**National** **Neighborhood** **Indicators** **Partnership** **Application**

*Thank you for your interest in joining the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP). Please fill out the following application completely along with the data inventory workbook. Submit the entire package to Kathy Pettit, Co­Director of NNIP at* *kpettit@urban.org**. If you have any questions you can also reach her at (202) 261­5670.*

**Applicant Organization(s):** Center for Economic Information

University of Missouri‐Kansas City

**Organization Website:** cei.umkc.edu

**Main Contact for NNIP** (Name, Contact information)**:**

` Dr. Peter Eaton, Director eatonp@umkc.edu

**Organizational Structure** (University, Community Development Organization, etc.)**:**

Research Center Department of Economics College of Arts & Sciences

University of Missouri‐Kansas City

**Current Geographic Area of Focus** (e.g. Washington D.C. metropolitan area, Cuyahoga

County, etc.)**:**

Metropolitan Kansas City

**Current Staffing: 1) Total organization size and 2) list of key staff members involved in your indicators work along with a sentence describing their roles:**

1. Total organization size: 7 (includes 4 full time staff, 2 graduate student assistants, 1 work‐study student)

2. Key personnel:

2.1 Dr. Peter Eaton, Director. Research center supervisor; principal statistician and investigator for most grants and contracts; key representative to outside institutions and agencies; grant writer

2.2 Dr. Douglas Bowles, Associate Director. Lead Geographic Information Systems specialist and analyst; principal representative to neighborhood organizations, while assisting Director in dealing with other outside organizations, institutions, and entities; assists with grant writing duties.

2.3 Sara Ballew, Database Manager. Handles database design, construction, maintenance, and output for neighborhood indicators data system, which

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involves both primary and secondary data collection. Principal designer for CEI

website.

2.4 Saima Sami, Programmer/Analyst. Usually takes the lead for special assignments

& projects resulting from grant and contract awards. Supports database manager with website development and on primary and secondary data collection programs, as necessary.

**Current Major Funding** (Funding sources and total organization budget)**:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total annual organizational budget | $450,000 |
| University support | 50,000 |
| Green Impact Zone of Missouri | 185,000 |
| Civic Council of Greater Kansas City | 50,000 |
| Municipal government contracts | 100,000 |
| Greater Kansas City LISC | 65,000 |
|  | $450,000 |

**Board/Advisory Board Composition** (List members and affiliations)**:**

As a university entity, CEI has no independent Board of Directors or Advisory Board.

**Organizational Mission:**

CEI’s broadly stated formal mission, articulated with its establishment in 1994 as a research center in the University’s College of Arts and Sciences, is to use information technology in support of both academic research and economic decision‐makers in the public, private, and non‐profit sectors.

**Brief History of Organization:**

Established in 1994, CEI’s first principal research role was as a core unit of the Missouri State Census Data Center (MSCDC), funded by the State of Missouri in collaboration with the State Data Center program of the Census Bureau. These were the early days of the internet, which still existed at that time primarily as a “command‐

line” environment. (Graphical web browsers first became publically available circa 1994 with introduction of the Mosaic browser, developed at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois, Champaign‐Urbana.) CEI initially fulfilled its mission during the late 1990s by pioneering utilization of www/internet information technology capabilities at UMKC and providing support of those capabilities for public/private/non‐profit sector organizations throughout metropolitan Kansas City. As a function of its role as a core unit of the MSCDC, Census Bureau data programs (including but not limited to the decennial census) played a featured role in CEI’s work, which also included propagation of any publically accessible data resources amenable to network access and distribution technologies.

During those years, CEI operated its own www/internet server, which housed the first instructional web site for the UMKC College of Arts and Sciences. Our staff conducted regular www/internet training workshops for students, faculty, and community groups throughout the KC metro region.

In 1997, UMKC was awarded a HUD COPC (Community Outreach Partnership Center) Grant, which included a role for CEI in neighborhood asset‐mapping. This evolved into a pilot project for what eventually was to become the 2000 Neighborhood Housing Conditions Survey (NHCS), a fifteen‐point property conditions evaluation which was applied to 85,000 parcels, constituting 100% of residential property and vacant lots in

120 urban neighborhoods of KCMo. While the survey has not yet been fully replicated, it continues to be applied under annual contracts with the City of KCMO in selected neighborhoods, to support strategic planning and program evaluation.

