

Institute for Housing Studies application for membership to the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP)

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University
1 E. Jackson, Suite 5400
Chicago, IL 60604
housingstudies.org

Primary contact person for NNIP:

Geoff Smith
Executive Director
gsmith33@depaul.edu

Organizational structure:

University-based research center

Current and planned geographic area of focus:

City of Chicago and the broader Chicago metropolitan area

Current staffing:

Five staff engage in data intermediary work:

- Geoff Smith, Executive Director
- Sarah Duda, Associate Director
- Will Holland, Research and Policy Analyst
- Yiwen Jiao, Research and Data Analyst
- Jin Man Lee, Research Director

Current funding for local data intermediary activities

- Total funding amount – FY17 Budget - \$636,999
- Major Funders:
 - Foundations:
 - MacArthur Foundation
 - Chicago Community Trust
 - Polk Bros
 - Corporate:
 - PNC Bank
 - Fifth Third Bank
 - Contracts:
 - Illinois Attorney General
 - Neighborhood Housing Services
 - LISC Chicago
 - Greater Chatham Initiative
 - Housing Action Illinois
 - Other funding source
 - DePaul University

ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION AND ACTIVITIES

IHS is an applied research center situated in the Real Estate Center at DePaul University. IHS was created in 2007 with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation through the Preservation Compact, a collaborative effort to address the loss of affordable rental housing stock in Cook County.

IHS's mission is to provide housing and community development practitioners, government agencies, and community-based organizations with reliable, impartial, and timely research and data about the state of affordable housing and neighborhood economic health. Annually, IHS typically provides hundreds of hours of direct technical assistance to such constituents. The Institute's work focuses on issues related to the preservation of affordable rental housing and understanding neighborhood market conditions. IHS's research helps housing and community development practitioners understand often rapidly changing conditions in local housing markets, influences policy decisions, helps measure the impact of policy interventions, and raises awareness of emerging affordable housing and place-based community development issues.

IHS accomplishes this mission through:

Data Collection – IHS manages an extensive Data Clearinghouse that brings together public and private data on housing market activity. Datasets include transaction-level data on property sales, mortgage recordings, foreclosure activity, property listing and sales, and property characteristics in the Chicago region including Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties. The Institute also collects and regularly updates regional, census tract-level data on residential vacancy from HUD/USPS and historical demographic and socio-economic data from U.S. Census Bureau and American Communities Survey. IHS also collects and works with other local administrative data sets on issues such as crime, building permits, and business licenses. IHS also works with program data collected by partner community-based organizations and enhances it with data from the Institute's Clearinghouse.

Applied Research – IHS mines the rich data collected in its Data Clearinghouse to produce applied research and data indicators that inform the local and national policy debates around the preservation and production of affordable rental housing and the health of neighborhood housing markets. This information is connected to IHS's audience of housing and community development practitioners through its web site which includes a Housing Market Indicators Data Portal tracking 16 data indicators of housing market health.

Community Engagement – IHS maintains strong relationships with key local and national housing and community development practitioners. These active relationships inform the Institute's research and connect its work to housing policy and practice. IHS works with housing and community development

stakeholders to provide technical assistance that helps them apply the Institute's research and data to their day-to-day work.

The Institute's work directly benefits housing and community development practitioners who rely on the IHS's research, data, and technical assistance. Practitioners who have used these resources and services extensively are city officials, policy and advocacy organizations, community-based organizations, and other housing and community development stakeholders looking to make strategic decisions about housing policy development and place-based investment strategies. In addition, the Institute's work and data indirectly benefit lower-income households and communities that are positively impacted by more responsive and effective housing policies and programs developed and implemented as a result of stakeholder use of IHS's work.

