**MEASURING DISPARITY AND OPPORTUNITY**

2:15-3:45 – Thursday Afternoon

**Background**

The concepts of neighborhood disparity and neighborhood opportunity have been much discussed in our past meetings and are important topics in the field at this point. This session explores approaches to measuring them so we can move toward making them operational in our work.

**Disparities in the Context of Concentrated Poverty (Shared Indicators Analysis).**  The first part of this session is built around the current stage of our Shared Indicators work. We will review the initial Urban Institute paper you have seen. For the 100 largest metro areas, it reports on how the number of low income tracts, and the poor population within them, grew over the 2000 to 2005/09 period. That is something others have analyzed before, but this then goes farther to report on things about which there has been virtually no prior analysis: (1) whether, and by how much, conditions in the low income neighborhoods themselves have improved or deteriorated; and (2) trends in disparities between conditions in low income and higher income neighborhoods. As you know, a key purpose of this draft is to stimulate your local analysis of these topics; a key purpose of this session is to talk about how to make that happen. By way of background, the paper says:

This is the first analytic product of NNIP’s *Shared Indicators Initiative*. In this Initiative the partners have already selected a set of standard indicators they believe particularly useful in characterizing neighborhood change. Some of these indicators are available at the neighborhood (census tract) level nationwide, but others are available only in the systems maintained by the local NNIP partners. NNIP has plans to assemble many of the local indicators into a central system over the next few years but, given the urgent issues facing America’s low-income neighborhoods at this point, the Partnership did not want to wait until the full system was complete to begin analyzing conditions and trends. Accordingly, this paper is based only on the selected indicators that are available from national sources.

**HUD Neighborhood Opportunity Indicators**. The concept of “opportunity neighborhoods” has been important in deliberations about mobility and community development strategies in recent years. It will surely be fundamental in the successful development of the White House *Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative*. HUD is making an important contribution by developing indicators on the topic that it plans to make available over the web. The approach is multi-dimensional, with a focus on how the population group of interest should be central to an assessment of neighborhood opportunities.

**This session**

**Kurt Metzger** will start by offering his perspective on the session introducing the presenters.

* **Tom Kingsley** will present key findings from the draft paper: *Concentrated Poverty and Regional Disparities* (15 minutes plus 5 minutes clarifying questions).
* **Phyllis Betts** will comment on the shared indicators data on these topics and how they play out for metropolitan Memphis (10 minutes)

Discussion

* **Rob Collinson** (HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research) will present the work HUD has done to this point on Neighborhood Opportunity Indicators and plans for next steps (15 minutes)

Discussion