**Make the Network Work for You: Small Groups Discussion**

1. **Develop guides (Noah Urban, Olivia Arena)**

NNIPHQ develops guides and other written resources based on the collective experiences of the network to build the capacity of and sustain data intermediaries.

* As part of the OMH project, we created a list of potential topics for guides. Does good guidance on these topics already exist? If so, where? What would you prioritize?
  + Assembling the right staff
  + Strategies for data providers and data intermediaries to improve data sharing
  + Navigating a (re)branding process
  + Operating a local data intermediary in the university context
  + Building a culture of data locally with “data days”
  + Using strategic communications to promote visibility of services and the value of data intermediaries
  + Communicating effectively to lay audiences
  + Advancing racial equity through communications
* What additional topics would you add to the list?

1. **Facilitate peer support and dialogue (Bob Gradeck, Rob Pitingolo)**

NNIPHQ helps to convene Partners formally and informally to encourage sharing of expertise.

* *Technology*: We already held a brainstorming call to discuss a potential technology committee.
  + Would you or your colleagues participate?
  + What kinds of topics would you want to see covered?
  + What kinds of communication (video calls, slack, etc.) would be most efficient and effective?
  + How else can Partners learn from one another and collaborate on technology projects?
* *Pre-session ideas*
  + Are pre-sessions too time-consuming with the 3-day general meeting?
  + If not, what topics deserve this in-depth attention?
  + What are your suggestions for getting the most out of pre-sessions?
* *Other ideas for peer exchange*

1. **Share stories of impact (April Urban, Sara McTarnaghan)**

NNIPHQ has drafted or has planned several collections of stories that will inform specific audiences and describe the value of local data intermediary services. The stories also provide examples for others in the network.

* + What themes or topics would be helpful to your organization (either for positive communications or to learn from others)?
  + What policy issues can we speak to across sites?
  + Examples: vacant and abandoned housing, charter schools, environment, transportation

1. **Develop cross-site projects (Laura McKieran, Leah Hendey)**

Cross-site projects explore themes or research questions across several cities and contexts. The projects generate new local policy and programmatic responses, offer insights into urban communities across the country, suggest lessons for national audiences, and show the importance of using data in decisionmaking.

* + What policy issues can we speak to across sites?
  + Analyzing types and amounts of neighborhood investments (Twin Cities example)
  + Health or health and housing
  + Advance practices on racial equity
  + Police practices
  + Other ideas?

1. **Conduct national outreach (Mark Abraham, Kathy Pettit, Mychal Cohen)**

NNIPHQ staff engage other national organizations (e.g. Sunlight Foundation, Living Cities, etc.) formally and informally to share lessons from our local partners, promote the importance of understanding neighborhood conditions, and encourage the use of data for community improvement. This would include engaging with national networks that have local affiliates like LISC, United Way, and Code for America as well as types of organizations present in most regions, like metropolitan planning organizations.

* + In which national spaces should NNIP and its Partners be represented that we aren’t currently?
  + How can we raise the visibility of the community information field with national and local foundations?