

Staying Ahead of the Curve: How to Engage and Use Integrated Data Systems for Neighborhood Issues

Wednesday afternoon 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Integrated data systems (IDS) contain data from different government programs or agencies that are regularly merged at the individual level, enabling a more holistic understanding of public services and individual outcomes. They can be used to inform policymaking, targeting, and program evaluation.

With support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, NNIP has spent the past three years working on a cross-site project on IDS called ***Connecting People to Place: Improving Communities through Integrated Data***. Six partners conducted projects that bring together data from an IDS with their own neighborhood data holdings in order to address local and neighborhood policy issues. Local policy briefs and project descriptions are posted on the [cross-site project page](#) on the NNIP website. One of the forthcoming cross-site briefs will focus on policy recommendations for IDS host agencies and state and local governments to encourage the continued development and use of IDS and promote the practice of democratizing information from IDS.

The integration of data to improve policy and practice is happening in many forms in most states and many localities - whether IDS as we have defined it; integrated program data across nonprofits; data systems to support social impact bonds; or state longitudinal data systems and P-20 workforce systems. As with the open data movement, all NNIP partners should be aware of the presence of IDS, its usefulness, and how one could engage and facilitate the use of IDS to benefit low-income neighborhoods. At minimum, this will help partners stay on top of one of the latest trends in the field as they interact with other local organizations and funders. In addition, NNIP partners are well-positioned to advocate for these systems to be developed or augmented in ways that support neighborhoods and improve local decisionmaking. As the number of systems grows, more partners will also have the opportunity to engage with IDS and can benefit from the network's experience.

The purpose of this session is to discuss how NNIP partners can engage with and leverage IDS to promote increased access to information and better inform local policy and practice.

The first part of the session will feature three presentations (about 35 minutes) followed by Q & A for the presenters and a plenary discussion. The presentations will describe the cross-site project results; provide examples of the unique value NNIP partners bring to

the use of IDS; and share how IDS, in combination with data on neighborhood context, can be used to improve the quality of life for residents in low-income neighborhoods.

- Leah Hendey, Urban Institute
 - Results of the Cross-site Project: Demonstrating Place Matters and Improvements in Program Planning and Monitoring
- Davin Reed, New York University
 - Predicting Homelessness with Integrated Data and Machine Learning
- Claudia Coulton, Case Western Reserve University
 - Linking Property and Early Childhood Records to Assess Impact of Housing Conditions on Lead Exposure and Kindergarten Readiness

Discussion:

We will begin with reflections from the panelists and then we will have all partners share their experiences or interest with integrated data (either IDS as we've defined it or other types).

- What factors have been most important for building broad support for the development and use of IDS?
- What barriers to creating or expanding access to an IDS exist in your community?
- How has your perspective as an NNIP partner influenced the development and use of IDS in your community?
- For those who have not interacted with any integrated data, what questions do you have about its potential value or possible first steps?
- What roles and activities would you like to see NNIP as a network take on going forward related to IDS?