Strategic decisions are made by IHS's leadership team, but are heavily informed by input from partners. The Institute does not have a permanent advisory board, but engages temporary advisory committees when embarking on strategic planning initiatives. For example, as described below, the Institute engaged a group of community partners, researchers, financial institutions, and funders to be an advisory committee for its recent strategic planning process. This group met regularly for three months to help inform the planning process and provide critical feedback and input on the final strategic plan. Additionally, whenever IHS begins a major project or considers a new issue area, Institute staff will hold scoping meetings with community partners and other relevant stakeholders to understand key policy questions and data needs related to the topic. This scoping is critical component of IHS's applied research agenda because it directly informs research questions, product development, and the final application of the work and these same partners are reengaged throughout a project lifecycle for additional feedback. As described below, as part of the Institute's recent work on displacement pressure, IHS staff held scoping meetings with over 40 stakeholders.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Mapping Displacement Pressure in Chicago Neighborhoods

Project description - The goal of this project was to use data to develop a leading indicator to identify neighborhoods at risk of rapid price appreciation, lost housing affordability, and potential displacement and to inform the creation of proactive, inclusive, and responsive strategies to support stability in the affordable housing stock and limit potential displacement of current residents. The project gives housing and community development stakeholders 1) a vital lens to understand neighborhood-level displacement and housing affordability pressures and 2) a framework for the development of proactive strategies to preserve affordability near planned public investments that are both sensitive and responsive to neighborhood needs.

Using data on property sales activity of 1-4 unit buildings, IHS was able to a) identify neighborhoods (census tracts) with different levels of housing affordability in 2016 and b) track shifts in housing demand by measuring how prices of 1-4 unit properties changed between 2012 and 2016. Through this analysis, IHS was able to identify a set of neighborhoods that are experiencing rising housing costs. In these areas, demand for housing is increasing and there may be a risk of lost or declining affordability.

At the same time, IHS worked with faculty and students from DePaul's Department of Predictive Analytics to develop a housing market segmentation analysis of Chicago neighborhoods at the census tract level. This analysis used a number of variables on demographics and housing stock characteristics to identify neighborhoods with high levels of populations or housing types that are vulnerable and therefore have a higher risk of displacement in a rising housing cost environment.

IHS then merged the analysis of housing market conditions and demographic/housing stock characteristics to identify census tracts that had some combination of rising housing costs and vulnerable populations. The Institute then created a set of three typologies to highlight different levels of vulnerability risk. These include:

High-cost, rising demand – High value markets with recent, strong increases in demand for housing. Because underlying populations are vulnerable, rapid price appreciation may put significant pressure on housing costs for vulnerable households.

Moderate-cost, rising demand - Affordable markets that may be experiencing rising demand. If these areas are also near stronger real estate markets or amenities, this could lead to more rapid shifts in future housing demand and increased pressure on housing costs for vulnerable populations.

Low-cost, rising demand - Very distressed and challenged markets, but with recent market movement indicating shifting demand. There is likely low short-term risk of displacement due to rising costs, but if a tract is near a high value or rapidly rising market or another amenity, there may be a risk of land speculation.

Scoping and stakeholder engagement - Over the course of this project, IHS met with a number of groups to understand their data needs and get feedback on the results described above. These groups include a range of public agencies, policy groups, and community based organizations such as The Preservation Compact, LISC Chicago, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), the Southwest Organizing Project, Communities United, the Greater Chatham Initiative, Neighborhood Housing Services, the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, the City of Chicago Department of Public Health, the Metropolitan Planning Council, Elevated Chicago, and the Apostolic Church of God in Woodlawn.

Through these meetings, IHS received positive feedback on the role that this project can have in informing a range of place-based housing and community development strategies. Most stakeholders communicated that the analysis accurately identified current market conditions, shifting demand for housing, and areas with potentially high levels of vulnerable populations. These stakeholder discussions also emphasized the opportunity to use these maps and data to highlight the importance of proactive and inclusive affordable housing strategies as part of large public investment projects. The conversations also surfaced that these data can be used as a lens to discuss housing challenges in other market types beyond those with potential affordability pressures, particularly those undergoing market challenges related to stagnant investment conditions and declining values. Additionally, these discussions highlighted opportunities to connect these maps and policies to other place-based community development initiatives in areas such as public health, access to open space, and equitable transit-oriented development. IHS plans to pursue some of these technical assistance opportunities in future phases of this project.

