# The Role of Data in Times of Crisis and Recovery

Thursday morning, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

In NNIP's model for local data intermediaries, a trusted organization builds a set of multi-topic data over time and nurtures ongoing relationships with local nonprofits and government agencies through technical assistance on using data for better decisions. Most of the services that NNIP Partners provide operate on longer-term time schedules, but in several cities, natural disasters or social upheavals have shifted the nature and pace of a Partner's data services. In these cases, NNIP Partners were already in place to leverage their existing data and relationships to meet new types of information needs and serve additional audiences.

While the cases below are extreme, these examples demonstrate the payoff from Partners identifying and responding to emerging community information needs. All Partners can consider how to manage their staff and data systems to be ready to respond to unexpected events that offer the opportunity for quick turnaround, but high-impact contributions.

*The purpose of this session is to share the story of NNIP Partners in three cities that have faced natural disasters and social upheaval and offer broader lessons for other Partners.*

Jake Cowan, NNIP alumnus, will moderate the session.

- In a short pre-recorded video, Seema Iyer of the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, will share their response to media and local stakeholders after the death of Freddie Gray.
- Jie Wu from the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University will discuss how their staff responded in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and early thoughts on how the storm may affect Kinder's priorities going forward.
- Denice Ross, currently at New America and formerly at The Data Center in New Orleans, will relate how their organization's role changed after Hurricane Katrina and share her thoughts about roles for Partners in times of crisis and recovery.

**Discussion:** (30 minutes)

- What can all Partners learn from Houston and New Orleans about what is needed for their organizations to be responsive and to take advantage of fast-turnaround opportunities?
- How could NNIP partners encourage data transparency in government and nonprofits and promote data philanthropy from the private sector?
- How could NNIP Partners play a role in facilitating resident voices in setting principles and priorities for rebuilding and recovery?

## Resources

*Baltimore*

- BNIA in the News: Inequality in Baltimore & Neighborhood Context Section http://bniajfi.org/bnia-in-the-news/
- What Happened in Baltimore and What Can We Do? A Neighborhood's Perspective http://bniajfi.org/2016/01/07/what-happened-in-baltimore-and-what-can-we-do-a-neighborhoods-perspective/

*Houston*

- Houston Community Data Connections Dashboard http://www.datahouston.org/
- Kinder Institute Blogs (available at http://urbanedge.blogs.rice.edu)
  - Mapping Harvey rainfall, rescues and resources in Houston (8/30)
  - Houston, urbanization and flooding: a reading guide (8/29)
  - Estimates show the Houston Neighborhoods with the Most Flooding (9/19)
  - E.coli Levels after Hurricane Harvey (9/21)

- Developing Houston: Land-Use Regulation in the "Unzoned City" and its Outcomes (Report) by Alexius Marcano, Matthew Festa, and Kyle Shelton https://kinder.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Kinder_Institute_for_Urban_Research/Programs/Urban_Governance/UnzonedCity.pdf

*New Orleans*

- "The Most Empowering Tool for Hurricane Recovery" by Denice Ross http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2017/09/the_most_empowering_tool_for_hurricane_recovery.html
- Open Data Wish List for Disaster Recovery https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aCy42QKKtJeoQXYOB6OsaHIA41m5DrSa6CEvlbp-7FM/edit?usp=sharing
- "Ten Years After Katrina: New Orleans' Recovery, and What Data Had to Do with it" by Denice Ross https://medium.com/@ObamaWhiteHouse/ten-years-after-katrina-new-orleans-recovery-and-what-data-had-to-do-with-it-3df0bb2467e9
- Disaster Recovery's Essential Tool, Allison Plyer and Amy Liu http://www.governing.com/gov-institute/voices/col-hurricane-harvey-irma-recovery-data-new-orleans-index.html