

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership Application

Applicant Organization

Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University

Organization Website

<http://kinder.rice.edu/>

Main Contact for NNIP (Name, Contact Information):

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Organizational Structure (University, Community Development Organization, etc.):

University, Research Institute

Current Geographic Area of Focus:

Houston metropolitan area that includes the following counties -

Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller

Current Staffing: 1) Total organization size and 2) list of key staff members involved in your indicators work along with a sentence describing their roles:

1) The Kinder Institute for Urban Research has a staff of 45 people, including affiliated faculty who serve as directors of key programs. With the recent research grant from the Houston Endowment Inc., the Kinder Institute for Urban Research hired additional researchers and support staff to construct Urban Data Platform and develop three new

research programs, including **the Houston Community Data Connections (HCDC) initiative** under the Urban Disparity & Opportunity program. The services we offer the community through HCDC will be supported jointly by the institute's Urban Data Platform team, the Urban Disparity & Opportunity research team and other research team.

2) Key staff involved in HCDC work –

Houston Community Data Connections (HCDC) is an initiative at the Kinder Institute that aims to provide a cluster of data and research services to the community. Our goal is to help facilitate the direct practical use of data by city and community leaders to build the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed urban neighborhoods.

Below is the key staff involved in this work.

Bill Fulton

Director

William “Bill” Fulton, a recognized urban-planning expert, was brought to Rice in the fall of 2014 to serve as the Kinder Institute's director. Bill serves on the Urban Data Platform (UDP) Oversight Committee and currently is the acting director for Urban Disparity & Opportunity (UDO) program.

Jie Wu

Director of Research Management

HCDC Manager

Jie currently acts as the manager for the HCDC. She is responsible for negotiating for administrative data, creating business plan and coordinating with the HCDC's Steering Committee and other community organizations. She manages a diverse portfolio of applied research and services at the Kinder Institute, and also serves on the UDP Oversight Committee.

Dr. Kathy Ensor

Director of Urban Data Platform, Professor of Statistics

Dr. Ensor leads a professional team to construct the Urban Data Platform (UDP), a data repository that brings together a broad array of data with geospatial information. The UDP team consists of one senior data manager, two data analysts and programmers, four GIS experts (developer, analyst, and technician), two statisticians (faculty) and two graduate students. The team also hired four interns this summer to help with data documentation and training workshops. Data assets stored on the Urban Data Platform will be used to develop the neighborhood indicator system. In addition, the UDP team will also help create the online data portal and data visualization tool for the indicator project.

Dr. Heather O'Connell***Urban Disparity & Opportunity (UDO) Research Fellow***

Dr. O'Connell is responsible for preparing and analyzing the data, conducting research on poverty and urban disparity, creating reports and presentation, and providing research assistance to community organizations. She also works with research fellows and post-baccalaureate fellows in other program areas to assist with research needs associated with HCDC work.

Amanda Macune***Outreach Coordinator******Program Coordinator, Community Bridges***

Amanda assists in developing and sustaining relationship with funders, government agencies, community-based organizations and community development corporations to further the program's goals. She also coordinates with organizations to identify data and research needs, and possible data sharing opportunities. In addition, she is responsible for managing student assistants through Community Bridges to provide proper Help Desk services.

HCDC Research Analyst

We are in the process of hiring a researcher to work on collecting, analyzing and disseminating data from original and secondary sources on a range of topics, and to build and maintain the neighborhood indicator system with a wide array of indicators that track trends in community well-being and quality of life.

HCDC Steering Committee

A nine-member Steering Committee was formed for HCDC. The purpose of the steering committee is to guide the HCDC's priority points, and identify innovative ways in which the HCDC can work with other community organizations to build a stronger program.

Faculty Advisors, Urban Disparity & Opportunity (UDO)

A couple of Rice University faculty members are invited to lead the cross-disciplinary research on urban disparity with a focus on the community-based research. The UDO program aims to tackle challenges in education, health, housing, public safety, mobility, and economic opportunity.

Current Major Funding (Funding sources and total organization budget):

Founded in 2010, the Kinder Institute was endowed with a \$15 million gift from Houston philanthropists Rich and Nancy Kinder.

In early 2016, the Kinder Institute received a 3-year, \$7 million grant from Houston Endowment Inc. to support a wide variety of activities, including the HCDC operation.

