

CTData Application to Join NNIP



CTData is excited about the opportunity to join NNIP. As a longtime friend and guest of NNIP, we are familiar with the work and contributions of other partners and feel we have much to share with the network. Much has changed at CTData since we started with just one employee in 2014. Starting with one employee, we went from three in 2018 to 12 in 2023. We developed our first strategic plan this June and revised our mission to better reflect all the work we do:

Our mission is to connect people and data to increase informed decision-making and advance an equitable Connecticut.

Our growth has allowed us to expand our services and continue to focus on building data capacity, which is crucial for people to use the data we make available. In 2019, we launched the Hartford Data Collaborative, deepened our relationships within Hartford, and focused on increasing the data capacity of organizations within Hartford. We have established a governance structure for data sharing; linked data across sectors to understand the well-being of residents in Hartford; launched a youth data fellows program; and are facilitating data sharing, data capacity building, and resident engagement with data through a DOE Promise Zone grant – the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline.

In addition to our Hartford Data Collaborative work, CTData offers data literacy workshops through the CTData Academy and has a coaching service to help organizations make data a strategic asset – Data Strategic Planning. CTData also hosts a monthly Equity in Data Community of Practice that brings together people from across the state to discuss implementing equitable data practices in their organizations.

All our work aligns with the NNIP model. In this new chapter, we are excited to be an official part of the NNIP network as a partner. We pledge to continue providing and increasing our local data intermediary services for Hartford and follow the NNIP model.

CTData is excited to share our work with other partners across the country and continue to learn from our peers. We look forward to officially becoming a part of the network.

Thank you,

Michelle Riordan-Nold

Video link: https://youtu.be/EeM7_cxia9c

Organizational Information

Applicant organization(s) name(s): InformCT, Inc. D/b/a Connecticut Data Collaborative

Organization website: ctdata.org

Primary contact person for NNIP (Name, title, contact information):

Michelle Riordan-Nold

Executive Director, CTData

Email: mrn@ctdata.org

Organizational structure: Nonprofit

Current and planned geographic area of focus: Hartford, CT

Current staffing

1. **Number of staff or full-time equivalents (FTEs) working in the organization:** 12
2. **Number of staff or FTEs working on local data intermediary activities (if not the same as above):** 4.5 FTEs across 10 staff
3. **List of key staff members engaged in those activities along with a sentence describing their roles:**
 - Cynthia Willner, Senior Research Analyst: Conducts research through the Hartford Data Collaborative.
 - Geethika Fernando, Data & Community Engagement Manager: conducts community outreach and capacity building for multiple data-sharing projects in Hartford, including public school and state education data; engages in business development (grants and contracts).
 - Jaclyn Vancour, Data Engagement Specialist: creates and conducts data training (capacity building) and collaborates with partners on the development of data projects; directs the Equity in Data Community of Practice; and engages in business development (grants and contracts).
 - Jason Cheung, Senior Data Analyst: conducts data analysis for data project; makes public data accessible through online interactive visualizations.
 - Jill Walsh, GIS & Data Analyst: conducts data analysis and GIS mapping for data projects. Currently creating a public map of services and programs for the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline.
 - Kate Bittinger Eikel, Data Integration Strategist: director of Hartford Youth Data Fellows program, manages governance structure and several data integration project for the City of Hartford and the Re-Entry Welcome Center; engages in business development (grants and contracts).
 - Niq Toliver, Civic Technologist: makes local data accessible via our website.

- Michelle Riordan-Nold, Executive Director: develops relationships with partners; engages in business development (grants and contracts); and helps advance the work of CTData.
- Sarah Eisele-Dyrli, Assistant Director: develops relationships and collaborates with partners on the development of data projects; engages in business development (grants and contracts).
- Wenyu Xie, Operations Manager: manages the internal operation of the organization and CTData's website.

To the best of your ability, please complete the table below for the staff, employees, faculty, paid students, or essential consultants of the organization or the center/unit performing local data intermediary activities. We only included information on the staff that are performing 'local data intermediary activities' so it does not total our total staff count.

