

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACE: IMPROVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEMS

JANUARY 2015



Integrated data systems (IDS) contain data from government agencies that are merged at the individual level. An IDS enables a more holistic understanding of public programs and can be used by service providers to improve case management for individuals or by analysts to inform policymaking, targeting, and program evaluation.

With support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) has launched [a cross-site project](#) to advance the state of practice by linking IDS data to information about neighborhoods. A lot of interesting work in the IDS field examines how these systems can be used for policy research and for program improvement, but very little considers the neighborhood context in which the clients are living or the relationship of place to child or family outcomes. The project will demonstrate to IDS administrators, funders, and agencies contributing data that working with local data intermediaries can result in new insights related to their own program interests.

NNIP partners, listed below, are using IDS and neighborhood data to address a variety of issues ranging from housing to absenteeism to civic engagement.

- **Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore** is examining equity of access to weatherization programs to understand how such programs impact household and neighborhood stability.
- **Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University** is researching how involvement in foster care and juvenile justice systems affects high school graduation and early adult outcomes.
- **New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy** is studying the individual, housing, and neighborhood factors that best predict a family's entry into homeless shelters.
- **Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County** is researching the individual, household, family, school, and community factors that most impact student absenteeism.
- **Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System** is studying how neighborhood characteristics and human services involvement affects student absenteeism.
- **The Providence Plan** is analyzing neighborhood civic engagements levels and their relation to factors such as education, health, and workforce participation.

Each program of work will inform local or neighborhood action and help foster the relationship between the NNIP partner and local or state IDS. The cross-site project began in June 2013 and will continue through 2015. For more information on each project, please visit the [NNIP website](#).

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The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership is a network of organizations in close to three dozen cities across the U.S. that make neighborhood-level data accessible and easy to understand and then help local stakeholders apply it to solve problems in their communities.