How results have been connected to stakeholders - In order to help support ongoing and future public investment decisions and guide practical and proactive responses to preserving housing affordability in surrounding neighborhoods, IHS developed an interactive mapping tool (<https://displacement-risk.housingstudies.org/>) for this project that visualizes neighborhood-level displacement pressures across the City. The tool brings together housing market and demographic information needed to begin an evaluation of the potential displacement risk surrounding a proposed project and to help inform conversations about gentrification and displacement throughout the City.

The tool allows users to explore areas where 1) house prices recently appreciated at levels above the city average and where 2) a significant share of residents are vulnerable to displacement due to factors

such as income, housing cost burden, and housing tenure type. It features the ability to examine market conditions associated with displacement risk surrounding current and planned projects, including The 606, The Paseo Trail, and the Obama Presidential Center. By visualizing the intersection of current market conditions and underlying vulnerability to displacement, the Mapping Displacement Pressure in Chicago tool provides stakeholders with a data-informed starting point for developing neighborhood-level housing policy strategies that preserve affordability. The mapping tool also includes access to fact sheets summarizing trends and policy implications in high-cost, moderate-cost, and low-cost markets.

Impacts - IHS staff has worked actively to connect the results of this analysis to ongoing housing and community development initiatives in Chicago. Examples include:

Communities United - IHS has worked with Communities United to connect information on current and emerging displacement pressure to their strategies to preserve the naturally occurring affordable housing stock in gentrifying neighborhoods. The displacement pressure data are being used to help make the case for the need to preserve this segment of the housing stock and to target strategies to neighborhoods where the stock is most at-risk.

Obama Presidential Center - IHS has worked with a range of stakeholders engaged in the development of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC). IHS staff has worked closely with the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development, the Network of Woodlawn, Blacks in Green, and others to highlight the different types of displacement pressure present in the neighborhoods surrounding the future site of the OPC and develop additional data to inform the proactive development of anti-displacement strategies for the area.

Elevated Chicago - Elevated Chicago is a project to promote equitable transit oriented development around a group of under-utilized CTA transit stations. Elevated Chicago is part of the national Strong, Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC). IHS has been working with Elevated Chicago and its partners to highlight displacement pressure around their target transit stations. IHS has also been working with Elevated Chicago and partners to connect displacement pressure data to strategies around public health, youth engagement, and quality of life projects. As technical assistance, IHS developed an [interactive map](#) to visualize the relationship between IHS's displacement pressure market types and Elevated Chicago's priority stations. Additionally, IHS has participated in Elevated's Knowledge Sharing working group to support the use of data and research in informing strategy. Additionally, IHS worked with Elevated partners to submit a proposal that would use community data (including a lens of displacement pressure) to help engage neighborhood youth. Ultimately this proposal was not funded. IHS has also worked with Elevated Chicago staff and staff from the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health (co-chair of the Knowledge Sharing working group) to brainstorm

concepts for a “residential retention” indicator that would be used to inform anti-displacement policy development, implementation, and evaluation. The hope is that this concept will eventually become a funded project and a key indicator for the Elevated Chicago initiative.

Regional Housing Solutions

Project description - When developing housing and community development strategies, policy makers and urban planners rely on a deep understanding of the characteristics of the communities in which they work. While it can be simple to evaluate basic data points such as a community’s median income or the unemployment rate, it becomes challenging to characterize communities when comparing across multiple factors, such as educational attainment, population changes, levels of mortgage credit, or the nature of the underlying housing stock.

The foundation of the Regional Housing Solutions project is a housing market segmentation analysis of the seven county region surrounding Chicago, IL namely Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. IHS worked with faculty and students from DePaul’s Department of Predictive Analytics to develop a clustering algorithm to identify communities with similar characteristics regardless of physical proximity. The model incorporated over 40 census tract-level data points on the housing stock, housing affordability, housing market investment activity, and resident demographics and socioeconomic indicators that affect housing demand.

The goals of this analysis were to:

- Create a data-driven framework to facilitate regional discussions on housing challenges and opportunities
- Highlight how conditions vary spatially across the region
- Make connections between communities with similar underlying characteristics that may not have previously considered themselves peers
- Reveal the diversity of conditions within communities and towns so that planners can be responsive and targeted in their approach to the range of challenges present

The results of the segmentation model identified eight distinct clusters in the Chicago seven county region. It clustered wealthy, economically distressed, and high-growth census tracts consistently and distinctly. Though the geographic location was not included as a variable, the results also highlighted a strong geographic pattern related to the historical evolution of urban development outward from downtown Chicago based on the age of the housing stock. It also identified a cluster unique in its high

levels of growth, housing stock age, and income but geographically distinct, with tracts concentrated in downtown Chicago and dispersed in pockets across the region.

