

Make the NNIP Network Work for You

Thursday morning 9:00 – 10.00 a.m.

NNIP has always been a peer-learning network driven by its Partners' own needs and goals and is kept grounded by the governance of the Partner-elected NNIP Executive Committee. The NNIP's network goals reflect that orientation: 1) build and strengthen local capacity, 2) inform local and national policy, and 3) build support for community information field. Progress on these last two goals also help strengthen and sustain local capacity to provide data intermediary services.

Together the network takes on activities that advance one or more of these goals, including the development of guidance materials, activities to facilitate peer support, sharing stories of Partner's impact, developing and managing cross-site projects, and conducting national outreach. But given the breadth of topics that NNIP Partners tackle and the range of local contexts, these activities could take the network in many directions and it is necessary to set priorities in each category.

The purpose of this session is to provide an orientation to network activities and give an opportunity for Partners to share their ideas about how NNIP should move forward in the next year.

This session will begin with a brief presentation by Leah Hendey (Urban Institute) to (re)orient attendees to the NNIP's network goals and activities and then break out into 5 groups for 20 minutes to brainstorm ideas and discuss priorities in each activity area. Each group will be provided with a guiding set of questions and have an NNIP Executive Committee member present to facilitate the conversation. Following the small group discussions, we will have each group report out on their conversation and use the remainder of the time for plenary discussion. Major guiding questions include:

- On which aspects of your work could you or your staff benefit from written guidance and resources?
- On which would additional peer-support and dialogue help strengthen your capacity?
- On which topics or themes do we need to elevate stories of impact to other cities, states or national audiences?
- On which topics could a cross-site project advance the state of the field or answer important questions?
- Which national networks or audiences would it be helpful to your organization to have NNIP and its Partners have increased visibility with?