[information redacted]

Current funding for local data intermediary activities

1. **Total funding amount: Local data intermediary work focused on serving the Hartford region is supported by \$400,000 in our budget i**
2. **Major funders (including sources of general support funding, project funding, and in-kind support):**

Project Partnerships

- AI Prince Technical School (Hartford)
- Aurora Women and Girls Foundation
- Bridgeport Prospers
- Capital Community College
- City of Hartford – Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation & Office of Community Engagement
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- Connecticut Fair Housing Center
- CT Center For Nursing Workforce, Inc.
- CT Department of Children and Families
- CT Office of the State Comptroller (OSC)
- Department of Public Health
- LISC Connecticut
- Hartford Votes
- Partnership for Strong Communities
- REX Development
- UConn – UConn Health

3. **Estimated share of total organizational budget that funding for local data intermediaries represents?** 25%

List of board or advisory board members and affiliations:

- David Nee, Board Chair, Graustein Memorial Foundation (retired)
- Robert Santy, Treasurer, Connecticut Economic Resource Center (retired)
- Paula Palermo, Secretary, Norwalk Acts (Norwalk, CT)
- Christopher Brechlin, COMPASS Youth Collaborative (Hartford, CT)
- Carmell Ford, Guidehouse (national)
- Rydell Harrison, Partners for Educational Leadership (statewide)
- Tyler Kleykamp, Foodshare (statewide)
- Rachel Leventhal-Weiner, CT Office of Policy and Management (statewide)
- Beresford Wilson, FAVOR (statewide)

The Hartford Data Collaborative has a separate governing body, called the HDC Executive Board. For details and membership see: www.ctdata.org/hdc-governance-committees

Please complete the table below for the board of directors (if nonprofit) or center/unit advisory board.

[information redacted]

Organizational Mission and Activities

Overall organizational mission and brief history

The Connecticut Data Collaborative (CTData)'s mission is to connect people and data to increase informed decision-making and advance an equitable Connecticut. Our vision is to help organizations and communities make good decisions with data. Founded in 2012, CTData's original purpose was to make many public data sources available on early childhood as an interactive map. While we removed the map tool due to the lack of accessibility, over time, we made the data more accessible to a broader audience through simple, interactive online visualization tools. However, early on, we realized that access to data did not mean people knew how to use data.

We expanded our strategy to make data accessible through interactive data portals, platforms, and stories for users to explore. We developed data workshops to teach data skills, consulted with organizations on their specific data needs, and supported a community of data users through events and conferences. Much of this work included a focus on Hartford and in providing Hartford residents and organizations with data and data skills so they could work to improve their city. In 2018, CTData was designated as the Census State Data Center, allowing CTData to serve as the liaison between the public and the Census Bureau, enabling us to help more data users understand census data to make informed decisions about their communities. Another important element of our work at this time was our collaboration with the Trinity Liberal Arts Action Lab on the Hartford Data Platform, a tool that explores health data by Hartford neighborhood.

As a result of this work, in 2018, when Hartford city and community leaders were looking for a trusted, neutral place to serve as a hub for linking and integrating administrative data to address knowledge gaps about social services in Hartford. CTData was a natural fit to serve as the backbone for the Hartford Data Collaborative (HDC). In 2019, CTData launched HDC as a project focused on providing data governance, transparency, and insights to community organizations sharing data about the residents they serve. Geethika Fernando was hired to manage and run HDC full-time so HDC could be appropriately supported. In this role, she and Kate Eikel (our second full-time staff person for HDC) have worked with city agencies, service providers, and philanthropic partners to share and integrate data to provide all stakeholders with a more holistic analysis of services, operations, policies, and outcomes for Hartford residents. The vision of HDC is to build a community where timely, integrated, client-level data is accessible for regular analysis to support improved services, operations, policies, and outcomes for the common good of Hartford residents.

