

CONNECTING TO STATE DATA SYSTEMS FOR LOCAL ACTION

Thursday morning, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Use of state data systems, such as State Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) developed by state education departments and Integrated Data Systems (IDS) that link data across multiple state agencies, are of increasing interest as a tool for local action. With support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, during 2013 NNIP launched a cross-site project on IDS called *Connecting People to Place: Improving Communities through Integrated Data*. After a competitive selection process, six partners are developing projects that bring together data from an IDS with their own data holdings in order to address local and neighborhood policy issues. Baltimore, Cleveland, New York, Pinellas County, Pittsburgh, and Providence have all begun work on their projects and we will share more about the projects throughout the next two years. Descriptions of the projects are included in this packet and we will post updates on the [cross-site project page](#) on the NNIP website.

One of the goals for this cross-site project is to build new relationships and enhance existing ones between NNIP partners and agencies that host IDS systems. We hope that these relationships lead to increased access to the knowledge and insights that can be gleaned from IDS and to exploration of how neighborhoods and place could play a larger role in the research being conducted with IDS.

One important connection we would like to see develop is that between state IDS agencies and NNIP partners. Since most partners' needs for data can be met at the local level, NNIP partners have generally not developed the close relationships with state agencies that they commonly have with local agencies. But state data offer local partners new opportunities and insights to their communities. In particular for this session, every state now has built a robust statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) and a number are investing in integrated data systems.

SLDS collect student-level data for all children attending public school in the state and link students' records over time. Now that states have overcome many of the technical difficulties of developing such systems, the work has turned to how these systems can be better used to improve educational outcomes. States have also begun to incorporate other data sources into their SLDS, creating integrated data systems. For example, they may link record-level data on early childhood education to Unemployment Insurance and wage records, as well as other human services systems.

Since its inception in 2005, the Data Quality Campaign (DQC) has played a major role in advocating for the effective use of data by states and provided support to state policymakers on this issue. In the past few years DQC has become increasingly focused on building the capacity of states to make information in the SLDS available for use by students and their parents, teachers, school administrators and local district officials.

This session will include about 45 minutes of presentations followed by 45 minutes of plenary discussion. Leah Hendey will moderate and begin the session with a short introduction and update on the cross-site project. Then we will hear from Lisa Sparrow at DQC who will talk about their efforts to link state and local work, as well as their important work on tracking state legislation around data and privacy concerns. Cathie Walsh will share information about her work on behalf of The Annie E. Casey Foundation to build the IDS field, connect local partners to state efforts around SLDS and IDS, and engage state teams in developing the skills they need to share information while also addressing legal, security and privacy considerations.

Following those presentations, we will learn about two local projects that are participating in the cross-site project and connecting to state SLDS and IDS. Leah Hendey will present on Cleveland's work to connect with the Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive (the state of Ohio's SLDS and IDS) to look at early adult outcomes for youth aging out of foster care. Joe Baldwin will describe Pinellas County's plan to look at community and place-based factors that may affect chronic absenteeism and their connection to a state-level IDS operated by the University of South Florida.

Questions for Discussion

- Are there other ways in which NNIP partners are connecting with state data efforts?
- What are the advantages to connecting to state systems? What are the challenges?
- Which of the 4 T's (trust, turf, time, and technology) are most challenging to this work? Where has there been progress?
- How can NNIP partners help inform states' policy research agendas that use these systems?
- What other uses of state IDS data would be most valuable to NNIP partners? For example: use of IDS for program evaluation, policy planning and evaluation?
- What lessons have NNIP partners learned from their local level work that are important to share with states?