

NNIP Showcase, Part 2

Thursday afternoon 1:15 – 1:45 p.m.

These 5-minute presentations give a lightning-quick overview of our NNIP Partners and their work.

Building a Better RAFT: Improving Access to Emergency Rental Assistance in Massachusetts **Brandon Stanaway, Metropolitan Area Planning Council**

When the eviction moratoria enacted at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic ended, existing and newly established emergency rental assistance programs were allocated substantial federal funds, relaxed eligibility requirements, and increased dollar award amounts. MAPC evaluated the efficiency of these expanded programs, centering the experiences of community-based organizations, which connected residents to funds. Our findings demonstrate the value of building CBOs more formally into program administration, and highlight critical gaps in program design and implementation, including a disconnect between the people in need of emergency rental assistance and those who can access it, a lack of data on application outcomes, and critical barriers tenants faced during the application process.

A Look into Voter Participation in Connecticut **Jason Cheung, CTData Collaborative**

With the upcoming municipal election in Hartford in mind, CTData partnered with several organizations to analyze voting data from the Secretary of the State that could help grassroots organizations in their “get-out-the-vote” efforts. Supplementing the voter data with socioeconomic data from the Census Bureau, we released a report with our findings along with a neighborhood-level dashboard for data users to explore. During the 5-minute showcase, Jason will share our methodology, general findings, and neighborhood dashboard.

Data Contexts: Indicators, Social Histories, and the Limitations of Neighborhood Data **Amanda Phillips de Lucas, Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance**

One of NNIP’s racial equity goals states: “we strive to be transparent about the biases and limitations in the data and document the contexts in which the data were created.” Increasing transparency requires diving into the histories of technological promise and social change that shaped the present-day databases and indicators that used in our day to day work. For the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance (BNIA) – telling this story requires examining how these contexts shaped our longitudinal data repository. This presentation draws upon BNIA’s history and origin story to propose one methodological approach toward meeting NNIP’s goal.

Data Justice for Pittsburgh's Black Neighborhoods

Bob Gradeck, University of Pittsburgh

In Pittsburgh, we're working with colleagues through the Black Equity Coalition and the City of Pittsburgh to establish a new initiative "Data Justice for Pittsburgh's Black Neighborhoods." We'll create a "mini-public" deliberative body to engage in decisions that the City of Pittsburgh makes about data and technology, and co-design databases, data systems, data standards, processes, and policies that will serve as the foundation of the City's emerging data governance process. This initiative will also work in the later stages of the data life cycle, where the project team will use data with neighborhood residents to develop and implement a plan for improving community health that incorporates data literacy opportunities and personal expression. In this session, we'll give you a preview of this initiative, which is funded by the de Beaumont Foundation.