Hartford as a city remains a focus for CTData because of its ongoing needs surrounding data sharing (ending data silos) and the place where we have the deepest relationships and have held most of our workshops. Because of these relationships, we have many opportunities to support residents in identifying strategies and solutions to disparities by collaborating with them to engage with data for action. Now in its fourth year, HDC is becoming part of the conversation around change in the city of Hartford, and has relationships with city departments, the Hartford Public Schools, the State Department of Education, local philanthropic partners, and community organizations serving Hartford residents' social, educational, health, and other needs.

Overview of the current activities and services of your organization that are related to NNIP functions, including the assembly and sharing of neighborhood-level data

The NNIP-related functions of our work are embedded across our organization – from HDC to the Data Academy to Data Analysis and consulting projects.

First, there is some background that may be helpful in understanding the level of neighborhood-level data that we provide. Hartford is a small city, and its population and geographic boundary is smaller than a neighborhood in many other cities. Since Hartford is a small city, our community partners in Hartford primarily focus on programs that serve the entire city of Hartford, and not just one neighborhood. For this reason, much of our analysis is town-based.

For example, the Queens neighborhood population is over 2 million while the population of Hartford proper is 121,054 and the North End of Hartford (three neighborhoods combined) has a population of 24,329. If Connecticut were a different state, Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, and Manchester would be neighborhoods, and this would be the second largest city in New England (see [Hartford Courant article](#)).

The disparities that exist in the Hartford area are between Hartford and surrounding suburbs, not within the city itself.

In terms of the functions of our work where our data intermediary/NNIP functions intersect include:

Hartford Data Collaborative: Through our work with Promise Neighborhoods, we are creating neighborhood-based maps of three Hartford neighborhoods with the lowest levels of student achievement, post-secondary success, and employment. HDC has collected, linked, and shared neighborhood data through several of its projects. Both the Hartford Opportunity Youth Collaborative and the Hartford UNITY projects focus on the engagement of children and youth in Hartford and their educational outcomes. Information on these populations is shared at the

neighborhood level when available. HDC staff shares the de-identified, linked data with external researchers and city agencies that request data, and findings are shared with local community partners to help them with local service allocation and policy decisions. The HDC Hartford Youth Data Fellows have reviewed neighborhood-level administrative and publicly available data. In 2023, they reviewed community safety data through 3-1-1 complaints and poverty status by neighborhood and presenting these findings in a data walk with community members and city and state leaders.

CTData Academy (data literacy training): Early in our organizational life, we realized that making data available didn't mean that people would use it or have the data skills to use it. For that reason, we integrate data capacity building into many of our partnerships. In addition to providing public workshops in Hartford, when we collaborate with partners on data projects, we include data training sessions for that particular project. In one example, the data training we provided on the Women & Girls Data Platform enabled the Hartford YWCA to obtain a large grant by including data that they had learned how to access and use to tell their story. This not only increases data literacy, but also shares the data projects so that people can actually use them.

Research and Data Projects: Inherent in all of our work is data to action. In order for people to take action on the work we conduct, we engage in work with partners so that we know the data is needed and will be utilized. Our mission of informing decisions toward an equitable Connecticut is the filter through which we determine which projects we will take on. This includes providing data at the geography that is requested of our partners (which has mostly been at the city level compared to other towns). By providing data for partners that our partners request, they can make decisions to create a more equitable Hartford region. We never create data because we think they are good ideas but spend deliberate time fostering partnerships that will result in useful data projects with which our partners can take action toward equity. We have found several opportunities to create neighborhood-level data projects in conjunction with our partners (including 311 data, North Harford Ascend Pipeline maps of neighborhood assets, voter data, described in projects below), will continue offering neighborhood-level data through our partnerships, and will continue responding to requests as they are made. We are hopeful that by becoming an NNIP partner, we will be able to raise interest in neighborhood-level data, allowing partners to focus their work more effectively within the city.