Scoping and stakeholder engagement - IHS worked with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), and Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) to develop this analysis with the goal of 1) identifying the spatial patterns and characteristics of distinct subregional housing markets across northeastern Illinois and 2) highlighting market-driven strategies responsive to local needs and conditions. Throughout the development of the analysis, IHS worked closely with partners to identify the appropriate data layers needed to achieve the objectives of the project. Once the analysis was completed, IHS and partners convened a group of over 40 stakeholders representing regional governments, policy organizations, and the private market to release the results of the analysis, discuss submarket-specific housing and community development challenges, and identify potential strategies to address these issues. After this meeting, CMAP, MMC, and MPC conducted more in-depth focus group discussions with regional stakeholders.

How results have been connected to stakeholders - The results of this collaborative effort were released through the Regional Housing Solutions website (<https://www.regionalhousingsolutions.org/>). The site includes an interactive map that visualizes the pattern of regional market clusters and allows users to explore these patterns by county, municipality, and Chicago neighborhood. It provides detailed descriptions of the conditions in each market type and connects these conditions to particular policy challenges in each area and a set of innovative solutions.

Impacts - The market segmentation analysis produced for the Regional Housing Solutions project has become a key lens that is used by CMAP, MMC, and MPC to facilitate discussions of place-based housing policy challenges across the Chicago region. IHS and partners have also been approached by regional planning agencies from other cities that are interested in implementing a similar approach to facilitating data-informed conversations about regional housing needs.

Housing Market Indicators Data Portal and Price Index

Project description - One of IHS's key ongoing projects is the development and updating of the Institute's housing market indicators. These include the Cook County House Price Index and indicators found on IHS's Housing Market Conditions Data Portal on property sales, mortgage lending, and foreclosure activity. Internally, IHS updates these indicators quarterly and uses them to provide a range of custom technical assistance to housing and community development stakeholders. IHS publishes annual updates to its Housing Market Indicators Data Portal and biannual updates of the Cook County House Price Index.

Scoping and stakeholder engagement - IHS worked closely with housing and community development stakeholders on the development of these indicators and the web-based tools used to publicly access them. IHS met with staff from public agencies, community based organizations, and policy groups to understand data needs, information gaps, and types of information that would be most useful to inform policy development and decision-making around affordable housing and community development issues. Through these discussions, IHS developed and released the indicators found on its Housing Market Indicators Data Portal in 2012. The Institute added the current version of its Cook County House Price Index in 2015 in response to increased demand from stakeholders to understand neighborhood-level house price trends.

How results have been connected to stakeholders - IHS's price index and housing market indicators are accessible to the public via the Institute's website (<https://www.housingstudies.org/page/ihs-data-projects/>). Both are among the most accessed pages on the Institute's website. From July 1, 2016 to July 17, 2017, the Housing Market Indicators Data Portal page and housing market indicator subpages on the IHS web site were viewed 13,752 times. Over this same period, the Price Index page and interactive web page were viewed 8,222 times.

Impacts - IHS's housing market indicators make up the foundation of the Institute's technical assistance work. As part of its core mission, the Institute provides hundreds of hours of on-demand technical assistance annually to a wide variety of community-based organizations, community development practitioners, students, academic researchers, and members of the media. Examples of technical assistance provided during the last fiscal year include:

- **Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS)** – IHS provides bi-annual updates of housing market data customized for NHS neighborhoods. Additionally, IHS produces an annual “State of NHS Neighborhoods” report and provides enhanced, data-focused technical assistance to NHS.
- **Greater Chatham Initiative (GCI)** – IHS works with GCI to provide information and data to facilitate development, implementation, geographic targeting, and tracking the success of program initiatives in the Avalon Park, Chatham, Auburn Gresham, and Greater Grand Crossing communities in the City of Chicago.
- **Housing Action Illinois** – IHS produced a number of technical assistance requests for Housing Action Illinois and their partners. One request analyzed and mapped recent neighborhood-level foreclosure activity to help support the need to continue the Cook County Foreclosure Mediation Program. Another was a preliminary examination of court evictions data to determine the feasibility of further analysis.

