Data Empowered Community Development NEO CANDO 2010+

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The Role of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences in Community Development

- An almost 100 year legacy of applied research and civic impact
- Today: Community and Social Development concentration has a focus on skill-building and community engagement
- Goal: Social change leaders who can work across sectors and at all levels
Asset building that improves the quality of life among residents of low- to moderate-income communities, where communities are neighborhoods...

*Ferguson and Dickens, Urban Problems and Community Development, 1999*

Our program focuses on the five categories of capital to enhance community development:

- physical, financial, human, social, political
The Research Focus:
Neighborhood as a fundamental interface between individuals and systemic forces that drive opportunities.

Specific Aims:
Through local engagement-- aims to have direct impact and build knowledge of what works for community change . Through national partnerships , -- aims to bring community to the forefront of efforts to address social disadvantage. 

A creative team of faculty, staff, and students with diverse set of skills
NEO CANDO 2010+ in a nutshell...

• An integrated data system covering 4.2 million people in 17 counties across northeast Ohio

• Enables rapid exploration of social and economic indicators for 8,000 registered users including policy-makers, community developers, and researchers

• Gives organizations of all sizes access to high-quality statistics about the areas they serve
Past and Present

NEO CANDO has been evolving since 1992. Our latest version, NEO CANDO 2010+, is a major leap forward...

- Redesigned interface makes queries easier to build and faster to run
- First step analyses, like percent difference, can be performed on the fly in the tool
- Fast, interactive mapping backed by Google Maps and Google Fusion Tables
There’s Got to be a Better Way!
NEO CANDO Nested Geographies

Region
City
Neighborhood
Census Tract
Block
Parcel

Neighborhood Stabilization Attributes
NEO CANDO Schematic

User interface

Middleware

Tabular data

"Curated" raw data sets

User posted data

Retrieve from external sources

Pre-tabulated Data Sources and Metadata

Variable and geographic selection
Tabular display, PDF, CSV, Excel extracts
Google mapping, other visualization
User generate data input
Documentation and help screens
Training video

Details can be provided

Counts, rates, other metrics
Specified geographies and periods
Meta data

Data acquisition (E.g. FTP, Screen scrape, extract, FOIA)
Data cleaning and geocoding
Secure storage and back up
Data use agreements and IRB (for protected data)
A Highly Utilized Resource

June, 2006, multiple properties can be queried by pasting them into the search field. Hundreds can therefore show as one "Search," or a single click.

Oct. 2006 requiring a login for property information introduced.

The interactive NST APP counts one search every page of data 10 to 30 records (~300 columns), selects a filter condition, or when a user makes an update to the data.
Federal Reserve Board Neighborhood Stabilization: Cleveland, Ohio: Data-Driven Decisionmaking
Value to the Community

NEO CANDO saves the Northeast Ohio community duplications of efforts by governments and nonprofit organizations which saves untold hours and of dollars that would be used to find the information each year

• Indicators from dozens of sources and time periods are integrated into a single query screen
• Data are pre-aggregated for relevant service areas such as neighborhoods, wards, and planning districts
NEO CANDO Fills in the Narrative

Not Dead Yet: The Infill of Cleveland’s Urban Core

Research Summary
April 2012
No. 12/02

Main: “There were signs of a revival when the City of Cleveland declared ‘Cleveland can do’ Back in the 1990s, the narrative centered around the city’s economic decline. As the city produced a new narrative, activity around the downtown core increased.”

These stories have received:
- Over 9000 Facebook “likes”
- Over 1000 Twitter “tweets”
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Driving Program Effectiveness

- Invest in Children
- Cleveland Botanical Gardens
- Promise Neighborhoods
- Cascade Village
- Choice Neighborhoods
- East Cleveland Partnership
- How are They Managing
- Cleveland Literacy Collective
- Swanston CWC

...and many more over the past two decades.
Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development

seeks to address the problems of persistent and concentrated urban poverty and is dedicated to understanding how social and economic changes affect low-income communities and their residents. The Center views the community as a key point of leverage for addressing economic and social disparities and restoring the viability of cities. Located in an urban university the Center uses its research to improve conditions for low-income vulnerable populations and to produce nationally-relevant policy studies.

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