Board/Advisory Board Composition (List members and affiliations):

Kinder Institute Advisory Board

<http://kinder.rice.edu/board/>

HCDC Steering Committee

A nine-member Steering Committee was recently formed for the Houston Community Data Connections (HCDC). The purpose of the steering committee is to guide the HCDC's priority points, and identify innovative ways in which the HCDC can work with other community organizations to build a stronger program. Some of the steering committee members are also key data contributors to support our indicator project.

<http://kinder.rice.edu/hcdc/committee/>

Organizational Mission:

The Mission of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research

Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research is a "think and do" tank that advances understanding of the challenges facing Houston and other urban centers through rigorous research, policy analysis, and public outreach. By collaborating with civic and political leaders, the Kinder Institute aims to implement promising solutions to these critical urban issues in Houston, the American Sunbelt and around the world.

Brief History of Organization:

The Kinder Institute for Urban Research is an independent multi-disciplinary "think-and-do" tank housed on the Rice University campus in Houston. Founded in 2010, the Kinder Institute was endowed with a \$15 million gift from Houston philanthropists Rich and Nancy Kinder.

The Kinder Institute was designed to serve as a center for translational research on urban issues facing Houston and other urban centers. It has three established programs with robust and well-supported research efforts. Namely, Kinder Houston Area Survey, Urban Education and Workforce Program, and the Urban Health Program.

Houston's rapid growth, coupled with increasing urban disparities, has strained a network of nonprofit service providers and precipitated a number of pressing governance, infrastructure and development changes. To respond to the breadth of

challenges facing Houston and other fast growing cities, the Kinder Institute has increased the scope of its research capability by adding new program areas with a focus on community based research, i.e. Urban Disparity and Opportunity (UDO); Urban Development, Transportation, and Placemaking (DT&P); Urban and Metropolitan Governance (UMG).

On Rice campus, we partner with academic units to increase the research capacity, including the School of Architecture, the School of Social Sciences, the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, the Shell Center for Sustainability, the SSPEED Center, and the Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology. Externally, we develop research partnership with other universities and think tanks such as the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, the Urban Institute, the University of Texas School of Public Health, the National Resource Network and the MetroLab Network.

How does your mission align with the required NNIP partner activities as listed in the cover memo?

The Kinder Institute has a diverse set of research initiatives, program areas, and outreach efforts, many of which have garnered national attention. Through translational research, we collaborate with civic and political leaders to tackle critical urban issues, promote practical use of data, and facilitate the implementation of promising solutions. By formally adopting the NNIP model and serving as a local data intermediary through HCDC, the Kinder Institute would have the opportunity to re-assess the internal assets and resources, and restructure the research team in order to conduct more focused research and help build the capacity of local community organizations and residents in distressed neighborhoods.

This line of work would also create opportunities to develop more collaboration with local and national organizations, help expand our work and strengthen the institute's public outreach effort.

Partnering with LISC-Houston, the Kinder Institute has hosted a series of community data forums to assess the local data environment over the past year. Those meetings were well attended by approximately 30 institutions, community organizations, and government agencies. The community groups, which included most of the city's prominent community development corporations, have indicated that combining the city's administrative data with data assets already housed at the Kinder Institute could vastly increase their ability to use research to advance their missions.

With consultation with a few organizations, researchers have divided Harris County into 143 "Community Tabulation Areas," which approximate meaningful neighborhoods

and other social geographies but align with census tract boundaries, to support the neighborhood indicator project.

Please describe three to five selected past or current projects that demonstrate 1) the facilitation of the use of neighborhood data by local actors in community building and local policymaking and 2) an emphasis on using information to build the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed neighborhoods.

The Kinder Institute have begun to work on specific community based projects under several research programs. We have partnered with numerous organizations throughout the city on a number of different projects to enhance our work on research that focuses on distressed neighborhoods.

Below are a few project examples. Specifically, those research activities involve 1) assemble, transform and analyze data; 2) disseminate information and apply data to achieve social and policy impacts; and 3) use data to strengthen civic capacity and engagement.

Urban Redevelopment Plan in the Third Ward

The Third Ward is one of the six historic wards of Houston, with a predominantly African American community. We are currently working with a couple of philanthropist foundations, the city's planning & development department, as well as a number of community-based organizations on an urban redevelopment plan in the Third Ward.

In particular, researchers from the Kinder Institute are conducting a policy landscape project for Project Row Houses Inc. and the broader Emancipation Community Development Partnership, with the goal to identify policy objectives and potential policy solutions to help preserve the African American community during gentrification. Our researchers will collaborate with experts at Sankofa Research Institute, and work closely with community leaders to compile a report on five key study areas, namely affordable housing, economic development, cultural and historic preservation, education and public health.