If local data intermediary services are only a part of the mission and activities of your organization, a description of how these services and maintaining NNIP functions align with the organization's overall mission.

NA

Characteristics of organizations' engagement and staff members' work style with partners and clients.

Our name includes the word “collaborate,” and this is how we approach our work, internal and external. We seek for our projects to be led by the needs of those using the data. This could be a large nonprofit funding a data project; other times, local community groups we meet with identify needs and we design a data ‘intervention’ catering to their knowledge of their community. For example, before the 2020 election, we worked with local organizations that were conducting voter registration and education activities, which we are again working on in 2023 with some of Hartford’s grassroots organizations. To develop the voter resources (available at ctdata.org/vote), we meet with individuals and groups and ask what they could learn from data to help them conduct more effective voter registration and education efforts. In 2020, we developed tools through an iterative process with these groups and ultimately provided training on using those tools. In 2023, we will also create publicly available voter datasets from previous elections at the neighborhood level in Hartford.

Hartford Data Collaborative staff hold regular meetings with data-sharing partners to assess and understand their data needs, challenges in collecting and sharing data, and ways to improve the useability of linked data findings. Data sharing partners are invited to join HDC’s governing bodies, the [Executive Board](#) (responsible for stewardship and vision of HDC) and the Data Oversight Committee (which reviews and approves data requests and data findings from HDC data request projects). These governing bodies allow community members to shape the direction of HDC projects by focusing the work on the most urgent community needs, and ensuring that the findings will produce change that is meaningful to the community.

Please describe your organization’s internal activities and efforts related to improving equity, diversity, and inclusion

Though many of our staff have either had training in diversity, equity, and inclusion or have had lived experience in equity (or inequity) and inclusion (or exclusion) because of their racial or ethnic background or immigration status, in 2023, as part of our new strategic plan, we plan to increase our staff training in these areas. We held all-staff and board DEI training in 2020/2021, and we regularly discuss the language we use, the framing of our questions, or the way we use data. We regularly share resources that have helped us improve our equity lens, and staff regularly (and kindly) share when the wording someone is using is potentially disrespectful to individuals and why. Staff are always responsive and change language when they learn new things.

We also seek to raise up the issue of equity in data when we work with partners, through our workshops, in our conferences, and at the tables we sit at related to state and federal data.

Selected Projects

1. Using Data to Make Local Decisions (2020)

In July 2020, as part of the [Data for COVID-19 Response and Recovery](#) project through the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) and [Urban Institute](#), CTData began working with three Hartford-area service organizations (Sudanese American House of CT, Family Life in Education, and Hartford Health Initiative) to identify ways to support them as they served their constituents in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. At the beginning of the pandemic, each organization surveyed their constituencies to learn how the coronavirus pandemic was affecting them. CTData staff analyzed the survey data and collaborated with organization staff to present the data in a way that was understandable and useful to the organization. The data was then presented to the clients in a data walk. CTData staff also conducted workshops to help build the data literacy skills of the organization's staff.

Fawatih Mohamed-Abouh, former Director of project SIHA, a community-based intervention serving the Arabic-speaking population in Greater Hartford, said, "It was extremely powerful to hear what people think of their own data, and how do they feel about being visible and represented! This effort is going to help us at SIHA to make better decisions and to come up with more meaningful activities to support the communities we serve in CT."

Participants felt it was important to have the chance to talk about data specific to their community since very little data exists about them. One person expressed that they had never seen themselves in data before and were grateful for the chance to see how the pandemic was specifically affecting them. They also identified several actions that would help their community as it dealt with the worst of the pandemic, one of which was to post information in Arabic encouraging people to speak to their doctors with questions about Covid (the surveys showed that this group was trusted to have accurate information about the disease).

