USING INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

Kathy Pettit, The Urban Institute

Unleashing the Power of Local Data Conference

October 13, 2011

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What's Happening Nationally?

- Great progress on Open Data

  - Lots of energy from the private and public sector

- Federal place-based initiatives survive budget pressures

  - Promise and Choice Neighborhoods
  - Sustainable Communities

- More critical than ever to target neighborhood efforts

  - Stagnating economy increases need for public programs

  - But local, state, and federal funding is being cut back
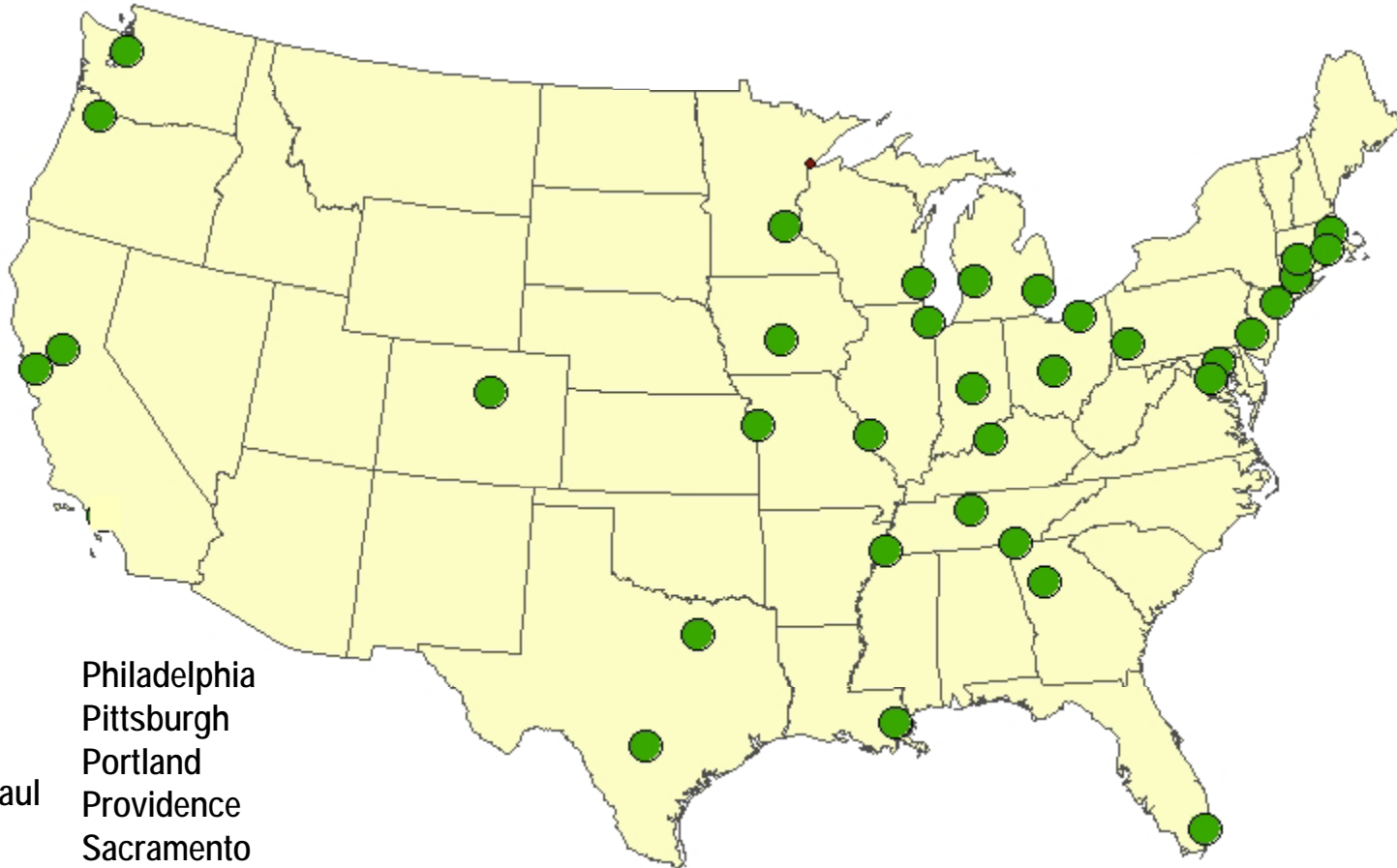
What Needs to Be Done Locally?