During this period, CEI was also able to establish a close working relationship with the KCMo Police Department, which gave us a history of reported crime incidence back through 1990, with regular monthly updates going forward. These data resources—the NHCS, a ten‐year history of reported crime, and low‐level census data—provided the “critical mass” for a robust neighborhood indicators program, which in turn led to an ongoing annual contract with Kansas City LISC to provide information support for KCCDI (the Kansas City Community Development Initiative), which later evolved into Neighborhoods Now, modeled on the Chicago New Communities program.

In 2005, CEI began to engage more directly with the urban neighborhoods that we had previously dealt with primarily through local government and CDCs. Leveraging our ongoing grant and contract revenues, we established the pro bono Neighborhood Development Services Program (NDSP), utilizing supervised graduate and

undergraduate student assistants to provide data‐driven strategic planning support to grass‐roots neighborhood organizations. In 2009, this work led to a contract with the Mid‐America Regional Council (MARC), funded through the City of KCMo, to provide similar services for the Green Impact Zone of Missouri (GIZMO), a project initiated by the office of 5th Missouri District Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, to concentrate ARRA stimulus funding in an urban community with demonstrable impact.

**How does your mission align with the required NNIP partner activities as listed in the cover memo?**

In our estimation, a very high degree of alignment exists between CEI’s evolved mission and the criteria listed for NNIP partnership. While CEI began in 1994 as an organization committed to supporting the broad social utilization of developing information technology, that mission has, in practice, evolved into one for which the three NNIP stated partnership criteria provide a nearly perfect summary statement.

Criteria 1: building and operating an advanced information system with integrated and recurrently updated information on neighborhood conditions in our city.

CEI has been explicitly committed to precisely this enterprise since our first application of the Neighborhood Housing Conditions Survey (NHCS) which got underway in year 2000. While we have never received direct funding for this overall commitment, we have continued to leverage every project and funding source available to us to develop and maintain a metropolitan Kansas City neighborhood indicators program, since we view this as the overall context for our evolving research agenda. The extent of our current, anticipated, and planned data holdings are documented in the Data Inventory accompanying our application.

Criteria 2: Facilitating and promoting the direct practical use of data by community and city leaders in community building and local policy‐making.

This criteria falls directly in line with CEI’s originally stated formal mission. Implementation of that mission has been increasingly focused in the

realm of urban community/neighborhood development policy and practice in Kansas City. Examples of specific CEI projects and activities in this realm are provided in response to questions that follow.

Criteria 3: Giving emphasis to using information to build the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed neighborhoods.

We view overall metropolitan development (in the U.S. experience, at least) as a complex process consisting of the principal stages of primary development, maturity, decline, and recovery. In this context, the problems of neighborhood distress, decline, and recovery are the central and crucial problematic for current development policy and practice. Consequently, our research agenda is tightly focused on this problematic. Our current model of neighborhood redevelopment identifies neighborhood organizational capacity building as the critical first step in successful redevelopment efforts. CEI is expressly committed to direct support of neighborhood capacity building, specifically in terms of providing support for data‐driven strategic planning and program evaluation. Again, we provide examples of this work in response to questions that follow.

**How do you expect NNIP membership would benefit your organization?**

We can identify three major areas of benefit, distinct but inter‐related:

The first, and probably most obvious, would be the opportunities for data sharing and research collaboration. Access to neighborhood indicator program data from other major U.S. urban centers and the opportunity to contribute our data and experience to research projects in urban neighborhood development is both the logical and preferred direction in which we want our own research agenda to advance. Consequently, eventual application for membership in NNIP has been part of our long‐range strategic thinking for a number of years.