FUTURE PLANS AND STABILITY

Financially, IHS is stable. The Institute's funding comes from a mix of foundation grants, earned revenue projects, and support from the University. We expect this funding to be stable until at least 2020; but in anticipation of the need to identify new sources, IHS is working to be proactive to develop new and innovative data tools to support community partners, connect its work to new issues and collaborators, and build relationships with funders who support issues outside of IHS's traditional areas of focus.

To this end, in 2016, IHS undertook a strategic planning process to survey the field, identify new opportunities to evolve IHS's work, and connect IHS's applied research model to new fields. IHS hopes that the success of strategic initiatives stemming from the plan going forward will open doors to new funding opportunities from sources that fund issues outside of housing and community development.

The overall thesis of the plan is that IHS's work is valued by its partners and the housing community in Chicago. However, going forward, IHS must evolve to apply its research to other topics both in community development and related areas of interest in order to financially sustain itself and increase the understanding of place-based impact on people and communities.

The plan identified four priority goals for the institute to focus on:

1. Continue to fill the space of providing accurate and timely housing research and reports for the Chicago region that help community development professionals and policy makers make informed decisions.

IHS has been successful in advancing this component of the strategic plan. The Institute has continued to be the leading provider of housing data and technical assistance in the Chicago region. In FY 2018, IHS has provided hundreds of hours of technical assistance to Chicago region organizations. The Institute continues to release its annual State of Rental Housing in Cook County report. The 2018 report has been widely cited in the local media. IHS also continues to update its annual housing market indicators and price index.

2. Add new indicators that are complementary to the current Clearinghouse and that would help IHS answer emerging questions in community development in a way that is not currently possible.

IHS developed a new leading indicator mapping different levels of displacement pressure in Chicago neighborhoods. This indicator has been well received by Chicago-area housing and community development stakeholders. Since its release, this indicator has helped frame discussions on displacement-related policy in Chicago. IHS plans to update this indicator annually.

3. Expand the universe of topics that IHS applies its existing parcel level data to in order to increase understanding of the place-based effects of housing on other issue areas.

IHS's displacement pressure indicator has also created opportunities to connect the Institute's work on neighborhood conditions to other non-housing topics. Since its release, IHS has presented the findings of this report to stakeholders who are working on equitable transit oriented development, advocating for a continuous bike trail along the Chicago River, developing place-based public health strategies, and trying to understand the relationship between displacement pressure and school enrollment. IHS is pursuing funding on a number of these projects and has received general operating funding which allows Institute staff to further develop these cross-sector partnerships.

There are a number of ways IHS is working to advance this strategic priority:

- Elevated Chicago - As described above, the Institute is developing an active partnership with Elevated Chicago to use the Institute's existing displacement pressure indicator to advance the collaborative's work around equitable transit oriented development and to develop a new indicator tracking residential retention that would be used to inform anti-displacement policy development, implementation, and evaluation.
 - Trust for Public Land (TPL) - IHS and staff from TPL's Chicago office are developing a work scope for a collaborative report that would serve as a toolkit for urban park development without displacement. TPL was the project manager for The 606 project in Chicago and nationally is a key player in urban park advocacy. This project would leverage the expertise and experience of both TPL and IHS to develop a toolkit to provide park development advocates with an actionable set of best practices to guide more inclusive outcomes for green infrastructure development.
 - Communities United – IHS has been in conversations with Communities United, a local community-based partner, to collaborate on a project that would highlight the relationship between displacement pressure and neighborhood school enrollments and outcomes. We are still in the conceptualization phase and are working to understand available data and refine the policy questions we are trying to answer with this project.
4. Increase the visibility of IHS within the academic community by building relationships within DePaul that add value to both IHS and the University as a whole and also growing opportunities and relationships outside of DePaul.