- Identifying the right data to answer questions

- Transforming raw data into information

- Communicating findings and insights

- Advocating for effective & informed policies

- Implementing the right programs to help residents and neighborhoods

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National Neighborhood Indicators Partners

Atlanta
Baltimore
Boston
Camden
Chattanooga
Chicago
Cleveland
Columbus
Dallas
Denver
Des Moines
Detroit
Grand Rapids
Hartford
Indianapolis
Kansas City
Louisville
Memphis
Miami
Milwaukee
Minneapolis-St. Paul
Nashville
New Haven
New Orleans
New York City
Oakland

Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Portland
Providence
Sacramento
St. Louis
San Antonio
Seattle
Washington, DC

NNIP 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

- A central focus on strengthening, empowering low-income neighborhoods

- Information as a bridge for collaboration among public agencies, nonprofits, businesses

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Lessons from NNIP

- Design indicators for action—not just to passively monitor trends.

- Develop indicators at the neighborhood level as well as the city or county as a whole.

- Use available indicators but recognize their inadequacies – don't discount local wisdom.

- Place the numbers in the context of images and stories about the issues you care about.
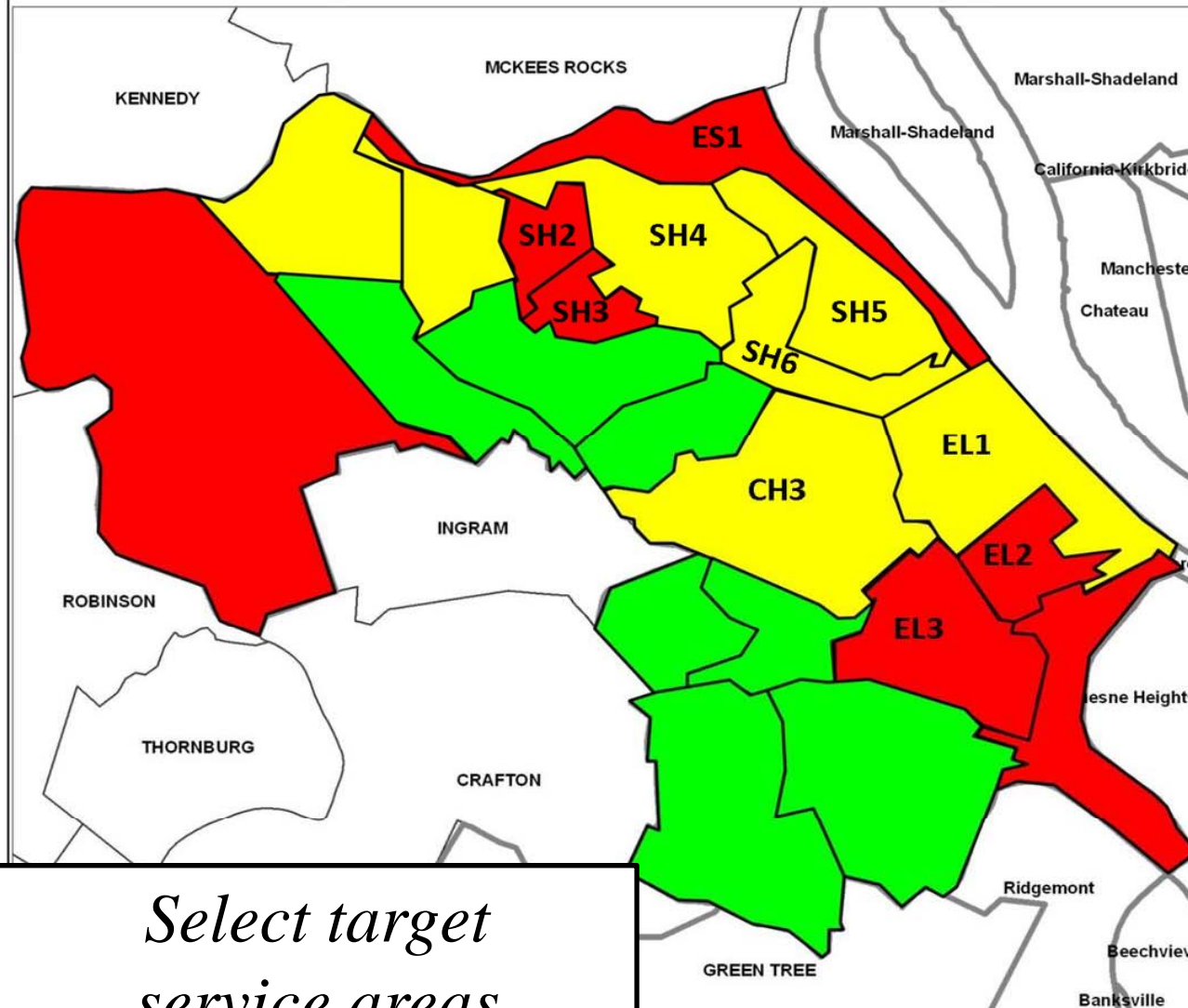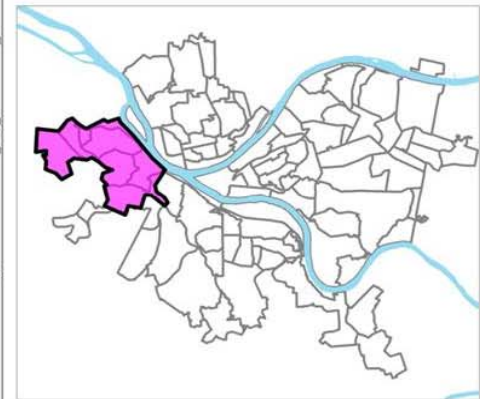
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West Pittsburgh Level of Need