Secondly, NNIP partnership will confer a national “cachet” on our local organization and its activities which accrues from NNIP’s broad national membership representing most major U.S. metropolitan regions, and its own track record of past accomplishment and current activities. We expect this cachet to carry significant weight with local agencies and organizations that should benefit us significantly in terms of both (1) data acquisition & sharing, and (2) fundraising for direct support of the indicators program, which has long been another of our strategic goals.

This second area of benefit is already evident in the momentum which our NNIP application has generated toward formalization of a regional data‐sharing collaborative (the Community‐Wide Information Network, or CWIN), that has existed in the form of an informal bi‐monthly discussion group, comprised of a dozen or more agencies, for over 10 years. Fundraising for support of a collaborative data‐sharing and indicators program is one of the primary immediate goals for this formalized collaboration. We also expect the CWIN collaboration to contribute to a significant expansion of our geographic coverage of the KC metro area. More information on the CWIN collaborative, and its relationship to CEI and our NNIP application, is supplied in response to other questions, below.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, with our experience of attendance at the semi‐annual meeting in Chicago last October, it would be difficult to overstate our excitement and enthusiasm about the potential synergy that may be derived from the opportunity for personal interaction with like‐minded and ‐spirited organizations and individuals from our sister cities around the country who are likewise committed to and engaged in action based on the NNIP principles and goals embodied in the membership criteria addressed above.

**How do you see your organization contributing to the NNIP partnership?**

The first and most obvious contribution, of course, is expansion of NNIP national coverage to include the Kansas City metropolitan region. CEI’s current and planned data holdings already represent a significant resource in that regard; potential data resources represented by the formalized CWIN collaboration (see below) are substantially more extensive. And, as we have attempted to show with answers to previous questions, these data resources come with a strong organizational commitment to and history of acting in the advancement of stated NNIP goals and principles.

Secondly, and fundamentally, we are collaborators by temperament and disposition. Without a fundamental disposition to collaboration, we would not have been able to accomplish what we already have, working on our own here in Kansas City. It is

probably the case that this is also true for most, if not all, NNIP partners. So, we offer NNIP the benefit of extensive local data resources together with our commitment to NNIP goals and principles and a strong capacity for collaboration, which we expect is most likely a fundamental characteristic of NNIP’s organizational culture.

As an organization, CEI has strong advanced information system capabilities. Supported by University IT and major software site license agreements, we have access to the most up‐to‐date industry‐standard software packages, and regularly upgraded hardware platforms. With two full‐time IT and programming professionals on staff, our current indicators database is implemented in Oracle 9i, and our CityScope web site (a somewhat antiquated prototype) serves data and maps via Cold Fusion and ArcIMS Version 4. We are currently in the process of upgrading our services to an Oracle geodatabase running in conjunction with ArcGIS Server 9.3 and ArcSDE, implemented in an Asp .Net development environment. All staff members have experience, to varying degree, with GIS mapping and spatial analysis. A number of our research projects also require extensive use of SAS.

Of numerous current initiatives underway at NNIP of which we are aware, we are particularly interested in working with the Open Indicators Consortium project, and the Workgroups on Shared Indicators and Neighborhood/Community Economic Development. We also have a high degree of interest in the analysis of foreclosure impacts on urban neighborhoods.

One of our principal areas of current interest is the theory and practice of community economic development, and we are working with a “Five‐step Data‐driven Neighborhood Development Model” entailing engaged practice grounded in robust theory. This model and our experience with it may be of interest to the Ad Hoc Committee on Neighborhood Economic Development.

***For the next two questions, please include activities that demonstrate 1) facilitation of the use of data by local actors in community building and local policymaking and 2) an emphasis on using information to build the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed neighborhoods.***

**Selected Past and Current Projects on Indicators/Neighborhoods:**

1. The Neighborhood Housing Conditions Survey (NHCS) – A major ongoing primary data collection program. Entails evaluation of structure, grounds, and infrastructure property conditions, rated on a 5‐point scale where 5=Excellent condition and 1=Severe problem/deterioration. Applied and mapped at the parcel level, based on (modified) municipal land cadaster digital geography. First developed and applied, 2000‐02, in collaboration with the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance (KCNA) under contract with City of KCMo. The initial survey covered 100% of residential property in 120 neighborhoods of KCMo’s urban core (85,000 parcels). The NHCS has subsequently

been applied in Kansas City, Kansas and in Independence and Sugar Creek, Missouri. Annual contracts with Kansas City LISC between 2002‐06 resulted in re‐survey of specified target neighborhoods. In 2006, the KCMo Department of Neighborhood and Community Services began re‐survey of the original urban core neighborhoods from the

2000 survey in support of the City’s Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP).