The report is intended to support the next steps of a major philanthropic effort in the Third Ward. The policy options we outline may be pursued by the organizing bodies in charge of next steps. In addition to working for the Emancipation Community Development Partnership, our work is being looked at and tweaked in response to input from the Emancipation Economic Development Council a consortium of community groups led by Project Row and Third Ward churches. The research will be compiled and presented to the client in December 2016.

Houston In Flux: Understanding a Decade of Bayou City Development

Earlier this year, the Kinder Institute published a report that quantifies, visualizes and analyzes new construction and demolition in Harris County between 2005 and 2015. By showing both demolition and construction, this report spotlights the effects of economic booms and busts, illuminates the locations where development pressures are either most extreme or nonexistent and draws attention to communities rebuilding themselves within a decade. This work is a good example of a series of forthcoming Kinder Institute “landscape” analyses that will establish a baseline understanding of critical issues facing Houston’s communities.

The researchers have also created [an interactive online map](#) where redevelopment, preservation, outward growth and gentrification can be spotted by community members. The map provides an accessible tool that citizens, public entities, businesses and community-based organizations can utilize to better understand their respective communities.

Fifth Ward and Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Launched in 2011, the Community Bridges program aims to strengthen the relationship between Rice University and Houston's historic Fifth Ward. Undergraduates selected to serve as Community Bridges Fellows work with the Fifth Ward community to develop projects that aim to reduce poverty and address critical needs identified by Fifth Ward residents. In the past five years, we have developed and maintained good working relationship with 11 community partners. This successful program is now incorporated into our HCDC work so that Community Bridges fellows can help provide proper Help Desk services under the program coordinator’s supervision.

Last year, two students designed and implemented a survey to collect data on how their host organization, the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation (CRC), could serve the community more effectively. Their survey design was based on previous studies of the Fifth Ward as well as specific data needs of the CRC and Buffalo Bayou Partnership, another organization working in the Fifth Ward neighborhood. They found that residents overwhelmingly agree that the best thing about living in the Fifth Ward is the sense of community, and the area needed the most improvement is safety and crime.

By providing support to both organizations, our students were able to identify common areas of interests and helped facilitate a collaboration that may not have otherwise taken place. In particular, the students used their GIS skills to create a map that illustrate the lack of connection between the Fifth Ward and the Buffalo Bayou. The survey found that 81 percent of the area residents indicated they would use a trail

between the community and Buffalo Bayou. Other desires include playground facilities, youth activities, and access to nature. These results specifically informed recommendations for a plan to build a trail between the community and Buffalo Bayou in the near future.

Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC)

The partnership between Rice University and the Houston Independent School District (HISD) brings together education researchers and decision-makers to ensure all children have access to a high quality education, regardless of economic status or where they live. Through this ongoing partnership, the research team, led by Professor Ruth Lopez Turley, has access to record-level student data for the entire school district since 2007. HERC's research agenda is informed by the needs of leaders in the school district, and the decisions of these leaders are informed by the research produced by HERC research team as well as affiliated researchers.

Recently, Dr. Turley is working with Harris County Juvenile Probation Department to obtain juvenile justice data with the hope to be able to link it with HISD student records. The goal of this work is to find out good intervention options for disengaged youth who have left the education system for the juvenile system.

Houston Disparity Atlas

One of the early efforts of the Urban Disparity program is to document spatial disparities. Researchers created a series of maps called "Houston Disparity Atlas" to illustrate disparities and provide a comprehensive look at the evolution of the area's racial/ethnic composition on a small geographic scale. Those maps also show where Houston's economic opportunities and challenges are concentrated.

These maps facilitated the discussion among members of Mayor Sylvester Turner's [economic opportunity transition committee](#), and later were used in its final report to highlight the importance of improving economic opportunity for marginalized communities and neighborhoods. In particular, the report recommends a "City that Works!" initiative which includes two elements that were recognized as areas where the Kinder Institute's research would be able to support.

- 1) Systematically focusing on marginalized communities and neighborhoods with higher poverty and unemployment rates; and
- 2) Establish public economic opportunity goals and measures of success using an "Economic Opportunity Dashboard" to review indicators toward progress on a regular basis.

Opportunity Youth and Young Adults

Recently we have completed a research project on Opportunity Youth and Young Adults in Houston, i.e. young people ages 16 to 24 that neither work nor attend school. We collaborated with University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH) and conducted interviews with 22 stakeholders and focus groups with 25 young adults. The purpose of the study is to elevate the magnitude of the issue, provide a means for stakeholders to operate using the same set of facts and reach consensus on action items.