KENNEDY

MCKEES ROCKS

Marshall-Shadeland

Marshall-Shadeland

California-Kirkbride

ES1

SH2   SH4

Manchester

SH3   SH5

Chateau

SH6

EL1

CH3

INGRAM

EL2

ROBINSON

EL3

esne Heights

THORNBURG

CRAFTON

Ridgemont

Beechview

GREEN TREE

Banksville

Select target service areas

Miles

1: 30,273

PNCIS
Pittsburgh Neighborhood and
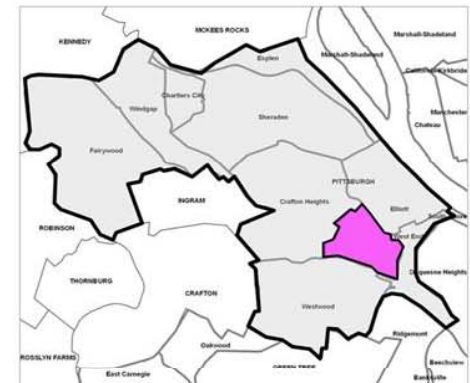Community Information System

Rebuilding Together®
Pittsburgh

Elliott Census Block 3

LEGEND

Act 77 Sr. Homestead Exemptions
43 Homes

Year of Sale Before 1980
69 Homes

Notes
- Median Household Income: $29,028
- Median Home Value: $43,000

Identify potential clients

1: 5,783

www.pghnis.pitt.edu

Miles

PNCIS
Pittsburgh Neighborhood and
Community Information System

Rebuilding Together®
Pittsburgh

Problem Property Audit

☒ Property Information | ☒ Structural / Environmental Problems | ☒ Crime | 🖼 Picture

Structure Problems

Property Condition

[Burnout ▼]

☐ Outbuilding / Garage in Poor Condition

Grounds

☐ Absence of grass, ground cover
  or alternative landscaping
☐ Erosion or Drainage
☐ Weeds, overgrowth
☐ Cracked Sidewalks / Driveway

Debris / Dumping

☐ Trash / Litter on Ground
☐ Dumpsite for junk/garbage
☐ Demolition Debris
☐ Abandoned Construction Materials

