USING INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

Kathy Pettit, The Urban Institute
National Trends in Using Local Indicators

- More neighborhood level data available than ever before
  - Online systems like EveryBlock, Zillow,
  - New federal initiative promoting open data

- Increased role for local administrative data
  - American Community Survey tract data will be 5-year averages (12/2010 release)

- Advances in usability and functionality of technology

- New focus in federal programs on place-based initiatives
  - Promise Neighborhoods
  - Choice Neighborhoods
  - Sustainable Communities
National Trends in Using Local Indicators

• But, still often difficult to find relevant, up-to-date data at the desired geography for community action

• And more than data is needed
  – Knowledge and respect of the community
  – Committed institutions
  – Strong partnerships among organizations
  – Effective communication & advocacy
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP)

- Collaborative effort since 1995
  - Urban Institute and local partners in 34 U.S. cities
- Success required three innovations
  1. Data and technology
  2. Institutions
  3. Using information for change
Data and Technology

Linking people information with place information

- Problems are not evenly distributed across cities.
- Priority issues vary across neighborhoods.
- People can relate to data analysis at the neighborhood level.
New Types of Institutions

• All but one outside of government
  – Stand-alone nonprofit, university centers, alliance
• But partner with resident groups, nonprofits, government, and other stakeholders
• Long-term and multifaceted interests
• Positioned to maintain trust of data providers and users
Shared Mission: Information for Change

• Democratizing Information
  • Facilitate the direct use of data by stakeholders

• Work for many clients
  • Helping Boys and Girls Club choose a new site
  • Working in a cross-sector collaboration to reduce infant deaths

• But a central focus on strengthening, empowering low-income neighborhoods

• Information as a bridge for collaboration among public agencies, nonprofits, businesses
Joint Work Program of the NNIP Partnership

• Advance the state of practice
  1. Informing local policy initiatives (cross-site projects)
  2. Developing tools and guides

• Build/strengthen local capacity
  3. Developing capacity in new communities
  4. Services to an expanding network

• Influence national context/partnering
  5. Leadership in building the field
The Impact of Incarceration and Prisoner Reentry on Neighborhoods

Providence Plan
Strategies to Address Challenges of Prisoner Reentry

- Engage and educate the community about prisoner reentry issues
- Advocate for legal reforms that penalized ex-offenders and hindered re-integration
- Inform and improve and Department of Corrections’ practice and planning
Engage the Community:

Cost of $27 million in 2007 to incarcerate 849 non-violent, non-sexual offenders, primarily from minority & low-income neighborhoods.
Advocate for Legal Reform

Individuals convicted of selling drugs were permanently barred from receiving food stamps, making their transition more difficult and denying help to their children.
Improve and Inform Department of Corrections Practice and Planning

Probation, Parole and Services Mapper

Tool for probation officers manage their caseloads and for central office to assign cases by geography, saving travel time and letting probation officers focus efforts on specific areas.
Help Parole Officers Connect Ex-offenders to Nearby Services

Show facilities that offer any of the following services:
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Mental Health
- Shelters
- Clothing
- DV Offender
- Sex Offender
- HIV/AIDS
- Employment
- Counseling
- Legal
- Food
- Substance Abuse
- DV Victim
- Women
- Education

Providence Rescue Mission
(401-274-8861)
Dinner Sunday-Saturday 5pm, call for groceries. Emergency shelter for 26-40 homeless men

627 Cranston St
PROVIDENCE, RI 02907
Get directions To From
Using Public School Data for Community Planning

NeighborhoodInfoDC
Bridging Education and Housing Policy through Student Data

- Connect the worlds of neighborhood development and school planning
- Guide process of closing schools with data, not just politics
- Highlight impact of foreclosure crisis on school-age children
Connect
Neighborhood Development & School Planning

Understand the relationship between families with children and housing type
Develop growth scenarios to guide planning discussions:
• Following historic or recent patterns?
• Attracting mostly singles or accommodating families with some shift to moderate rental housing?
• Integrate school reform with revitalization …
Guide Process of School Closings with Data

Create a clear, defendable, replicable, transparent process

Involve all stakeholders from schools and housing/community development
Final list of closed and consolidated schools
Highlight Effects of Foreclosure on Children

**Forced mobility can put kids behind socially and academically**

**Foreclosure prevention counselors should connect families to student services**

**Schools need to understand the patterns and trends of students affected by foreclosure to design appropriate responses.**
Unexpected Findings

Need to provide outreach and counseling for renters (most assistance programs focused on helping homeowners.)

Next steps: link student records across years to see if/where foreclosed children move and how they compare in attendance and test scores to other students.
For more information

NNIP Web site: www.urban.org/nnip

Email: Kathy Pettit, kpettit@urban.org