The NHCS provides an invaluable, finely‐grained tool for strategic planning and evaluation of public, private, and non‐profit sector housing policy, as well as a key indicator for neighborhood well-being. Establishment of the baseline measure in 2000 combined with ongoing resurveys in subsequent years provides a critical dynamic dimension.

Among its many current uses, NHCS data is used by city staff for program planning and development and service delivery, for preparation of the HUD 5‐year Consolidated Plan, for the annual CDBG competitive grant process, and for operations planning and evaluation by numerous local CDCs.

2. CityScope – A web‐based map and data‐server first established in 2002 to publish results of the 2000 NHCS in KCMo; also includes tract, block group, and block level data from the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census, reported crime statistics from KCMo and KCKs Police Departments at block and neighborhood summary levels, and annual residential lending data collected in compliance with the Community Reinvestment and Home Mortgage Disclosure Acts (CRA and HMDA). The site currently records over 2500 registered users.

CityScope is presently, and has always been, an unfunded program supported by CEI through resources leveraged from other grant and contract revenue streams. We are in the process of upgrading the site both in terms of available content, and to current web standards in terms of functionality and appearance. This upgrade is taking place in conjunction with interactive web‐site development for the Green Impact Zone project (see Item No. 9 below), and will proceed in conjunction with the CWIN collaboration and our NNIP partnership.

3. Annual contract with Kansas City LISC – Since completion of the 2000 NHCS in KCMo, CEI has worked closely with Kansas City LISC to provide data and analysis for strategic planning and evaluation of CDC programming and funding. This work was initially

carried out under the auspices of the Kansas City Community Development Initiative

(KCCDI), which in 2006 evolved into the Neighborhoods Now program, modeled on the

New Communities program in Chicago.

Much of CEI’s additional indicator development was carried out in the context of our work with LISC, including use of city real estate data to construct parcel level measures of land use, owner‐occupancy, and assessed values that could be aggregated to block and neighborhood summary levels.

CEI staff provided an innovative GIS‐based approach to interactive, real‐time, collaborative analysis for the community task force convened by LISC to identify and select the original target neighborhoods for the Neighborhoods Now program.

4. 2005 Summit on Youth Violence – In the spring of 2005, CEI was invited to sit on the Research Advisory Board of the Partnership for Children, a nonprofit organization “dedicated to focusing Greater Kansas City’s energy on enhancing life for children and youth.” This led, in the summer of 2005, to participation in the Youth Violence Summit jointly convened by the Mayor, City Manager, and Police Chief of KCMo. Our work on

developing a data‐driven strategic response to problems of acute youth violence (modeled in part on the Boston Project) led to a long period of collaboration with the Mayor’s Safe City Initiative, close relationships with numerous individuals working in the field of community safety, and a joint proposal for establishment of a Community Safety Research Center.

As a by‐product of this project, in conjunction with our work for the Neighborhoods Now target neighborhood selection task force (see previous item), CEI was able to negotiate an MOU with KCMo PD to receive data‐enhanced, address‐level crime statistics in lieu of the block‐level data that had been supplied in preceding years.

5. The Urban Research Lab – In Fall 2005, CEI opened the Urban Research Lab (URL) in Haag Hall on the UMKC Volker Campus: 12 state‐of‐the‐art computer workstations equipped with fully‐featured industry‐standard GIS software, and with complete access to the CEI community indicators geographic database. The URL is open to UMKC students, faculty, staff, and members of the KC metropolitan community. It’s used for both academic instruction, and for community research. Graduate Lab Assistants are available to provide assistance in use of lab resources.