Other Problems

☐ Inoperable vehicle parked anywhere
  other than driveway
☐ Vehicle Parked in Yard
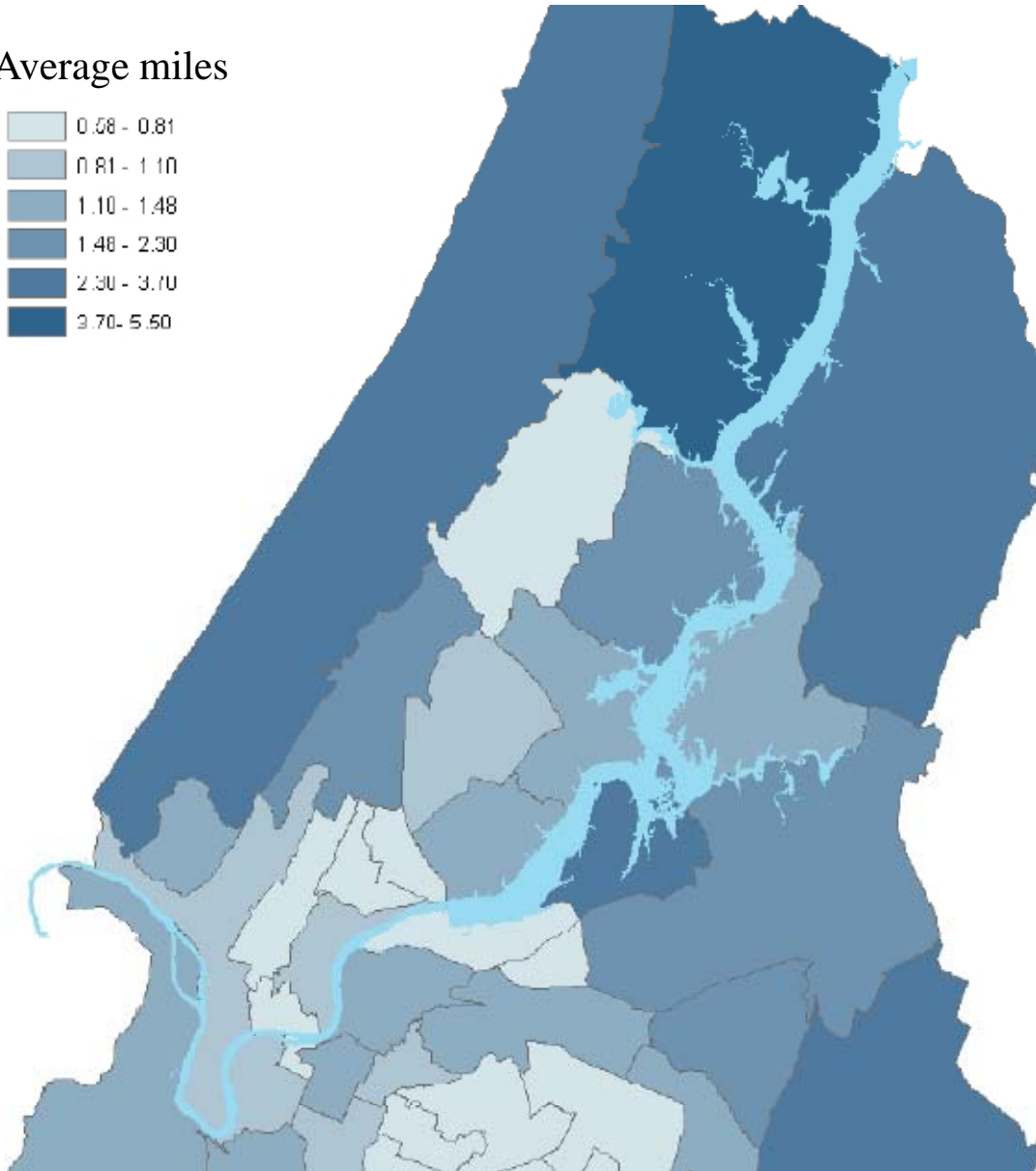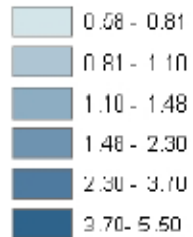☐ Furniture / appliances on porch
☐ 18 wheel truck parked at residence
☐ Comme...

Comments

> *Inform community development decisions*

Source: Center for Community Building and Neighborhood Action, University of Memphis