During the Hartford Health Initiative (HHI) Data Walk, the participants identified several actions that they felt would benefit their neighborhood (the North End of Hartford) as they faced the intense realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. One idea that HHI sought to implement was a walking group for the women in the neighborhood. Chavon Hamilton-Burgess, Founder and Executive Director of the Hartford Health Initiative, said about the work:

3. Hartford UNITY (2021-present)

[HDC](#) has partnered with the City of Hartford's Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation (DFCYR) to collect and integrate program participant data and analyze the impact of the [Hartford UNITY \(Understanding the Needs of Today's Youth\) initiative](#). In 2021, the City

launched the UNITY initiative to engage children and youth after the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic using funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This project was the beginning of the city's requirement that all grantees receiving over \$5,000 in city funds join HDC and share their data about program participation in recreation, employment, enrichment, and other support programs for Hartford children and youth from birth through age 24. This project was funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the first year and the city of Hartford in the second year.

This project also represents HDC's largest data integration project as it involved compiling data from 38 community providers about the children and youth participating in their programs. HDC and the first group of Hartford Youth Data Fellows were asked to provide overall statistics about the youth who accessed and participated in these programs, including the program utilization by city neighborhood. As HDC staff and youth researchers reviewed the data submitted from organizations for their summer and year-round programs, we found that many organizations did not provide demographic information about participants, which limited the analysis we could conduct about the overall population of children and youth served, particularly by neighborhood, as the funding was designed to improve service access in "activity desert" neighborhoods.

At a spring 2022 Data Walk during which HDC staff and youth researchers discussed the limited findings of the high percentage of missing data, the city responded by making not just data collection but complete data collection a priority for further funding rounds to local organizations. In addition, as a result, the city increased the support they provide to partner organizations to help them understand the importance of collecting and sharing data. The city also engaged in conversations with HDC and the youth to improve the data collection instrument to better reflect the diverse identities of Hartford children and youth.

As a result of this project, HDC and the city have identified ways that CTData can support the data capacity of youth-serving organizations. These supports will ultimately provide organizations with the skills to collect higher quality data, so both they and the city can better understand service utilization and program outcomes. In the summer of 2022, we launched data consultation sessions with UNITY grantees. These sessions filled up within minutes – evidence of the high demand for data capacity services in Hartford – and so we added more sessions in the fall of 2022. HDC also published findings from the program's first year (fiscal year 2022) on our website: www.ctdata.org/hdc-unity. We plan to hold a community Data Walk regarding FY2023 findings in the fall of 2023.

4. Hartford Youth Data Fellowship (2022 to present)

Concerned about the lack of community voice in data-sharing projects about Hartford youth, CTData launched its first youth participatory action research project in the spring of 2022. Staff

recruited Hartford youth ages 16–24 to form connections with HDC data-sharing partners and youth organizations in the city. Six Hartford youth joined HDC for eight weeks in the spring, serving as the first cohort of [Hartford Youth Researchers](#). CTDData staff and provided data training modeled on our CTDData workshops that teach data literacy, analysis, and visualization skills. The youth analyzed data from the City of Hartford’s UNITY grants and presented their findings at a Data Walk attended by the Mayor’s Chief of Staff, City officials, HDC Executive Board members, and other community leaders.

Based on the positive feedback from youth participating in the program and city and community leaders, HDC launched its second cohort of youth co-researchers in January 2023. This year’s group included seven high school seniors and three college students. This 5-month program included weekly workshops and meetings with data training, engaging with guest speakers who grew up in Hartford and are involved in data-based careers, learning about the historical constructs behind the data, and reviewing the history of redlining in neighborhoods and school desegregation cases. Each Hartford Youth Data Fellow developed and presented a “[Data Snapshot](#)” highlighting data about children and youth, education and schools, community safety, and mental health issues. Data Fellows presented their findings with city and community leaders in a data walk. One of the Hartford state representatives attended (who is also a special education teacher in Hartford) and gave each of the youth a citation for their work.

