

# USING INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

## *National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership*

**Kathy Pettit, The Urban Institute**

*Utilizing Data to Manage Neighborhood Change Conference*

*October 28, 2011*



# 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



# 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



# 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.



# INDICATORS IN ACTION:

## Preserving Affordable Housing in Washington, D.C.

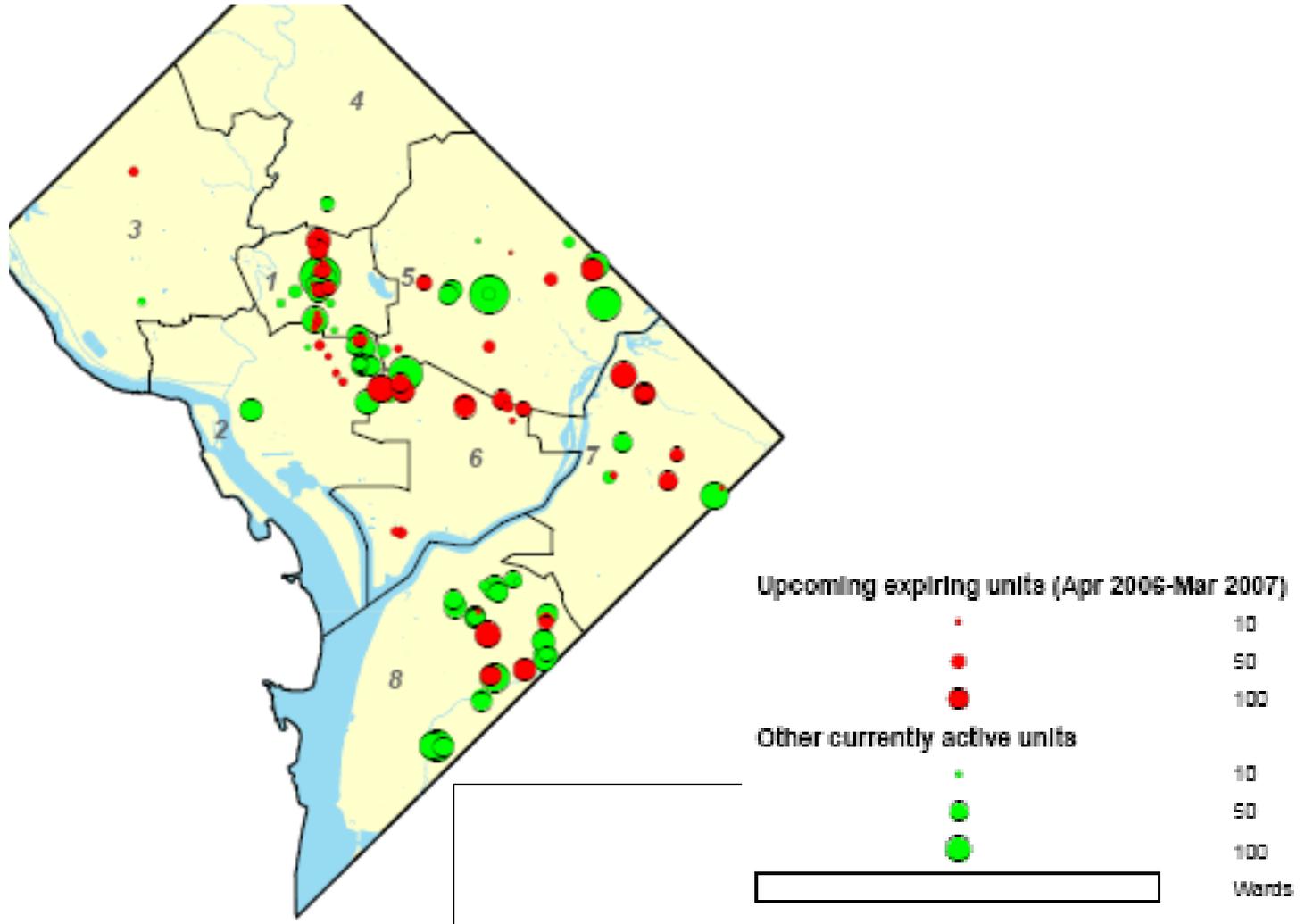


# Setting Community Goal

- Housing Strategy Task Force (2006)
  - Composed of city officials, advocates, and non-profit housing and for-profit producers.
- Report recommended:
  - 2.1 Preserve at least 30,000 existing affordable units
    - 2.1a Preserve all project-based Section 8 and other federally-supported units*
- Outcome measure:
  - Number of project-based Section 8 units preserved/lost



