

Lessons from Local Users Conferences

Friday morning, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Local NNIP partners do not just passively disseminate data, but also actively support building the capacity of residents, nonprofit organizations and government agencies to be informed consumers of information. To accomplish this, several NNIP partners organize gatherings each year to highlight ways that data has been used to improve neighborhoods and to allow local users to network and learn from each other. Some are solely data-focused; others have a broader agenda. We would like to develop an online guide on the benefits of a users' conference and tips for planning the event.

The purpose of this session is to share the experiences from three cities that have local users conferences to help other partners to consider whether this strategy would benefit their local audiences.

Three partners will briefly describe the goals and format of their conferences.

- Jay Colbert from the Polis Center will describe their "Indiana Nonprofit Summit," which aims to help organizations build capacity to meet human needs.
- Seema Iyer from the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance will share information about their successful "Baltimore Data Day" (She has produced a summary report on their 2013 Data Day describing the agenda, meeting format, attendees, etc.)
- Alaina Harkness will talk about their goals and agenda-setting for their recent Chicago School of Data Days, held for the first time in September.

Aaron Schill from Community Research Partners will serve as moderator and facilitate a discussion among the panelists before opening it up to the full audience.

Questions for Discussion

- How do the goals of the events shape the agenda and format?
- Are there ways we can share the individual sessions online or curriculum with each other to benefit other partners?
- Would there be interest in having one of the virtual idea exchanges each year focused on having local stakeholders present their work based on NNIP partners' data/technical assistance?

List of Local Users' Conferences by NNIP partners, October 2014

Partner City	First Year	Latest Year	Participants	Target Audience(s)
Atlanta	2013	2013	500	Nonprofits, residents
Baltimore	2010	2014	270	Nonprofits, residents, government agencies, researchers, students
Boston	2005	2013	300 onsite 100 online	Nonprofits, local government agencies
Charlotte	2013	2014	178	Nonprofits, residents, government agencies, researchers, students
Columbus	2005	2013	250	Nonprofits, advocates, local government agencies
Dallas	2005	2008	700	Nonprofits, elected officials
Indianapolis	2005	2014	375	Nonprofits, neighborhoods and community-based organizations, and government agencies
Pittsburgh	2010	2014	110	Nonprofits, resident groups, local government agencies, elected officials, funders