6. The Ivanhoe Land Trust Survey – In Spring 2007, CEI staff commenced regular attendance at monthly meetings of the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council (INC) Housing and Economic Development Committee. This resulted in CEI’s engagement with the Ivanhoe Land Trust Survey and Acquisition Project. Based on past agreements with the Jackson County Land Trust Authority, INC had been maintaining the condition of neighborhood vacant lots at their own expense, with the intent of converting this “sweat equity” into ownership for development. Final title to these properties, however, was dependent on INC demonstrating development capacity, including submission of a development plan.

CEI worked with INC and neighborhood residents to accurately identify, survey, and map Land Trust properties targeted for acquisition, and to map additional vacant lots

and vacant residential structures which altogether represented opportunities for project land assembly. This resulted in development of the Ivanhoe Model Blocks Program, and eventual agreement with the Land Trust Authority to give Ivanhoe title to the targeted Land Trust properties (approximately 60 vacant lots).

CEI continues to serve on the Ivanhoe Housing and Economic Development Committee. While we continue to be involved with the Model Blocks Program and numerous other projects, our current focus with that committee is on the 39th Street Corridor Economic Development Initiative.

7. The Neighborhood Development Services Program (NDSP) – Since its inception, it has always been CEI’s stated policy to provide, to the full extent of its capability, unfunded “pro bono” services to community residents and organizations. Beginning in 2009, this policy was formalized as the Neighborhood Development Services Program (NDSP). Under the auspices of the NDSP, CEI utilizes trained graduate and undergraduate student assistants to supplement staff resources in providing community access to CEI’s

database and mapping capabilities, on request, at no or low cost. To date, over twenty‐

five requests have been fulfilled, some having acquired the status of ongoing projects.

8. Habitat for Humanity (January 2009) – A project in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity to assess the impact of homes produced by Habitat on the conditions of the neighborhood in which they are located. Phase One assesses the physical conditions of homes built through 2006. Phase Two assesses the physical conditions of homes built after 2006 and the impact of HFH home ownership on the residents’ quality of life.

9. The Green Impact Zone of Missouri (Spring 2009) – In March 2009, Missouri 5th District Representative Emanuel Cleaver asked MARC (the Kansas City Regional Council of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organization), to convene a broad coalition of community stakeholders for action on a proposal to designate a defined area of approximately 200 square blocks (intersecting 3 Council Districts and 5 neighborhoods) of Kansas City, Missouri, as a priority target for ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) federal stimulus spending. The purpose of this proposal was to take advantage of the “federal moment” represented by stimulus spending to make the Green Impact Zone “an innovative national model for transforming an urban neighborhood into a sustainable community.” Based on our track record of data collection and distribution, and applied work with urban neighborhoods, CEI was invited to provide data collection, baseline measurement, activity‐tracking, and evaluation services for the Green Impact Zone project. We are now involved with baseline measurement and activity‐tracking aspects of the project; a state‐of‐the‐art interactive data and mapping website is scheduled to go live in March 2010.

10. East Side Neighborhoods Asset Mapping (Fall 2009) – Following an initial NDSP request, CEI is providing ongoing assistance and support for 10 KCMo East Side neighborhoods in an “asset‐mapping” project designed to lay the groundwork for community and economic development initiatives. Services provided by CEI staff and student assistants include data collection design, training of resident volunteers, data‐entry, summary reports, and mapping. Results of the first round of data collection are scheduled to be ready for presentation this month.

**Plans for Future** (Broad goals, new projects or topic areas being developed, data acquisition plans, etc.)**:**

With current projects underway (continued administration and application of the NHCS for the City of KCMo, maintenance and updates of the current indicator database, CityScope upgrades, measurement and program evaluation of the Green Impact Zone, ongoing annual contract services for Kansas City LISC, NDSP program response, and a joint study underway with MARC on poverty in metropolitan Kansas City) CEI staff and assistants are operating at close to (or perhaps exceeding) 100 percent of FTE capacity.