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Average miles

	0.58 - 0.81
	0.81 - 1.10
	1.10 - 1.48
	1.48 - 2.30
	2.30 - 3.70
	3.70 - 5.50

Uncover disparities in access to basic services

Average Distance to Nearest Grocery Store by Block in Chattanooga

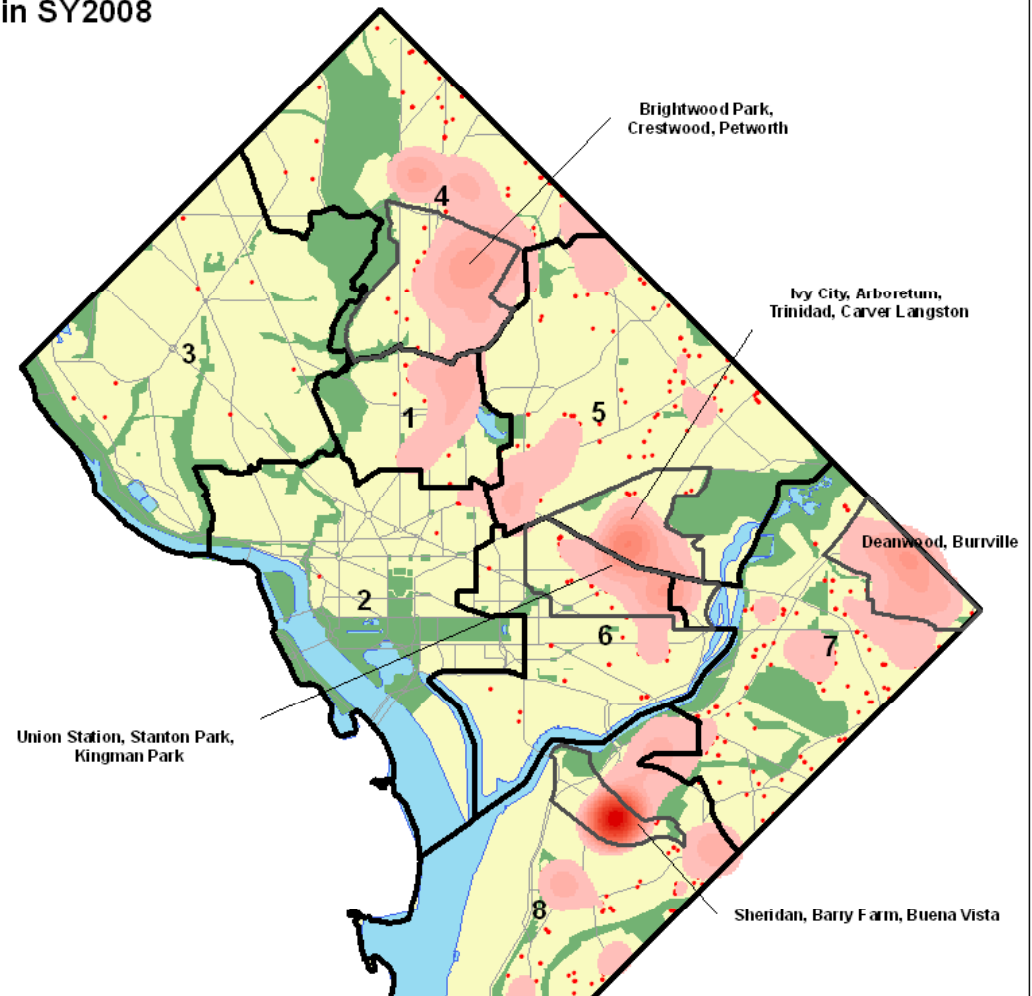Source: Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies

How Foreclosure Effects Kids

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.