As co-researchers, youth saw their impact as they shared their lived experience as youths in Hartford in their data projects. This program is part of CTDData’s mission to empower an ecosystem of data users and addresses a need for increased data literacy among Hartford residents. One of the youths spoke of the impact of having her mother see data about her community at the Data Walk, data that reflected what they saw around them, but before this didn’t have access to the numbers behind the disparities they experienced. The Hartford Youth Data Fellowship has become a path through which CTDData is further building structures for community engagement with local data and data-sharing efforts.

One of the program’s goals is to help youth with their college and career plans. One of our first youth data fellows, Nate Gardner said he excelled in his college statistics course after taking our training. Another youth, a first-generation college student, was able to finance attending Howard University thanks to a scholarship from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving after connecting with one of the program officers who was our guest speaker and offered to reach out to help the youth with college and career advice.

HDC plans to continue and expand the work of the Hartford Youth Data Fellows in 2024. With additional funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, other local foundations, and potential grant funding, we plan to expand our work to help youth to increase their advocacy skills by working with state legislators and statewide groups focused on youth behavioral and mental health concerns.

Voting Data Project

Where are there higher and lower numbers of eligible, registered voters in Hartford? What share of current residents or registered voters voted in previous elections? These are some questions we explored in the Secretary of State's Voter File in July 2020. For this project, CTData staff partnered with grassroots organizations in Hartford and identified the most important questions they needed to answer to effectively conduct their Get Out the Vote efforts. CTData created maps showing where eligible voters are by census block, analyzed Hartford voting data in the 2016 and 2020 elections, and trained local Get Out the Vote Groups in how to use the information.

In 2023, we are again working with local groups to identify their most important questions and to make voter data available by neighborhood. As part of this work, we participated in several facilitated conversations about the questions they need to have answered. We will also be conducting data walks with grantees of the Hartford Foundation to have them identify the findings for the data stories that they will use to guide their get-out-the-vote activities in 2023. We will create neighborhood profiles for the voter work and hope to make the voter file data available at the neighborhood level as part of our indicators work.

The grassroots groups we collaborate with represent a variety of communities in Hartford, including people who live and work in their neighborhoods (as well as those who don't) who seek to encourage Hartford residents that they have the power to influence the decisions made about their own lives in the city of Hartford. This work advances equity in the city of Hartford and will only be as strong as our partnerships and collaboration. In addition, this work exemplifies a long-held value of ours to "liberate data," pulling data from a format that is unusable by the people who really need it and making it useful for informed decision-making.

North Hartford Ascend Pipeline/Promise Neighborhoods

The North Hartford Ascend Pipeline (NHAP) is a place-based initiative designed to develop an integrated pipeline of programs and services to support students and families residing in the three North Hartford neighborhoods within the federally-designated Promise Zone (Clay Arsenal, Upper Albany, Northeast). This project is funded through a U.S. Department of Education (DOE) Promise Neighborhood grant for 2022 through 2026.

CTData, through the Hartford Data Collaborative, will act as the convener and facilitator of the data-sharing component of the NHAP initiative. HDC will be involved in ethical data collection, integration, and warehousing of longitudinal data about North Hartford residents for analysis, reporting, and creating public-facing data dashboards. HDC will employ a multi-tiered approach with the NHAP evaluation partner, the Center for Social Research at the University of Hartford, for individual, programmatic, and population-level data. HDC will collect data to

answer research questions related to whether North End residents receive services and participate in programs tailored to their unique needs. Additionally, the data collected will inform the initiative as to the extent to which each program or service improves outcomes for the students and families they serve.

HDC staff will support the identification and mapping of the provider and referral network that feeds into the data/performance indicators of the project. To improve program capacity building, HDC will perform the initial scanning of provider data systems/collection methods to identify data fields being collected and create a living data dictionary. Furthermore, data experts at CTData will work with agencies to assess their data capabilities and data standardization challenges and offer assistance. HDC will conduct outreach to all participating providers to ensure ethical Data sharing, linking, and management.