IHS regularly works with DePaul faculty from the Departments of Real Estate, Economics, Predictive Analytics, Computer Science, Sustainable Urban Development, and Sociology to support the execution of different components of IHS research projects and to more broadly inform the development and

evolution of our research agenda. The core of IHS's work is quantitative and focused on using data to understand issues facing Chicago's neighborhoods.

The Institute has worked closely with DePaul faculty to develop econometric models, advanced spatial analyses, and clustering algorithms to highlight the impact of public investments on neighborhood housing markets, understand neighborhood-level risk of lost housing affordability, and assess vulnerability to displacement. The Institute has also worked with DePaul faculty on more qualitative research projects. One example includes working with a computer science faculty member specializing in human-computer interaction to execute focus group interviews with community partners to more broadly understand how these types of organizations access data and use it to inform their work.

Much of IHS's recent work has focused on connecting the Institute's expertise in neighborhood and housing market conditions with place-based strategies to improve neighborhood quality of life with a particular focus on public health issues. IHS collaborated with the University of Illinois-Chicago's College of Nursing on research to understand the relationship between neighborhood-level foreclosure activity and body mass index (BMI). For this project, IHS provided foreclosure data used in the statistical modeling, contributed issue area expertise on the foreclosure crisis and neighborhood conditions, reviewed data models and results, and helped respond to comments from peer reviewers. This paper was just accepted for publication in [Preventative Medicine](#) with IHS staff as co-authors. IHS has also begun a partnership with a faculty member from DePaul's Sociology Department who is using IHS's displacement risk typologies as a framing to conduct ethnographic interviews in two Chicago neighborhoods to understand the relationship between displacement pressure and neighborhood perception of health outcomes and opportunities.

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

A core tenant of IHS's business model is providing technical assistance to a range of housing and community development stakeholders. The Institute views these technical assistance engagements as two-way relationships where IHS 1) provides data to support the work of housing and community development practitioners and 2) learns about the key questions and emerging issues in the field through the technical assistance intake process. Annually, IHS provides hundreds of hours of technical assistance to Chicago area organizations.

The City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development is one of the key partners to whom IHS provides technical assistance. Examples of recent technical assistance provided to the City of Chicago include:

- Five-Year Housing Plan data - In 2013, IHS produced a data book highlighting demographic, economic, and housing market conditions in Chicago to help frame the discussion for the City of Chicago's 2014-2018 Five-Year Housing Plan. IHS is in the process of producing a similar data resource for the next Five-Year Planning Process for the 2019-2023 period.
- Anti-Displacement Strategies - IHS developed in-depth data on demographic, economic, and housing market conditions for the neighborhoods surrounding the site of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC). This data was used to inform internal discussions at the City around the development of anti-displacement and community development strategies for the neighborhoods around the OPC.
- New Homes for Chicago - IHS produced data and maps to support the identification of priority neighborhoods for a revived version of the New Homes for Chicago program. This program is designed to help low- and moderate-income households' access homeownership.
- Micro-Market Recovery Program (MMRP) - Since 2012, IHS has provided data support to the City of Chicago's MMRP program. This program targets interventions to small "micro-market" geographies to support the rehabilitation and re-occupancy of vacant properties. IHS provided regular updates of housing market conditions in 13 micro-market areas and also provided on-line, interactive mapping support and technical assistance to MMRP community partners.

Chicago has a very rich landscape of organizations doing data-related work to inform policy and practice. A key player has been Smart Chicago, an organization that worked to increase access to the Internet, improve skills for using the Internet, and develop meaningful products from data that measurably contribute to the quality of life of residents. Smart Chicago has since merged with City Digital to create City Tech, an organization that works to reimagine cities as places where technology fuels opportunity, inclusion, engagement, and innovation. IHS does not work directly with City Tech on projects, but is also not a competitor. There may be opportunities for collaboration between IHS and City Tech in the future, and IHS looks forward to continuing to build that relationship.