Concentrations of Students Affected by Foreclosure in SY2008

Brightwood Park, Crestwood, Petworth

Ivy City, Arboretum, Trinidad, Carver Langston

Deanwood, Burrville

Union Station, Stanton Park, Kingman Park
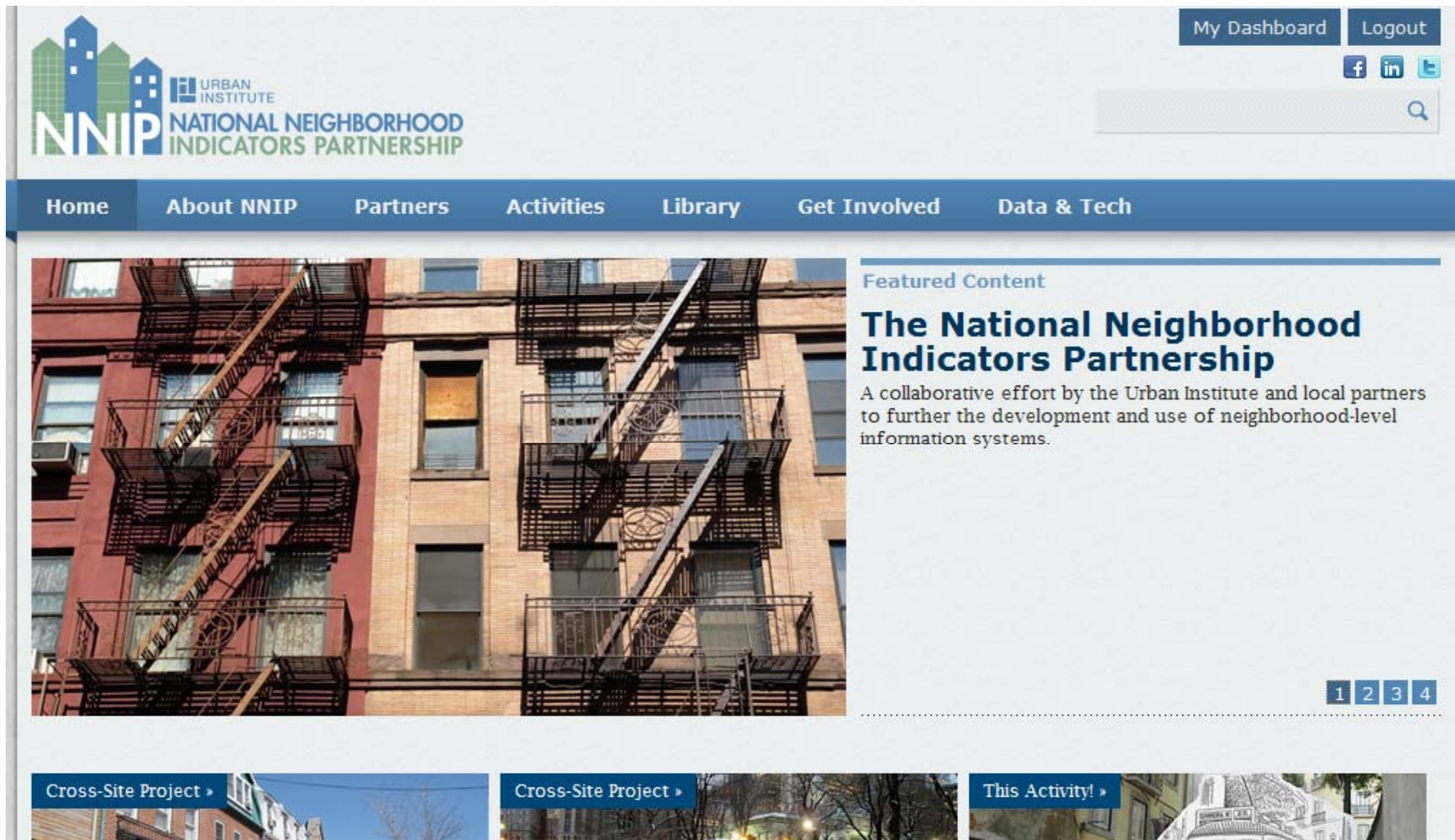
Sheridan, Barry Farm, Buena Vista

Sources: District of Columbia Public Schools
Public Charter School Board,
District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds,
District of Columbia Office of Tax and Reven

Bring a hidden issue to light, bridge silos.

How You Can Get Started

- Learn and network as much as you can today!

- Think about concrete ways local and national data could help in your own advocacy or program work.

- Reach out to NNIP partners, universities or research groups for help. (We also help new NNIP partners get started).

- Think long-term – support open data and build your local data infrastructure.

Visit our new website for more ideas...

Issue Areas

NNIP Partners make important contributions to their communities on a variety of issues. The pages below highlight and organize the work NNIP partners have done, bringing together activities, published products, and cross-site projects related to each topic.

If you are interested in topics not displayed here, use the site's general search box.

Absenteeism

Absenteeism is an important indicator of how well children will perform in school. A number of our partners are helping school distrcits underssstand chronic absenteeism in their communities. [read more]

Affordable Housing

Community groups and policy makers have expressed a strong interest in maintaining and improving the stock of affordable housing in NNIP communities. Our partners research and report on the availability of affordable housing, the costs and benefits of gentrification, rent control, and reflect more broadly on how access to affordable housing ... [read more]

Children

Many partners have focused efforts to help to improve the well-being of children in low-income neighborhoods. Project examples include school readiness initiatives, child indicator reports, analysis on home visiting and support of promise neighborhood programs. [read more]

Comprehensive Community Development

Comprehensive Community Indicators

All of the NNIP partners have recurrently updated neighborhood data systems covering a variety of topics. In some cities, communities use the data from the NNIP partners to develop comprehensive community indicator initiatives. In this approach, indicators are selected across topical domains to collectively track trends in community well-being ... [read more]

For more information

NNIP Web site:

www.neighborhoodindicators.org

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