HDC is serving as the data backbone entity for the North Hartford Promise Neighborhood grant. HDC is responsible for the collection and integration of program data and linking program data with State Department of Education outcome data. Our responsibilities include: establishing a governance process; increasing the data capacity of CBOs and residents; addressing standardization issues across programs; and continuous data quality improvement and sharing results with the community. If needed, HDC will also perform descriptive analyses and reporting of the datasets. HDC staff will review all data reports before public dissemination. HDC will create public-facing data hub to share with residents the public neighborhood data that is collected. This public interface will serve as a mechanism to engage community and residents in meaningful ways on data that impacts them.

Future Plans and Sustainability

CTData is confident in its ability to continue to grow and deepen our current work. In the past year and half, we have nearly doubled both our revenue and staff. CTData recently completed a three-year strategic plan to help focus the organization and further its growth. Our strategic plan includes a goal of deepening community engagement in Hartford. With the start of the Hartford Data Collaborative and expansion of our youth work in Hartford, we see this as an area of importance to helping the community engage and direct action through data. This work will be sustained by a 2-year core support grant of \$130,000/year received from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in July 2023 and as part of our DOE funding through the Hartford Promise Zone grant through 2026. We also will continue to seek out new partnerships in Hartford, providing and compiling neighborhood-level data that is useful to people living in Hartford, including the Hartford Youth Researchers.

In addition, our strategic plan identified the need to hire a development and communications director which will help CTData sustain and grow its current work both in Hartford and statewide.

Neighborhood Data

Given our work on all these different projects in Hartford, we are currently designing an indicators hub for Hartford data that would make the following work available and accessible to the community:

- **Neighborhood maps:** As part of our role in the Promise Neighborhoods/North Hartford Ascend Pipeline, we are developing detailed neighborhood data maps for population indicators using Census data as well as resident services such as public transportation and childcare. We are in the process of creating a data sharing agreement to allow 2-1-1 resources to be integrated with this map to provide residents with information about basic needs and other social services. The indicators that are being used were developed in conversations with the Family Navigation Subcommittee of the NHAP project. ‘Speak out loud’ sessions were facilitated with residents to provide feedback on the initial prototype of the mapping tool which will be incorporated into the final version.
- **Data dashboards:** We will also be creating neighborhood dashboards to show programmatic data for the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline project. For this work, we are providing TA and collaborating with over 40 community-based organizations, community members, city agencies, health care clinics, the local children’s hospital the local school district, and the State Department of Education. We will engage with the community through partner and community conversations about what data is important to them, and will use that to inform our neighborhood data work. This work is funded by the US Department of Education.
- **Hartford-based research projects:** CTData is developing its internal research capacity as we plan to provide public reports on our work on Hartford young children, the impact of city investments in children & youth engagement, and justice-involved youth in the fall of 2023 and into the first half of 2024.

Local Environment for Community Information

The Hartford Data Collaborative has a strong connection and collaborative relationship with the City of Hartford through multiple data projects aimed at supporting the city’s work for residents ages birth through 24. Starting in 2021, the City of Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth, and Recreation (DFCYR) required all its grantees receiving over \$5,000 in city funds to provide program participant data to HDC to help share insights about the collective impact of city-funded programs serving children and youth. This started with the UNITY project, where grantees signed an EMOU and DSA with HDC to share data about program participation that was analyzed by HDC staff and youth researchers and shared with city staff

in a Data Walk and final report. HDC is also working with the city of Hartford to curate data about its residents and provide greater access to the data by the residents, such as maps of where children live with the location of resources related to kindergarten readiness . By doing so, we hope to improve informed decision-making in Hartford.

