How Can I Participate in NNIP?

Membership in peer-learning networks like NNIP provides a variety of benefits to its partner organizations and staff. You benefit from the vast knowledge of the more than 30 partner organizations that share their expertise, work jointly on cross-city projects, and together promote the broader application of data to support informed decisionmaking and positive policy change in our communities.

Networks Matter!

Social networks improve the efficiency of the exchange, absorption, and application of information. NNIP members learn from others members that share their goals of using data to create positive change in their communities. They help them sort through the massive amounts of information about data sources, techniques for data analysis and visualization, technology, community engagement, organizational management, and fundraising. NNIP partners help other partners identify and use the data, strategies, and tools that work. These peer-to-peer interactions strengthen the benefits of the network for all members.

NNIP HQ supports the peer learning by providing the infrastructure that brings members together, records and shares their knowledge more broadly, and facilitates collaborative support for improving local and national policy.

Network Stewardship Takes Many Forms

NNIP has established a few formal expectations of NNIP partners to share knowledge in order to maintain the strength of the peer-learning environment. Active engagement by partners with NNIP keeps the network activities focused on the issues and activities that will provide the greatest benefit to partner organizations. But not every staff member at each partner organization needs to participate in NNIP in the same way, and not all of them are formal or facilitated by the NNIP HQ staff. This variation in type and level of participation gives you the ability to increase your engagement and take leadership in the network when desired and when it maximizes benefits for your organization. Check out the next page for ways to join the fun!

Formal Expectations of NNIP Partners

- Contribute to knowledge sharing and the supportive network
- Submit updates online on recent partner activities at least semi-annually
- Submit updates to your local data inventory
- Regularly attend and participate in meetings
- Check in annually with NNIP Headquarters staff
- Recognize and promote the network in presentations to local and national audiences
- Acknowledge NNIP on your website

Informal Ways to Participate

- Introduce new staff to the network
- Answer a call from a partner
- Respond to a post on the google group
- Invite a partner to speak at your local event
- Document your work to share with other partners.
- Reach out to newer NNIP partners
- Tweet with #NNIP
- Follow the NNIP Partner Twitter list
- Network with NNIP members at other conferences
- Use NNIP SWAG and logo to show your pride in the network!!
- Introduce NNIP to potential funders
- Acknowledge NNIP in presentations

More Formal Ways to Participate

- Answer NNIP HQ surveys and emails
- Be a buddy at a partner meeting
- Present at a partner meeting, webinar or idea showcase
- Organize a meeting session or webinar
- Participate in work group or affinity group
- Start or lead a work group or affinity group
- Present for NNIP at a national conference or event
- Participate in a cross-site project
- Serve on the NNIP executive committee

Example Network Activity: Cross-site Projects

In partnership with Living Cities and Code for America, the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership is exploring how civic technologists, data specialists, and local government leaders can work more effectively together to address pressing problems affecting low-income residents. We believe that data and tech can only be used to their full potential when an ecosystem of relevant players pool their talents intentionally, in a sustained way, to deepen their collective impact on pressing local issues. The members participate at two levels. Deep partnerships with Boston, St. Louis, and Washington DC demonstrate what can be achieved when a variety of players work together. Four other cities are participating as learning partners.