In Chicago, there are also many other organizations that, in different ways, use research and data to support policy development around a range of issues. Examples include Social Impact Research Center whose work focuses on supporting and informing solutions to poverty; Woodstock Institute whose work supports policy development and advocacy around financial stability for low-income families; and Chapin Hall whose research focuses on supporting better policies to support children, youth, and families. IHS staff maintain good and open relationships with staff at these organizations and others. As Chicago has a rich community data ecosystem, IHS looks for opportunities to share its work, learn from peers, and identify potential strategic collaborations. Because IHS has strong relationships with these

groups, the Institute also supports regional capacity building by making connections among these groups and community stakeholders when appropriate.

IHS is based at DePaul University. DePaul is a highly mission-driven institution, and through its public service mission, the university supports students, faculty, and staff to apply specialized expertise in ways that contribute to the societal, economic, cultural, and ethical quality of life in the Chicago region.

The Institute fulfills this role at the University through its applied research model which helps deepen DePaul's distinctive connection to the city through research, community engagement, and technical assistance. Within the University, IHS brings together faculty and students from multiple disciplines to help advance the Institute's work of producing applied research and data tools that support strategic decision-making by housing and community development policymakers and practitioners. IHS's work provides critical information on the state of affordable housing and the changing dynamics of neighborhoods and informs the development, implementation, and evaluation of place-based community development strategies that promote an equitable, sustainable, and resilient Chicago region.

POTENTIAL RELATIONSHIP TO NNIP

IHS would benefit from NNIP membership in a number of ways:

- **Deeper connection to the network** - IHS staff have participated in NNIP partner meetings as a Guest City for a number of years. Becoming a full NNIP partner would provide opportunities to be more deeply engaged in the network and contribute more directly to its success. We would benefit from the enhanced opportunities to collaborate with other partner cities.
- **Staff participation** - Attending NNIP partner meetings would create an opportunity for professional development for new and current IHS staff. Staff would benefit from networking with peers in the data intermediary field and learning from the best practices presented at these meetings. Being an NNIP partner would also allow IHS staff to potentially participate in leadership roles within the network.
- **Connecting to new issues and partners** - NNIP has established itself as a platform for innovative community-focused data work, and the network regularly brings together experts from a broad range of disciplines to discuss new and emerging topics in the field. Being more actively connected to these opportunities will help broaden IHS's relationships beyond Chicago and beyond the Institute's more traditional focus on housing and community development. It will also help IHS advance elements of its strategic plan.

IHS would also bring extensive expertise to NNIP. The Institute's staff has extensive experience working with administrative data, with a particular expertise working with housing data and property records. IHS has been highly innovative in developing analyses and indicators to fill key housing and community development information gaps facing practitioners. The Institute also regularly develops data tools and technical assistance that connects this information to practitioners. The NNIP network has consistently been a source for identifying emerging best practices, innovative thinking, and potential partnerships on these topics, and IHS and NNIP can mutually benefit from more active engagement.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS IN CITIES THAT WERE FORMERLY IN THE NNIP NETWORK

In Chicago, the most recent NNIP partner was the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). CMAP still exists, but has shifted the focus of their work away from a data intermediary role. IHS has a strong collaborative relationship with CMAP, and CMAP was a core partner in the Regional Housing Solutions project referenced earlier. Additionally, IHS's Associate Director is a member of CMAP's Housing Committee. It has been a number of years since CMAP was the NNIP partner, and there has been staff turnover since. IHS staff sees no significant challenges in transitioning NNIP partnership.

REFERENCES

Joanna Trotter is the Senior Program Officer of Economic & Community Development for The Chicago Community Trust (CCT). The Trust is one of IHS's primary funders for data intermediary work. It provides general operating support to IHS which allows the Institute to provide community partners with data-informed technical assistance. CCT also funded IHS's work on the Regional Housing Solutions project.

Bryan Esenberg is the Deputy Commissioner for the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development. IHS worked with Bryan on various City of Chicago technical assistance and contracted projects, including the Micro-Market Recovery Program.

Juan Carlos Linares is the Executive Director of LUCHA, a community-based housing organization on Chicago's Northwest Side that provides residents with access to housing products and services, housing counseling, and other resources. LUCHA has also started developing small-scale affordable rental housing using green construction, Passive House, and integrated health and wellness programming. LUCHA represents neighborhoods heavily impacted by displacement pressure related to The 606, and IHS has worked closely with Juan Carlos and his team to connect the Institute's work to policy and program development.