

Appendix 1: Indicator Systems in Other Cities

This appendix presents city case studies used as a reference in developing a neighborhood indicator system. This appendix is divided into three sections. Part I provides detailed city case studies. Part II is an indicators case study matrix evaluating the web-based interface of city systems. Part III reports the different data sources used in the city case study indicator systems

Part I: Indicators System Case Studies

The following case studies explore the process and challenges developers face when creating neighborhood information systems. The details provided in each case study helped inform the recommendations in this plan, including issues of collaboration between various agencies and organizations; data acquisition and sharing; user feedback and overall system design.

Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS)

Web site: <http://www.npcr.org/MNIS.html>

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS) offers an example of how community GIS can be used to develop solutions and ideas for policy changes by using property and housing data to produce maps that illustrate and analyze neighborhood changes.⁸⁴ The MNIS development process is also an example of how partnerships can be formed through collaborative effort. The City of Minneapolis, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, neighborhood organizations and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota are all actively involved in the MNIS program.⁸⁵

History: MNIS Development

During the late 1990's, the concept of creating an early warning system (EWS) for Minneapolis came out of University of Minnesota research on predictive indicators of abandoned housing.⁸⁶ The system was designed to track indicators such as unpaid taxes, housing code violations and delinquent utility bills and gave neighborhood organizations an opportunity to assist families who might lose their homes.⁸⁷

⁸⁴ McCartney, Molly. 2003. *How to Build a Community GIS: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Handbook*. Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. p. 1 <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed April 20, 2004.

⁸⁵ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information Systems. *MNIS Partners*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNISpartners.html> Accessed April 20, 2004

⁸⁶ McCartney, Molly. 2003. *How to Build a Community GIS: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Handbook*. Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. p. 9 <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed April 20, 2004.

⁸⁷ Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota. *Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System*. <http://www.cura.umn.edu/programs/MNIS.html>. Accessed March 24, 2004.

The MNIS evolved into a broader-based system that provides neighborhoods with property and housing information. With the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Program, a greater effort was made to engage in more neighborhood planning. In 2001, a steering committee, made up of City staff members, University researchers and representatives from twelve neighborhood organizations was formed to oversee the development and implementation of the MNIS.⁸⁸ The program also received a Technology Opportunity Grant (TOP) from the U.S. Department of Commerce providing funding of \$500,000 for three years.⁸⁹

MNIS Partnerships

The system design of the MNIS has been driven in large part by the participation of neighborhood organization staff members. Their involvement during the project was critical for developing a product that is easy to use and addresses their information needs.⁹⁰ One of the stated goals of the MNIS is to improve the relationship between the neighborhood organizations and staff members at city agencies.⁹¹ This is accomplished by having the City establish a process for neighborhood organizations to gain access to administrative data. Continued partnership by MNIS with the University of Minnesota is important for providing project management and technical training to neighborhood organizations as well as for engaging students in research projects that address neighborhood issues.⁹²

The MNIS does have membership requirements. The criterion for participation is to be "a recognized citizen participation neighborhood organization".⁹³ As part of the neighborhood organization participation agreement, regular attendance at MNIS steering committee meetings is required as well as an annual contribution of \$250.⁹⁴ One of the benefits that MNIS neighborhoods have experienced is that regular meetings have fostered collaboration between neighborhood organizations from different parts of the city as project ideas are shared and results are reported.⁹⁵ Currently, 12 neighborhood organizations are involved and more are being enlisted.⁹⁶ One of the challenges for neighborhood organizations in utilizing MNIS is whether they have adequate technological resources such as a computer with a high-speed connection that can support GIS software.⁹⁷ The University provides the software, easing the burden of having the neighborhood organizations procure funds to purchase it themselves.⁹⁸

Data Management and Access

MNIS members can download data from the City of Minneapolis by linking to a page found on the City's web page as shown in

⁸⁸⁻⁹⁰ McCartney, Molly. 2003. *How to Build a Community GIS: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Handbook*. Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. p. 9 <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed April 20, 2004.

⁹¹ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information Systems. *Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization*. <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed March 24, 2004.

⁹² McCartney, Molly. 2003. *How to Build a Community GIS: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Handbook*. Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. p. 7-8 <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed April 20, 2004.

⁹³ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *MNIS Membership Criteria and Requirements*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNISmemcriteria.html>. Accessed April 21, 2004.

⁹⁴ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *Participating Neighborhood Organization Agreement*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNISneighagree.html>. Accessed April 21, 2004.

⁹⁵⁻⁹⁶ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *MNIS Accomplishments*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNISaccomplish.html>. Accessed April 21, 2004. And Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *MNIS Partners*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNISpartners.html>. Accessed April 21, 2004.

⁹⁷ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *MNIS Membership Criteria and Requirements*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNISmemcriteria.html>. Accessed April 26, 2004.

⁹⁸ McCartney, Molly. 2003. *How to Build a Community GIS: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Handbook*. Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. p. 6 - 19 <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed April 20, 2004.