Throughout the project, the research was guided by an Advisory Committee that consists of researchers, service providers, business supporters, major workforce intermediaries, school districts and community colleges, government agencies and community leaders. Their input provided insight into the issues, and ensured their “buy-in” to disseminate the findings of the research and support the strategies and recommendations presented in the report.

At the same time, by convening this group of practitioners and change agents from more than 30 organizations, we were able to connect people across sectors, disciplines and geographies, and create an opportunity for communities to share learning from both successful and unsuccessful experiences to depend collective knowledge. For example, a couple of nonprofits and workforce intermediaries were connected with community colleges to develop new training programs for the region’s youth, especially those living in the distressed neighborhood. Another group of nonprofits decided to work together to address the data sharing issues to better serve the homeless youth and those “dual-status” youth, i.e. youth who have been part of both the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system.

Kinder Houston Area Survey (KHAS)

For 35 years, under the direction of Professor Stephen Klineberg, the groundbreaking Kinder Houston Area Survey has tracked Houston’s economic and demographic changes while chronicling the ways the area residents react to these social transformations. This on-going research has been used to encourage serious and fruitful dialogues among leaders from Houston’s major ethnic communities, on topics such as interethnic relations, urban inequalities, and cultural diversity. Survey findings were also used to support local initiatives on early childhood education and workforce development to help the underserved communities to get more services and resources. In addition, lead researchers are often invited to speak at various events to disseminate the key findings to community members.

In 2012 and 2013, we have provided “Research to Action” workshops to teach nonprofit workers how to use census data and the KHAS data for grant writing and reporting. We plan to continue the workshop in the future through our HCDC program.

Plans for Future (Broad goals, new projects or topic areas being developed, data acquisition plans, etc.):

Having a better understanding of the local data environment, the research team is working on building a robust neighborhood data system, built on data placed on the Urban Data Platform to provide information on social and environmental aspects of quality of life, demographic transformation and economic development at county, city and neighborhood level. An online portal will be created for data access and visualization reporting. Such a data system, to be maintained on a regular basis, could also help ensure the efficiency in resource allocation and service delivery.

Our Urban Data Platform team has identified more than 140 data sources and is spearheading the effort to acquire more data sets with a priority set by its oversight committee.

We plan to survey community organizations to select indicators across topical domains to establish a baseline understanding of Houston's neighborhood conditions, and to collectively track trends in community well-being and quality of life, such as the "Economic Opportunity Dashboard" mentioned earlier. We are currently in discussion with organizations in the Fifth Ward, the Third Ward, and the East End that are interested in collaborating with the Kinder Institute and developing such a community indicator project in Harris County.

As a reliable local data intermediary, the Kinder Institute will conduct cross-disciplinary research and provide research assistance to support data-driven and evidence-based decision making and community building. We will continue proactively assisting various types of users and helping them to understand and work with the data. For organizations that lack analytical capability, we will provide the following services at a reduced rate or at no cost, depending on the situation:

- 1) Data access and assistance in creating data visualization to make information more accessible;
- 2) Assistance in research design and data analysis to better understand the questions of interests;
- 3) Training workshops on how to collect data, make use of data for strategic planning, and use available online sources to support the organization's work;
- 4) Community outreach services to facilitate convenings of partners and encourage dialogues among different groups.

With the help of the Steering Committee, we developed a fee and waiver structure for the Houston Community Data Connections (HCDC). In its first year, the Kinder Institute will offer up to two hours of free Help Desk service to any organization requesting

assistance. If a request will take two to ten hours of a staff researcher's time, the program manager will communicate with the organization to see if it is possible to charge a small fee on hourly basis. If a request or project requires more than ten hours of research time, the program manager will create a proposal and negotiate a moderate fee with the requesting organization. Organizations and agencies who contribute data or agree to share data with the Kinder Institute's Urban Data Platform would receive discounts on research services.

In addition, the Kinder Institute are developing research projects with a focus on problems that will have an immediate on-the-ground impact in Houston's various communities. For example, distribution of streetlights across Houston's neighborhoods and how their concentration relates to other neighborhood characteristics, namely racial/ethnic composition and economic conditions. How is proximity to clinics related to teenage birth rates? Are there disparities in clinic proximity based on neighborhood characteristics?

