

The Piton Foundation
Data Manager Phone Questions

EXERCISE 15 MIN

1. Please take a few minutes to highlight your findings from the EITC exercise.
2. Describe how you tackled the questions.
(prompts if needed)
 - a. How did your past professional and education experiences guide your approach?
 - b. Take a few minutes to describe your methodology in analyzing the data
 - c. What would you have done if you had more time?

BACKGROUND (10 MIN)

3. Please describe your experience working with other socioeconomic data particularly at a neighborhood scale.

(prompts if needed)
 - a. Different datasets you have worked with
 - b. A particular analysis you are proud of
4. Please describe your understanding of scales of geography (Census, other)?

(prompts if needed)
 - a. What are the challenges working at a neighborhood level
5. Please describe your approach to data management

(prompts if needed)
 - a. Have you ever developed metadata or a data dictionary?
 - b. How would you go about organizing several disparate data sets

REASON FOR INTEREST (5 MIN)

6. What aspects of the position are most exciting to you?

QUESTIONS FOR US (15 MIN)

Through its involvement in The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, the Urban Institute just announced to The Piton Foundation an exciting federal data source, the Earn Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is a tax credit for qualifying tax filers who have low wages.

Piton staff has asked that you look deeper into how it could most effectively use EITC to inform its understanding of metro Denver neighborhoods. Specially, we would like to know what new information the dataset provides as well as any limitations.

Please prepare a 1-2 page summary that:

1. Provides a basic analysis of EITC characteristics by Metro area, including any appropriate tables or graphics.
2. Recommends how Piton could use the data at a neighborhood level.
3. Explains data limitations and cautions for using EITC data.

Please submit your response 24 hours in advance of your interview to mbarry@piton.org

You can download the Colorado's 2006 and 2007 EITC from:

<http://www.box.net/shared/static/fq88gyi9sk.xls>

To learn more about the EITC, see the Brooking Institute's User Guide and Data Dictionary:

<http://www.brookings.edu/metro/EITC/EITC-Data.aspx>