# Understanding the Problem



# Collective Action: DC Preservation Network

- Collaboration between NeighborhoodInfoDC (NIDC) and Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development
- NIDC compiles full list of federally or locally subsidized rental housing from various sources
- NIDC meets monthly with city staff and housing nonprofits to review the list
- Each group takes on responsibility to follow-up with individual properties



## Preservation Catalog for the District of Columbia:

**1 - Identified as At-Risk or Flagged for Follow-up**

Project: **1204 TALBERT ST SE** Address: 1204 TALBERT ST SE  
 Owner: Type: Manager: FM Properties, Inc. (Felton & Brian MaGee)  
 TA Provider: HCS Notes: 6/11 HCS will be checking in and will provide an update in August.  
 4/11 New LL not makign repairs, telling tenants they must leave bc building will be condos. No way to move HAP now bc its replaced by vouchers.

Subsidy/Program	Assisted Units:	Total Units:	Start of Affordability:	End of Affordability:	Data Source:	Data N
DCHA					DCHA Document (2007)	Section :

Project: **1425 T STREET COOPERATIVE** Address: 1425 T ST NW  
 Owner: Type: Manager:  
 TA Provider: Notes: 9/11 DCHA not allowed tenants to use vouchers for homeownership.  
 We will ask LEDC to follow up. 8/9/11 - NEED TO RESOLVE. DCHA and HUD disagree who handles this 'boutique' program. HUD thinks it is turning to regular vouchers.

Subsidy/Program	Assisted Units:	Total Units:	Start of Affordability:	End of Affordability:	Data Source:	Data N
DCHA Multicultural Project	30	30			DCHA Document (2/2011)	HAP/Mul

Project: **ELEVENTH STREET APTS** Address: 1107 11TH ST NW  
 Owner: Bruce Finland (not yet closed) S&H Associates Ltd Type: Limited Dividend Manager: S&H Associates Ltd. Partnership  
 TA Provider: HCS & OTA Notes: 9/11 CNHED: building to be ready in 3-4 wks; master leased by DHS.  
 Bld under lease 8/9/11 Mary Ann to look into case, HUD has no

# Categories of Properties

- At Risk or Flagged for Follow-up
- Expiring Subsidy
- Recent Failing REAC Score
- More Info Needed
- Other Subsidized Property



# DC Preservation Strategies

- Poor conditions
  - Negotiate with owners/managers
  - Bring HUD to the table
- Terminations
  - Targeted code enforcement
  - City discretionary building repair fund
- Expirations
  - Convince landlords to stay in program
  - Tenant, nonprofit, or city purchase of buildings





## Affordable Housing Database

the affordable housing database was created by:  
Community Research Partners



**Area:**

City or Town	<input type="text"/>
County	<input type="text"/>
Zip Code	<input type="text"/>
School District	<input type="text"/>
Ohio Senate	<input type="text"/>
Ohio House	<input type="text"/>

**Housing (SHIP) | Neighborhood Info**

**Filter by**

- General
- Location
- Subsidies
- Financial
- Physical Condition

**Show my results as**

Properties  Aggregates

[Reset Filters](#)

**2,551 SHIP properties meet your criteria on the map (Other affordability results are not shown)**

A map of New Jersey showing various municipalities and their corresponding SHIP properties. The map includes labels for cities like Rockaway, Montville, Parsippany-Troy Hills, and others. A scale bar indicates 5 miles and 10 kilometers.

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*Similar data efforts by  
NNIP partners in Columbus  
and New York City*

# Data Driven Organizing in Pittsburgh's Homewood Children's village



*Thanks to Samantha Teixeira & Dr. John Wallace, Jr.  
and Bob Gradeck for slides and story*



# The Village

- Adapting the Harlem Children's Zone model
- HCZ pillars
  - Community building
  - Evidence based programs
  - Scale
  - Evaluation
- Property issues are a key aspect of Homewood's challenges





### 1000 Conversations

- Residents express concern about vacant houses



### Data Gathering

- OBB and Pitt partner with PNCIS to gather housing related data



Celebrate!

### Contact engaged residents

- Equip residents with data and a manageable plan



### Form Action Plan

- Identify worst homes in neighborhood and policy mechanism to address them

# PNCIS Partnership in HCV Neighborhood Assessment

- Research Review & Design
- Data Integration
- Data Visualization: MAPS!
- Training
- Policy Action



# Exterior Property Condition in Homewood



## Legend

### Exterior and Paint

- nil
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

— City Steps

— Railroad

### Streets

- Street
- Major Road

— Rivers

□ Parcels

□ City Neighborhoods

□ Municipalities

□ County

■ Woodland

■ Cemeteries

■ Parks



1: 7,005



Notes

# Data Driven Organizing

- Homewood's Dirty Thirty:
  - Used joint database to identify worst properties in the neighborhood
  - Mobilized residents to call the 311 Response Line and advocate for boarding up the properties
  - 23 of 30 properties (77%) were boarded up, torn down, or otherwise improved within about a month