Finally, we are working with Jones Graduate School of Business to develop a pilot project on examining the institutional landscape and organizational strategies of non-profit organizations in underserved neighborhoods with a goal to gain efficiencies and improve effectiveness of service delivery, with a focus on the food deserts issue.

Please describe your organization's relationship with city or county agencies, staff and elected officials around the use and application of neighborhood data. (E.g. recent projects or collaborations, briefings, requests for input or advice. Do not describe relationships only related to obtaining administrative data):

The local government, including elected officials and agency staff, is a critical stakeholder for the Kinder Institute and the HCDC. In general, we seek to foster a relationship with local government that we are considered as the best go to place for reliable advice and technical assistance. We are willing to help them become savvy users of information, and work with them to advance data-driven decision making.

The City of Houston

In September 2015, Rice University and the City of Houston joined the national [MetroLab Network](#) and established a partnership, known as "[Houston Solutions Lab](#)," that focuses on solutions to the challenges confronting urban infrastructure, city services and civic engagement. Experts at the Kinder Institute work closely with the Mayor's Office of Innovation & Performance to modernize the way the City serves its people. We play a key role in putting the available data into context and generating ideas about which urban problems that data can help address.

Built on this partnership, we have completed three projects using neighborhood data to analyze impact of housing change on neighborhoods, impact of streetlights on neighborhoods, and bike-share usage and accessibility of bike-share station locations in Houston.

To further our work to facilitate and promote the direct practical use of data by community and government leaders, Rice University and the City of Houston will host a symposium in October 2016 to encourage dialogues between the City's department heads, key personnel in Mayor's office and researchers at Rice University, and to identify most pressing issues to promote community wellbeing and improve city services.

Request for input/advice

Mayor Sylvester Turner's pothole initiative started shortly after his inauguration. When a local news media questioned how reliable the city of Houston's claims about its one-day pothole repair efforts, the Mayor's office asked the Kinder Institute to conduct [an independent verification](#). Our researchers went through data of 311 reports, service requests and work orders for potholes, and confirmed that the stats Mayor Turner has been keeping on the pothole project are accurate.

Harris County

Kinder Institute had several conversations with the County Judge Ed Emmett and commissioners. Our research products produced through the Urban and Metropolitan Governance program have been used to facilitate the dialogues on county budget, public infrastructure and service issues.

Houston Health Department (HHD)

The Kinder Institute and the Houston Health Department have collaborated on multiple projects during the past few years. For example, data from the Kinder Houston Area Survey, the Asian Survey and the Health Survey have supported several research endeavor undertaken by HHD. Recently, HHD approached the Institute to seek support on My Brother's Keeper Houston initiative through the Urban Disparity & Opportunity program. On the other hand, HHD has shared many data assets with the Kinder Institute, including 911 call data and blood lead level data.

Houston Housing Authority (HHA)

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to low-income Houstonians. It also administers the nation's third largest voucher program exclusively serving homeless veterans. Kinder Institute is in the process of acquiring data from the agency and creating research projects to understand the use of those programs by low-

income Houstonians and help the agency to develop strategies to provide a full array of opportunities and help low-income families achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)

METRO is a major public transportation agency that operates bus, light rail, bus rapid transit and paratransit service in the city of Houston as well as most of Harris County. Through our DT&P program, Kinder Institute is communicating with METRO to acquire most recent ridership data with the New Bus Network. In the past, researchers at the Kinder Institute assisted METRO with analysis of bus services, and we seek to advance the collaboration.

What other groups and organizations in your region perform local data intermediary functions? Please describe any current or past activities you have collaborated on with them:

Below are several organizations in Houston who perform some local data intermediary functions. Specifically, those organizations have access to data that we are connected with in a range of ways, yet none focuses on the neighborhood level or provides any types of community services, so your work will be complementary.

Center for Houston's Future (CHF)

The Center for Houston's Future is a nonprofit that works to solve the region's problems by engaging leaders, providing research and defining actionable strategies. The Center provided indicators on social, ecological and economic factors at regional level. Those indicators are not updated at a regular basis. In the past, CHF has requested access to the Kinder Houston Area Survey data and other survey data, and asked for technical assistance to prepare for their Community Indicator Report. Currently the indicator project is not active.

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

H-GAC is the regional organization through which local governments consider issues and cooperate in solving area wide programs. H-GAC provides data services and human services for 13 counties, and created indicators to track economic conditions at regional or county level.

The Kinder Institute and H-GAC have a positive relationship that supports each other's work. For example, H-GAC shared transportation analysis and labor market data with us to help with specific research projects. Kinder Institute has provided expertise on urban planning and other social issues to support H-GAC regional development strategies.

