier@aecf.org
Nalini Ravindranath	Forum for Youth Investment	nalini@forumfyi.org
Kauser Razvi	Digital C	kauser.razvi@digitalc.org

Name	Organization	Email
Elizabeth Reynoso	Living Cities	ereynoso@livingcities.org
Isaac Rob	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	irobb@wrlandconservancy.org
Nate Ron-Ferguson	University of Memphis	nfergusn@memphis.edu
Randy Rosso	Food Research and Action Center	rossonova@gmail.com
Greg Sanders	Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago	gregsanders101@gmail.com
Amy Sheon	Case Western Reserve University	amy.sheon@case.edu
Ji Won Shon	Annie E. Casey Foundation	jshon@aecf.org
Geoff Smith	DePaul University	gsmith33@depaul.edu
Bill Su	Digital C	bill.su@digitalc.org
Eleanor Tutt	Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	eleanor.tutt@gmail.com
Bill Waldrop	WilChar Media	editor@wilcharmedia.com
Jacob Wascalus	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	jacob.wascalus@mpls.frb.org
Christopher Whitaker	Code for America	cwhitaker@codeforamerica.org
Leon Wilson	Cleveland Foundation	lwilson@clevelandn.org
Danielle Wood	University of Notre Dame	dwood5@nd.edu
Jie Wu	Rice University	jie.wu@rice.edu

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Guest Cities

Chicago, IL

Chicago has a wealth of organizations providing community data and data-related services. Smart Chicago Collaborative is exploring an arrangement to facilitate easier access to these resources for community groups. In this new role, they propose to amplify the existing work and research in Chicago's rich data ecosystem, investigate neighborhood indicators across policy silos, and identify and fill gaps in the community information infrastructure. The Collaborative is also completing an application to join NNIP. Key community information organizations represented at NNIP meetings are:

- *Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago* focuses on improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities through policy research—by developing and testing new ideas, generating and analyzing information, and examining policies, programs, and practices across a wide range of service systems and organizations.
- *Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University* provides reliable, impartial, and timely data and research to inform housing policy decisions and discussions about the state of housing in the Chicago region and nationally. IHS's work focuses on affordable housing issues and understanding the dynamics of neighborhood housing markets.
- *Smart Chicago Collaborative* is a civic organization devoted to improving lives in Chicago through technology. They work on increasing Internet access, improving skills for using the Internet, and developing meaningful products from data that measurably contribute to the quality of life of residents in the Chicago region and beyond.
- *Social Impact Research at Heartland Alliance* collaborates with clients to measure and grow their social impact. Their user-friendly work helps nonprofits, foundations, and governments advance real-world solutions to poverty.
- *Woodstock Institute* is a leading nonprofit research and policy organization in the areas of fair lending, wealth creation, and financial systems reform. It works to create a financial system in which lower-wealth persons and communities of color can safely borrow, save, and build wealth so that they can achieve economic security and community prosperity.

Contacts: Greg Sanders (Chapin Hall), Geoff Smith (Institute for Housing Studies), Denise Linn (Smart Chicago Collaborative) and Alexis Carella (Social Impact Research)

Durham, NC: Neighborhood Compass-City of Durham

Websites: <http://compass.durhamnc.gov>
<http://durhamnc.gov/570/Neighborhood-Improvement-Services>

The Neighborhood Compass is a project of the City of Durham, housed in Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS). The project's interactive web portal provides data that allows local government and residents to track progress on neighborhood improvement efforts and shifts in our overall quality of life. The Compass helps local government allocate resources and establish partnerships to track neighborhood quality of life, increase accountability, and target services to improve community conditions. Neighborhood & homeowners associations, nonprofits, businesses, academic institutions, and others can align resources with Neighborhood Compass data to advocate for change, guide program development and the use of resources, and inform neighborhood projects.

Major projects for the Neighborhood Compass in 2016 include:

- A collaboration with the information initiative at Duke University (iiD), measuring the prevalence of chronic ambient stress in neighborhoods, the relationship between housing conditions and household energy consumption; and the reliability of multivariate neighborhood population change estimates. Analysis and visualization of data during this 10-week project will be used to foster neighborhood/research collaboration around these specific issues, culminating in a public forum drawing attention to the role of each particular issue in community life.
- An 18-month Duke Family Health resident research project assessing the utility of the Neighborhood Compass for delivering relevant social and environmental determinant information for physician-patient interactions. Patient care team trainings, focus groups, and in-clinic trials will be used to generate guidance on information design and delivery. A clinic-wide training and trial period will conclude the study.

Contact: John Killeen, Neighborhood Compass Project Manager

Houston, TX: Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University

Website: kinder.rice.edu

The Kinder Institute for Urban Research is a multi-disciplinary “think-and-do” tank housed at Rice University in central Houston, focusing on urban issues in Houston metropolitan area, the American Sunbelt, and around the world. Founded in 2010, the Institute was endowed with a gift from Houston philanthropists Rich and Nancy Kinder. The mission of the Kinder Institute is to advance understanding of the challenges facing Houston and other urban centers through research, policy analysis, and public outreach; and collaborate with civic and political leaders to implement promising solutions to these critical urban issues.

In September 2015, Rice University and the city of Houston joined forces with 33 other city-university partnerships to create MetroLab Network, a network focusing on bringing data, analytics, and innovation to city government. The Kinder Institute serves as the network’s main point of contact for the Rice and city of Houston partnership.

In addition, the Kinder Institute has secured three years’ funding to develop Urban Data Platform, a data library that brings together a wide range of datasets with geospatial information from many different sources; and to follow the NNIP model to help facilitate the direct practical use of data by city and community leaders to build the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed urban neighborhoods. For organizations that lack analytical capability, researchers and students at the Institute could provide assistance and services. The Kinder Institute plans to submit a formal application to Urban Institute and NNIP committee for consideration in the fall.