Given this workload, our primary strategic goal in the coming year will be to submit a successful application for NNIP partnership, formalize the CWIN collaborative as the over‐arching framework for NNIP participation by the Kansas City metropolitan region,

and undertake a sustained local/national solicitation for funding of the Kansas City

Neighborhood Indicators Program.

It will be our aim to function as full partners in NNIP, to report our activities, to attend semi‐annual meetings, to participate in workgroup projects and cross‐site studies, and generally to derive as much benefit as possible from association with our partner organizations.

Beyond this, we will continue as always to augment data holdings as per our interests indicated on the Data Inventory, incorporate new data resources from CWIN collaborators, and upgrade the content and functionality of CityScope.

**List other groups and organizations in your region that collect and disseminate data, including any current or past activities you have collaborated on with them:**

In 1997, the Mid‐America Regional Council (MARC), Kansas City’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), convened representatives from regional organizations whose missions included or entailed collection of significant socio‐economic and other data resources. This group came to be called CWIN (the Community‐Wide Information Network), so named in acknowledgement of its goal, which was to create a collaborative, shared regional data resource, a “clearinghouse of neighborhood information.” CEI was a member of this original group, which in addition to MARC also

included the Midwest Research Institute (MRI), the Local Investment Commission (LINC), the Mid‐America Assistance Coalition (MAAC), the Community Resource Network (CRN), a number of other entities from the University of Missouri‐Kansas City, and University Extension.

The group met monthly, and while discussions at first seemed promising, concrete results did not materialize. This lack of concrete progress, while inconvenient, was not sufficiently discouraging to deter continued effort toward what was viewed by the group as a highly worthwhile ultimate goal. Over time, active CWIN organizational

membership would wax and wane (sustained, however, by continuous engagement of a relatively small core group), meetings would fluctuate between monthly and bi‐monthly frequency, and the group’s orientation toward achievement of the ultimate goal would oscillate between more desultory organizational information‐sharing at monthly meetings and active pursuit of a concrete organizational structure and functional regional data system. During this same period of time, CEI continued development of its own neighborhood indicator data program, and the CityScope web site.

In 2008, David Park, Acting Director of the KCMo Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, invited representatives of community organizations and agencies to a meeting whose purpose was to promote the idea of Kansas City’s participation in the NNIP. Representatives of both CEI and MARC attended this meeting, and suggested that an NNIP application could best be pursued through the CWIN organizational framework. This suggestion was adopted, and led in turn to a sense of reinvigorated mission and possibility for the CWIN project.

Within a few months of these events, NNIP Director Dr. Thomas Kingsley independently contacted CEI’s Director, Dr. Peter Eaton, to inquire concerning our interest in making application for NNIP membership. Dr. Eaton responded in the affirmative, and representatives of both CEI and MARC attended the semi‐annual NNIP partners meeting in Chicago, October 2009.

Subsequent to our attendance at the October meeting, discussions among current CWIN participants have determined that the optimal procedure for Kansas City’s NNIP application will be for CEI to submit the initial application; formalization of the CWIN collaboration will eventually supplant CEI’s role as a sole organizational partner.

As evidence of movement toward that end, this application is accompanied by copies of CWIN MOUs signed by duly authorized representatives of the following organizations:

1. The UMKC Center for Economic Information (CEI)

2. The Mid‐America Regional Council (MARC)

3. The City of Kansas City, Missouri

4. The Kansas City Public Library

5. The Mid‐America Assistance Coalition (MAAC)

6. United Community Services of Johnson County

Other organizations have indicated their intent to sign the CWIN MOU, but administrative delays prevented incorporating their executed MOUs with this application. These include:

7. The Local Investment Commission (LINC)

8. The Downtown Council of KCMo

Together, the organizations listed above represent the majority of sustained core membership in CWIN over the course of its 12 year history. As the CWIN collaboration is formalized in the context of our NNIP partnership, and dedicated funding sources are obtained for the Kansas City Neighborhood Indicators Program, we expect significant additional shared data resources to become available to the program through these organizations, as well as others who will no doubt be joining us.