# Before

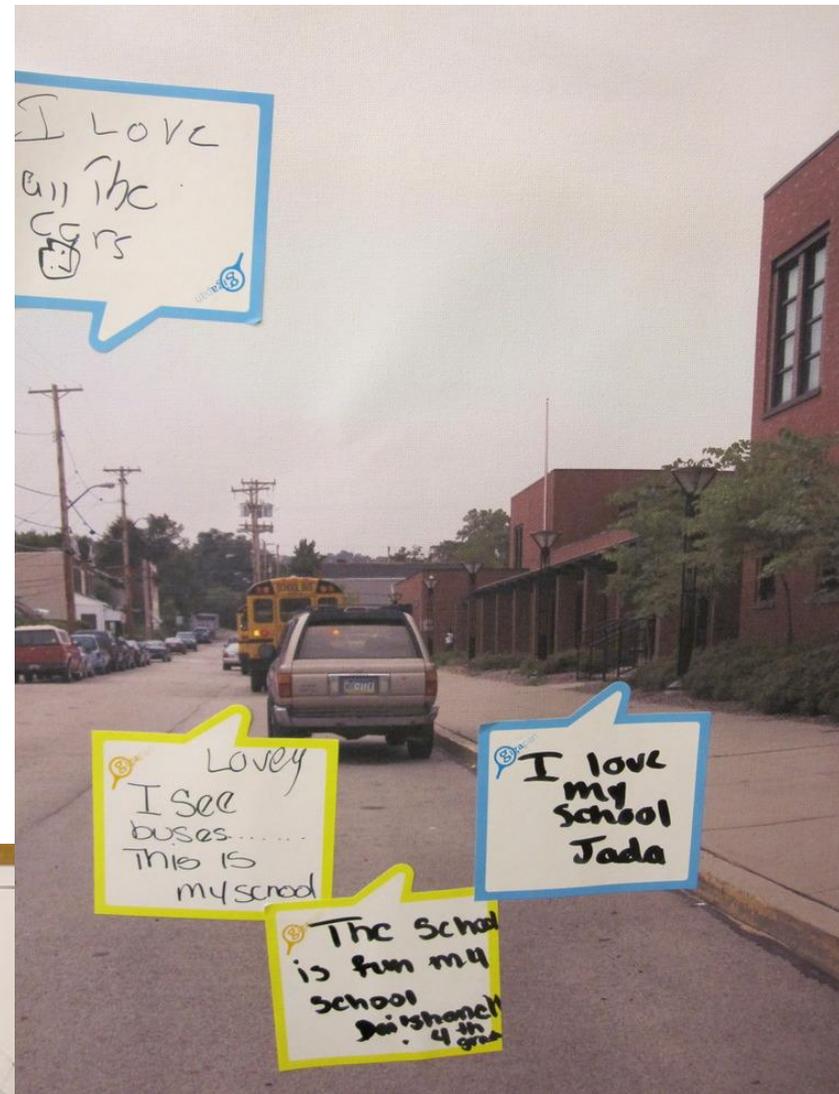


# After



# Gigapan

- Document neighborhood conditions
- Collect input from residents



# Impact

- Bringing resources back to the neighborhood to help children and families
- Improving quality of built and physical environment
- Strengthen residents' capacity for action
- Making the neighborhood a safer place for children



# Tips for Getting Started: Using Data

- 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 partner, universities and research groups for help
- Think long-term – support open data and your local data infrastructure



# Tips for Getting Started: Sharing Data

- Publish non-confidential data on-line
  - Cities of DC, Vancouver, San Francisco as inspiration
- Transform your data into indicators for neighborhoods and cities to inform others' work
- Think about how information might start new conversations and break down silos in your city
  - New audiences for your data
  - External data that would help your work



# Visit our new website for more ideas...



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## Featured Content

### The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

A collaborative effort by the Urban Institute and local partners to further the development and use of neighborhood-level information systems.

1 2 3 4

Cross-Site Project »



Cross-Site Project »



This Activity! »



# 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 districts understand 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 ... [\[read more\]](#)

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# Minneapolis-St. Paul

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## Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

330 HHH Center 301 19th Ave S  
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

**Contact:** Jeffrey Matson, Associate Program Director  
[jmatson@umn.edu](mailto:jmatson@umn.edu)

**Website:** <http://www.cura.umn.edu>

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota is an applied research and technical assistance cent

# For more information

NNIP Web site:

[www.neighborhoodindicators.org](http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org)

Email: Kathy Pettit, [kpettit@urban.org](mailto:kpettit@urban.org)