Greater Houston Partnership (GHP)

GHP is a partnership among community-minded business leaders who want to be involved in Houston's economic growth and influence the direction in which Houston is going. Currently GHP serves over 1,200 member companies in the 11-county Houston region. Its research division gathers information and provides regional indicators, data analysis, economic forecasting and mapping functions for the Partnership's initiatives.

Kinder Institute has a very positive relationship with GHP's research division as well as its regional workforce development division. The two institutions share data and information to support each other's work.

Shell Center for Sustainability at Rice University

The Shell Center for Sustainability, which is housed in the School of Social Sciences at Rice University, funds an interdisciplinary program of research, outreach, and education focused on sustainable development and quality of life, including environmental resources. The Shell Center houses the Houston Sustainability Indicators (HSI) project, which provides sustainability metrics for the Houston region. HSI's metrics are available at the city, council district, and "super-neighborhood" level, though not at the neighborhood-specific level.

The Kinder Institute has collaborated with the Shell Center on several projects, including one research effort documenting governance of the Houston Ship Channel. Although Shell is not formally a part of this application, we are hopeful of future collaborations.

Community Design Resource Center, University of Houston

Community Design Resource Center (CDRC) works to address issues of community development, design, planning, and affordable housing through design projects in partnership with communities. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life in low-to-moderate income communities through the Houston region. Their work has contributed to the public debate on the role of architecture and good design in catalyzing community change.

The Kinder Institute and CDRC have a positive relationship that supports each other's work, especially through our DT&P program. The director of CDRC, Susan Rogers, serves on HCDC Steering Committee who guides our work to serve as a local data intermediary.

How do you expect NNIP membership would benefit your organization?

Nonprofit entities play a key role in Houston, a trend that is likely to continue with the rise of philanthropy, thus Houston becomes an important testing ground for the role nonprofits play, both as service providers and as funders. On the other hand, today's political and technological environment offers great opportunities for us to partner with others, and use data to improve government and nonprofit operations and promote informed civic participation. We intend to go forward to serve as a local data intermediary regardless of the NNIP membership.

However, being accepted to the NNIP network would enable us to learn from other NNIP partners and continuously improve our work. For example, the Kinder Institute has offered workshops to local organizations in the past to train their staff how to access public data and conduct basic analysis. We are eager to learn from other partners to build a more practical curriculum on use of data and online analytical tools.

As the institutional home for Houston Community Data Connections, the Kinder Institute hosts many shared learning events. The NNIP membership would not only benefit our organization, but many other organizations and community members in Houston.

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

The Kinder Institute's success has always been rooted in its ability to produce groundbreaking scholarly research that reaches beyond academia and can provide decision makers with the information they need. Starting first with the Kinder Houston Area Survey, the Kinder Institute for Urban Research has decades-long credibility as an independent source of information about demographic and attitudinal changes in the Houston region. Research products produced by the Kinder Institute have been used by local elected officials, philanthropists, and business leaders to help guide their actions.

With its successful programs in education, health, governance and built environment, the Kinder Institute has further established itself both as a trusted research partner, and as a neutral convener for substantive discussions leading toward on-the-ground action. With the addition of the Urban Data Platform to its research portfolio, the Kinder Institute will further leverage Rice's widely acknowledged core data science capabilities as well its statistical expertise.

We would be delighted to share with other NNIP partners our experience in working with different types of stakeholders, facilitating local organizations in evidence-based decision making, and informing local and regional policy based on data and policy analysis. Our research staff is willing to share their expertise on specific subject matter, as well as knowledge in data management and analytical tools through the peer learning network.

Please list three references with contact information that can provide insight on your qualifications for NNIP (preferably mix of government and nonprofit collaborators). Please include a sentence or two on your relationship to them.

Name	Title	Organization	Email	Relationship
Amanda Timm	Executive Director	LISC Greater Houston	atimm@lisc.org	Kinder Institute has been working with LISC Greater Houston and other community stakeholders on the creation of a data and research service program in Houston.
Jessie Bounds	Deputy Assistant Director	Finance Department, City of Houston	jesse.bounds@houstontx.gov	Jesse is our point of contact at the city to develop a city-university partnership focused on research projects that offer technological and analytically-based solutions to challenges facing urban areas.
Marie Lynn Miranda	Provost	Rice University	mlm@rice.edu	At Rice University, Kinder Institute reports directly to the Provost's office.