**References (3) and contact information:**

1. David Park, City of KCMo

Acting Director

Neighborhood and Community Services Department

City of Kansas City, Missouri

2. Margaret May

Executive Director

Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council

3. Carol Grimaldi, Brush Creek Community Partners

Carol A. Grimaldi

Executive Director

Brush Creek Community Partners

***Please attach a completed Data Inventory with this application.***

Submitted 3‐1‐10 via web‐based form.

The

Kansas City

Metropolitan Area

Community‐ Wide Information Network (CWIN)

Collected Memoranda of Understanding:

1. The UMKC Center for Economic Information (CEI)

2. The Mid‐America Regional Council (MARC)

3. The City of Kansas City, Missouri

4. The Kansas City Public Library

5. The Mid America Assistance Coalition (MAAC)

6. United Community Services of Johnson County

**(EXAMPLE TEXT PROVIDED FOR EXTERNAL VERSION)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY-WIDE INFORMATION NETWORK**

Whereas, governments, institutions, and organizations in the Kansas City metropolitan area recognize the benefits for the metropolitan area of having robust regional data and a set of quality neighborhood indicators and a system for the public to access to this data; and

Whereas, the development and maintenance of such data and neighborhood indicators can only succeed with a collaborative effort of governments, institutions, and organizations; and

Whereas, the Community-Wide Information Network has the membership and mission to be the vehicle for this collaboration;

Therefore, the members of the Community-Wide Information Network (CWIN) recognize the following mission of the organization:

*The mission of the Community-Wide Information Network (CWIN)* is *to foster collaboration and learning around the development, maintenance, and use of regional data and a neighborhood information network for the Kansas City metropolitan area.*

*The UMKC Center for Economic Information* has determined that it desires to be a partner in the Community-Wide Information Network and therefore is entering this Memorandum of Understanding with CWIN and its fellow partners.

**Benefits**

The partner organization is joining CWIN through this Memorandum of Understanding because it anticipates the following benefits for its organization and the community it serves:

<® CWIN will expand the availability of and access to regional and neighborhood level data and indicators which will help organizations, local governments, businesses, and the public make better decisions about their community

<® CWIN will foster not only better access to data, but a better understanding of that data and how to use it and contribute to the region's data IQ

<® CWIN will enhance the validity of data that is made available by insisting on certain standards for data that becomes a part of the CWIN database

<® CWIN will support the region’s membership in the National Neighborhood Indicators

Partnership (NNIP) and assist in providing access to its benefits

<® CWIN will promote learning among its members

<® My organization will benefit because it will have access to a richer array of data which will improve decision-making within my organization

**Partner Obligations**

By executing this Memorandum of Understanding ***The UMKC Center for Economic Information***assumes the following obligations in support of the Community-Wide Information Network and its mission:

4II> Offer the name of its organization in public support of CWIN and its activities

4II> Be actively engaged in CWIN activities, problem-solving, and decision-making

4II> Appoint a member of our organization as a representative to CWIN

4II> Provide CWIN access to regional and neighborhood level data managed by my organization subject to contractual and policy requirements governing the use of the data

4II> Provide to CWIN support in developing and maintaining the regional data and neighborhood indicators database and Web site

4II> Assist CWIN in promoting the use of regional data and neighborhood indicators

4II> Support and promote the standards established by the National Neighborhood Indicators

Partnership and CWIN in its efforts to meet and exceed these standards

4II> Assist CWIN in its mission by assisting in raising funds and in providing in-kind support when feasible

**CWIN Obligations**

CWIN is responsible for its mission, for providing the benefits enumerated above, and for providing a collaborative forum for the development, maintenance, and use of a robust regional data and neighborhood indicators database for the Kansas City metropolitan area. CWIN will support the membership of the region in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership and assure adherence to its standards:

4II> Building and operating an advanced information system with integrated and recurrently updated information on neighborhood conditions in the region;

4II> Facilitating and promoting the direct practical use of data by community, city, and regional leaders in community building and local policy making; and

4II> Giving emphasis to using information to build the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed neighborhoods.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed this Agreement

THE UMKC CENTER FOR ECONOMIC INFORMATION