Figure A1. (<http://apps.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mnisapp/>) The site requires a login and a password and gives users the ability to select the neighborhoods and the attributes they wish to download.⁹⁹ Users can also customize downloads in order to receive regular updates on the same pieces of information.

The City of Minneapolis' ITS and Business Information Systems (BIS) departments are responsible for maintaining the download application on the site.¹⁰⁰ The dataset is provided by the BIS department who aggregates the information from the databases of different city agencies. These agencies include:¹⁰¹

- Assessor
- Inspections
- Planning
- Public Works

The dataset provides parcel-level information that is updated regularly and property data that can be used in a mapping program. This dataset includes:¹⁰²

- Ownership
- Mailing address
- Tax status
- Housing condition
- Zoning district
- Permits issued

Feedback Mechanism

The membership neighborhood organizations using the data are able to improve the quality of the city's parcel data by using an online feedback form to identify any inaccuracies. These forms go to the BIS department and the information is corrected either in the department the data originated from or within the MNIS downloadable dataset itself.¹⁰³

EWS Application

The city is in the process of developing and implementing an early warning system for MNIS users.¹⁰⁴ This online analysis tool will allow MNIS users to select various factors and combine them to indicate areas that are at risk of housing abandonment. This helps identify the areas that are most vulnerable. The goal of this component is once these properties are identified, neighborhood organizations can step in to rehabilitate these properties and help keep families from losing their homes. Originally the city was only planning to offer an application that showed the mapped results. However, the neighborhood members advocated for a more open application that would give access to the data behind these maps and allow for data quality control.

⁹⁹ McCartney, Molly. 2003. *How to Build a Community GIS: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Handbook*. Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. p. 6 - 19 <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed April 20, 2004.

¹⁰⁰⁻¹⁰⁴ McCartney, Molly. 2003. *How to Build a Community GIS: The Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System Handbook*. Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1203/npcr1203.doc>. Accessed April 20, 2004.

Figure A1

MNIS Login Screen

City of Minneapolis Home Community Business City Hall Leisure

MNIS
Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System

MNIS Login

Type in your user name and password, and click the "Sign On" button.

User Name
Password

If you would like to learn more about MNIS, please contact:

Jeff Matson
3137 Chicago Ave. S
612-822-8146
jmatson@umn.edu

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Official Web Site of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota
MNIS 3.0 Rel.2 © 2002 See [Disclaimer](#) for legal information
Maintained by Minneapolis Business Information Services
Comments or suggestions? Use the [feedback form](#).

Source: City of Minneapolis Web Site¹⁰⁵

Figure A1: The MNIS requires users to login to access data about neighborhoods.

Community Empowerment: Mapping to Create Change

One of the goals of the MNIS is provide information and tools that enable neighborhood organizations to identify and address important issues like such as land use patterns, crime, target areas for redevelopment and funding. These organizations can then use this information about their communities to create changes through funding efforts, policy changes and redevelopment strategies. Participating neighborhood organizations have access to training, project assistance and GIS advice from the MNIS project coordinator. This educational outreach increases the number of community-based users who are able to take advantage of information and technology to create maps and devise policy interventions to improve the neighborhoods they serve.

The organizations themselves are responsible for designing, developing and using the maps they produce. MNIS membership stipulates that each organization create one map per quarter and provide updates on their projects.¹⁰⁶ Neighborhood-specific GIS projects also allow communities to input local data such as revitalization activities and neighborhood assets. This data can

¹⁰⁵ City of Minneapolis. *MNIS Data Download Start*. <http://apps.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mnisapp/>. Accessed April 27, 2004.

¹⁰⁶ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *MNIS Membership Criteria and Requirements*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNISmemcriteria.html>. Accessed April 26, 2004.

then be mapped to illustrate the importance of providing city resources, such as the impact of revitalization funding programs have had on the neighborhood. As for obtaining other agency data such as public school information or crime incident reports, the MNIS guide mentions that developing personal relationships with agency staff is recommended.

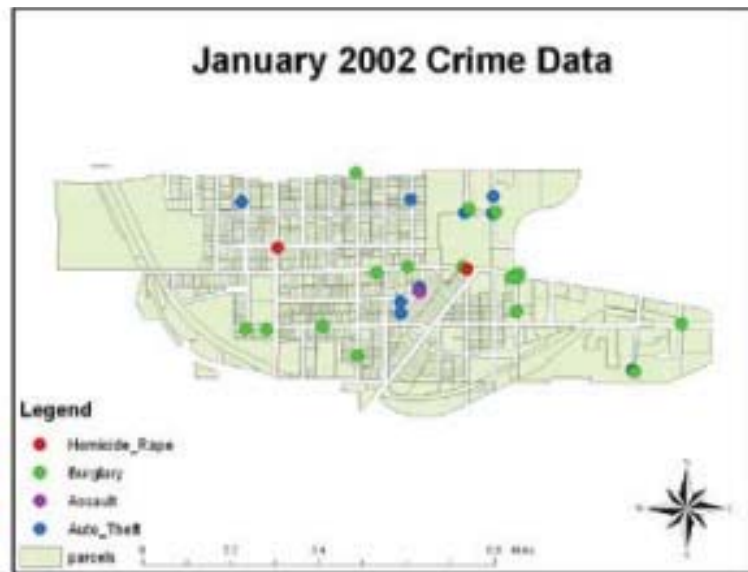
The sample projects on the MNIS Web site demonstrate how communities can use technological tools to present information about the neighborhood-specific conditions.

