National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

May 17 – 19, 2017   Baltimore, MD

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Guest Cities

Chicago, IL

Chicago has a wealth of organizations providing community data and data-related services. Smart Chicago Collaborative is exploring an arrangement to facilitate easier access to these resources for community groups. In this new role, they propose to amplify the existing work and research in Chicago's rich data ecosystem, investigate neighborhood indicators across policy silos, and identify and fill gaps in the community information infrastructure. The Collaborative is also completing an application to join NNIP. Key community information organizations represented at NNIP meetings are:

- *Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago* focuses on improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities through policy research— by developing and testing new ideas, generating and analyzing information, and examining policies, programs, and practices across a wide range of service systems and organizations.

- *Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University* provides reliable, impartial, and timely data and research to inform housing policy decisions and discussions about the state of housing in the Chicago region and nationally. IHS's work focuses on affordable housing issues and understanding the dynamics of neighborhood housing markets.

- *Smart Chicago Collaborative* is a civic organization devoted to improving lives in Chicago through technology. They work on increasing Internet access, improving skills for using the Internet, and developing meaningful products from data that measurably contribute to the quality of life of residents in the Chicago region and beyond.

Contacts: Greg Sanders (Chapin Hall), Geoff Smith (Institute for Housing Studies) and Denise Linn (Smart Chicago Collaborative)

Richmond, VA: The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University

The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) is an applied research center in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. CURA provides services to the public and private sector stakeholders in

greater Richmond region related to policy and program evaluation, economic impacts, decision-support systems, and strategic planning. For this purpose, over time, CURA has developed a region-wide socio-economic information system called MetroView and customized economic analysis models that enables the center to provide the clients with data interpretation and meaningful analysis to help them make informed decisions to move their organization's goals forward.

CURA was selected to receive technical assistance on setting up and sustaining local data intermediary functions in an effort funded by the Office of Minority Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services led by Data Driven Detroit and the Urban Institute.

Recent project examples include: MetroView, a regional information system and development tracker; mapping seniors' access to amenities and isolation in the Richmond area; and creating annual evaluation metrics to track progress toward the city's Poverty Reduction Program.

Contact: Sarin Adhikari, Research Economist

Durham, NC: Neighborhood Compass-City of Durham

Websites: http://compass.durhamnc.gov
http://durhamnc.gov/570/Neighborhood-Improvement-Services

The Neighborhood Compass is a project of the City of Durham, housed in Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS). The project's interactive web portal provides data that allows local government and residents to track progress on neighborhood improvement efforts and shifts in our overall quality of life. The Compass helps local government allocate resources and establish partnerships to track neighborhood quality of life, increase accountability, and target services to improve community conditions. Neighborhood & homeowners associations, nonprofits, businesses, academic institutions, and others can align resources with Neighborhood Compass data to advocate for change, guide program development and the use of resources, and inform neighborhood projects.

Major projects for the Neighborhood Compass in 2016 include:

- A collaboration with the information initiative at Duke University (iiD), measuring the prevalence of chronic ambient stress in neighborhoods, the relationship between housing conditions and household energy consumption; and the reliability of

multivariate neighborhood population change estimates. Analysis and visualization of data during this 10-week project will be used to foster neighborhood/research collaboration around these specific issues, culminating in a public forum drawing attention to the role of each particular issue in community life.

- An 18-month Duke Family Health resident research project assessing the utility of the Neighborhood Compass for delivering relevant social and environmental determinant information for physician-patient interactions. Patient care team trainings, focus groups, and in-clinic trials will be used to generate guidance on information design and delivery. A clinic-wide training and trial period will conclude the study.

Contact: John Killeen, Neighborhood Compass Project Manager

Memphis, TN: University of Memphis Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research

The Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research, or CAESER, is an applied research center based at the University of Memphis and works with a variety of public and private partners towards the goal of "building smarter, stronger communities" in both natural and human environments. The center utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to problem solving and contains researchers and students from a wide range of disciplines.

In addition to their work in spatial and community analysis, ground water monitoring and modeling, and custom application development, they also work in and with the community on education programs to teach the importance of sustaining natural resources.

Example projects include a partnership with area schools to optimize pedestrian safety between neighborhoods and schools, a community indicator visualization tool that spans geography, an assessment of impacts on the region's groundwater, and the development of a comprehensive blight data inventorying system to help community leaders and government officials track property conditions in their community.

CAESER was also selected to receive technical assistance on setting up and sustaining local data intermediary functions in an effort funded by the Office of Minority Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services led by Data Driven Detroit and the Urban Institute.

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