The local data ecosystem includes several different institutions, most of which provide data either at the city level or through data projects that are standardized across the state:

- DataHaven—a NNIP partner —is a statewide data organization in Connecticut whose mission is “to. Empower people to create thriving communities by collecting and ensuring access to data on well-being, equity, and quality of life.” In addition to their well-being survey, which provides data primarily at the city level (and will be providing data at the neighborhood level for the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline project), other products include standardized neighborhood profiles, Town Equity Profiles, and data files.
- City of Hartford Data Portal/GIS services: The City of Hartford also has an open data portal. However, much of the data is not kept up-to-date due to a change in leadership at the City and priority changes.
- United Way of CT: The UW of CT is responsible for the collection and dissemination of 2-1-1 data. We currently have a Data Sharing Agreement with 2-1-1 that will enable us to update a Hartford map with services available by neighborhood through an API. This project will also show ACS data by Hartford neighborhood in addition to the 2-1-1 service data (to be released end of August/September 2023).
- Connecticut Data Portal: We host some data on the portal, and Michelle Riordan-Nold is a member of the State Data Board that supports the growth of this portal.
- AdvanceCT: A statewide nonprofit economic development agency, for 25 years, AndvanceCT (formerly Connecticut Economic Resource Center) has been producing Town Profiles. About 8 years ago, CTData partnered with AdvanceCT to develop the profiles and make them available online. The profiles are for all 169 towns and include demographic, economic, labor force, and education data. [Connecticut Town Profiles by CTData Collaborative](#)
- Partnership for Strong Communities (PSC): PSC has created Housing Profiles for many years in PDF form, and several years ago, we began collaborating with them to make an interactive Housing Profiles platform as well as provide 169 town profiles in PDF format, providing demographic and housing information for all towns. [Housing Data Profiles – Connecticut \(pschousing.org\)](#)

Potential Relationship to NNIP

How do you expect NNIP membership would benefit your organization?

NNIP membership would benefit CTData in many ways, including:

- Exposure to innovative ideas that we could apply in Hartford.
- Connection to a network of experts doing similar work.
- Connection with more national funders who can provide funding at a larger scale.
- Increased visibility of the work we do in Hartford.
- The opportunity to live out our value of collaborating more deeply with people “in the data” and “data for equity.”
- The opportunity to learn from other data people who are also trying to integrate an asset and strengths-based frame to their work so we can apply it to ours.
- Exposure to important topics that we can bring to our monthly Equity in Data Community of Practice meetings.
- Gaining more ideas about how to strengthen our partnerships with and focus on Hartford’s neighborhoods, and helping to make sure Hartford doesn’t get lost in data discussions.
- Lessons from other NNIP partners in how to strengthen collaborations and collaborative work.

What distinctive perspective, experience, or expertise can you contribute to the NNIP peer-learning network?

- As the CT State Data Center, we have a deep understanding of Census data that we can contribute.
- Extensive experience in providing data capacity-building training.
- Experience with fee-for-service and earned income (a social enterprise), with many lessons learned along the way.
- Convenings – we have long had success in convening data users across the state so they can develop stronger connections. We run an annual conference that has had great success and continues to grow and have lessons we can share.
- Youth participatory action research
- Equity in Data Community of Practice
- Youth data literacy training in both high school and community college settings.
- Collaborating – the network is strong at collaborations, and we can contribute what we have learned to this strength.
- Lessons and experience working with smaller cities and spanning geographies so that we can contribute to larger, systemic change (working at the state level, working with large organizations in the same geographic region, etc.).

References

- Kelly Casey, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Kelly is our program officer for operations funding we are going to be receiving from HFPG, and she is also part of the learning and evaluation team of HFPG.
- Dr. Paul Dworkin, Executive Vice President for Community Child Health at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Principal Investigator for the Promise Neighborhoods/North Hartford Ascend Pipeline project, member HDC Executive Board.
- Kristina Baldwin Director of the City of Hartford's Department of Families, Children, Youth & Recreation. Kristina co-chairs the Hartford Data Collaborative's Executive Board, is connected with many of HDC's projects, and promotes the use of data to drive decision-making about children and youth in Hartford.
- Marion Griffin, Hartford Next. We collaborated with Marion on designing the first Hartford Voting Data project, and are collaborating with Marion again in 2023. Marion reaches out from time-to-time for data and is interested in pulling together her network to help identify Hartford neighborhood indicators.