Contacts: Bill Fulton, Director, and Jie Wu, Assistant Director and Research Manager

Los Angeles, CA: USC Sol Price Center for Social Innovation

The University of Southern California Sol Price Center for Social Innovation is developing the Neighborhood Data for Social Change (NDSC) platform to provide a region-wide data collaboratory for social change. NDSC will enable stakeholders throughout the region to better analyze real-time data, recommend policy changes, plan future community development initiatives and evaluate social innovations.

The effort includes collaboration with numerous community-based organizations, government agencies and philanthropies including the Los Angeles Promise Zone, the City and County of Los Angeles, HUD, the San Francisco Federal Reserve of Los Angeles, the Arnold Foundation, the Youth Policy Institute, FIND Food Bank, and Year Up, among many others.

The Price Center promotes the exploration and understanding of how to create sustainable, holistic vitality in low-income, urban communities. To this end we develop scholars, leaders and initiatives to advance novel approaches and solutions, with a particular eye toward understanding large-scale change efforts in places and populations. We integrate neighborhood data to facilitate research, evaluation and action in the urban realm. We evaluate programs and policies to determine what works, why and what can be applied elsewhere. We convene national conferences to magnify the impact of social innovators by bringing them together with change leaders from around the world in a common pursuit of equality of opportunity for children and families in marginalized communities.

Contacts: Gary Painter, Director of Social Policy, and Richard Parks, Executive Director

Memphis, TN: University of Memphis Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research

The Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research, or CAESER, is an applied research center based at the University of Memphis and works with a variety of public and private partners towards the goal of "building smarter, stronger communities" in both natural and human environments. The center utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving and contains researchers and students from a wide range of disciplines.

In addition to their work in spatial and community analysis, ground water monitoring and modeling, and custom application development, they also work in and with the community on education programs to teach the importance of sustaining natural resources.

Example projects include a partnership with area schools to optimize pedestrian safety between neighborhoods and schools, a community indicator visualization tool that spans geography, an assessment of impacts on the region's groundwater, and the development of a comprehensive blight data inventorying system to help community leaders and government officials track property conditions in their community.

Contact: Nate Ron-Ferguson, Senior GIS Project Coordinator

Newark, NJ: The Newark Learning Lab/Strong Healthy Communities Initiative

In 2016-17, the Newark Learning Lab (NLL) will launch a non-profit partnership led by the Strong Healthy Communities Initiative (Newark's Living Cities Integration Initiative) and the Newark Alliance (Newark's anchor institution leadership roundtable comprised of 20 of the Newark's largest public and private institutions and corporations). The aim of the NLL is to generate knowledge and sustainable best practice solutions to improve education and life outcomes of Newark children and families. The mission of the NLL is to provide accessible, high quality information and analysis to guide the decisions of Newark stakeholders and local collective impact efforts

The NLL will house a Data lab that will act as a comprehensive community information system that collects available data, identifies data gaps, and investigates population challenges that require innovative solutions. This will serve as a vehicle to allow Newark's most deeply invested institutions to plan, evaluate trends in community change over time, and measuring results of collective impact efforts, policy change, and institutional investment.

The NLL will scour the landscape of data availability and bring it into a system to tackle a broad range of issue areas that affect child education and life outcomes. Most importantly, the NLL will provide Newark with the technological architecture, organizational capacity, and a sound, systemic and methodical way to mine, manage, analyze and disseminate information to inform policy, improve local practice, and track outcomes over time.

Contact: Stephanie Parry, SHCI Policy Analyst and Monique Baptiste-Good, SHCI Project Director

Philadelphia, PA: Urban Health Collaborative, Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University

The Urban Health Collaborative (UHC) is an interdisciplinary research, community outreach, and training center at Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health. The Drexel Urban Health Collaborative works to improve health in cities by increasing scientific knowledge and public awareness of health and health variation within cities, and by promoting urban policies and partnerships that promote health and reduce health inequalities. In particular, the UHC generates information on the magnitude and causes of urban health challenges that are useful to city residents, particularly comparative data across neighborhoods that can be used to motivate local action among communities and policy-makers.

UHC research expertise is particularly focused on the social determinants of health and health disparities in cities. The UHC compiles and processes geographically referenced and spatial data, and supports research on urban health both locally and globally. For example, the UHC is currently collaborating with the Philadelphia Department of Health on select policy briefs, and is also working on developing neighborhood health profiles in Philadelphia that focus on a set of indicators amongst other projects. The UHC is committed to engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders to translate research evidence into action.

Contact: Amy Carroll-Scott, Co-Lead, Policy & Community Engagement Core, Urban Health Collaborative and Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health and Prevention

South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns and Center for Digital Scholarship

The Center for Social Concerns (CSC) and the Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) at the University of Notre Dame are exploring the possibility of developing formalized collaborative data efforts with community and university partners. The CSC leads the academic community engagement at the university, including community-based research. Leveraging state-of-the-art technologies, CDS is concerned with transformative uses of content and serves as the GIS hub of the university. Together, the centers have the ability to begin to harness student learning and faculty research in service to community information needs.

CSC and CDS have been partnering with neighborhoods and community development organizations over the past two years, collecting neighborhood data on housing and lot conditions. Through student and neighborhood residents co-creating data layers, we seek to build local capacity within and outside of the university. Other faculty, local government, and community partners are involved in a variety of data collection efforts, including the development of health assessments for neighborhoods, so the timing for developing more extensive and formalized collaboration may be opportune.

Contact: Danielle Wood, Assistant Director, CSC Community-Based Research and Impact