Harrison: Neighborhood Crime and Safety Data

Crime statistics from neighborhood police reports were added into a database and added as a GIS layer by placing points on a map of the neighborhood. Crime statistics are not available in electronic format so they were entered into the GIS application separately.¹⁰⁷

Figure A2

Crime Map for the Harrison Neighborhood, Minneapolis



¹⁰⁷ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *Index Page*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNIS.html>. Accessed March 24, 2004.

¹⁰⁸ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *Harrison Neighborhood Crime and Safety Data*. <http://www.npcr.org/sampleGISprojects2001/Harrison2ndQtrproj2001.html>. Accessed April 27, 2004.

Source: MNIS Web Site¹⁰⁸

Figure A2: Map generated from neighborhood police reports for the Harrison neighborhood in Minneapolis.

Figure A3

Elliot Park Land Use Map

Source: MNIS Web Site¹⁰⁹

Figure A3: Land use map generated for Elliot park in Minneapolis as part of an MNIS project.

Elliot Park: Mix of land uses

The primary motivation for this project was to analyze the amount of land in the neighborhood devoted to parking lots and the impact this has on the values of surrounding land parcels. This type of analysis enables neighborhoods to plan for the future and address issues such as unwanted land uses.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *Elliot Park Urban GIS Project Abstract 2001*. <http://www.npcr.org/sampleGISprojects2001/Elliotsamplegisproj2001.html>. Accessed April 28, 2004.

¹¹⁰ Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System. *Index Page*. <http://www.npcr.org/MNIS.html>. Accessed March 24, 2004.

Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System (PNIS)

Web site: <http://cml.upenn.edu/nbase/>

The Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System (PNIS) is a web-based property and social indicators database launched in the summer of 2000 and used by city agencies and community-based organizations.¹¹¹ The system began as a project at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently maintained by their Cartographic Modeling Lab (CML). The university works in partnership with the city and the different agencies that provide the data. CML operates the software used to organize the data and houses the web-based applications used for creating maps and downloading data. The University, the city of Philadelphia, the William Penn Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts, have provided funding for the system.

PNIS System Design

There are three web-based components of the PNIS. The parcelBase application allows users to work with address-level data and requires a login and password. The neighborhoodBase site works with aggregate data at different geographic levels. There is also a muralBase that details the hundreds of murals found throughout the city.

The PNIS allows users to perform the following tasks:

- Research individual properties.
- Query data to gather comparisons.
- Describe neighborhood conditions with user-defined maps, charts and reports.
- Support University of Pennsylvania research on housing and abandonment.

ParcelBase helps users identify and map individual properties and incorporates the most recent data uploaded into the system. Access to parcel-level data is restricted because of confidentiality concerns with parcel-level housing information and because licensing requirements to use the city's parcel map layer stipulates that users must be registered with the city's Office of Housing and Community Development.¹¹² These users include staff from city agencies, community development corporations and other community-based organizations that do business with the city.

Use of the system increased from October 2002 to October 2003. In 2003, NIS users represented 55 city agencies and 220 non-profit organizations, up from 144 non-profits in October 2002.¹¹³

¹¹¹ Cartographic Mapping Lab. *Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System*. http://cml.upenn.edu/project_areas/nis.htm. Accessed April 26, 2004.

¹¹²Hiller, Amy E. Dennis P. Cullhane, Tony E. Smith, and C. Dana Tomlin. 2003. *Prediction Housing Abandonment with the Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System*. *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Vol. 25. Number 1. p. 93.

¹¹³Breuer, Bradley. Philadelphia Cartographic Modeling Lab. Email correspondence. February 12, 2004.

The neighborhoodBase application is not restricted and users can map information and analyze trends for different neighborhoods. User access to neighborhoodBase and muralBase is not tracked, but the user base is primarily CDC/non profit, and some city users. The use of this site is growing at a faster rate than the use of parcelBase.

Outputs for the PNIS include charts, maps, tables, which are shown on-screen and can be copied and pasted into other documents. Future development for these applications will enable users to download files directly into spreadsheet and database formats.¹¹⁴ Currently users do not have the capability to upload data to the system. However, CML is exploring the feasibility of allowing users to add information in spreadsheet format and then geocode their address information to be show up as points on a map.

Data Management

The biggest challenge in the development of the PNIS was collecting data for use in the system and significant time was spent to establish relationships with data-providers. Data sharing agreement were secured from the agencies that were providing data to the NIS that detailed the types of users who were allowed to access their information and at what geographic level.¹¹⁵ Providing administrative data at the individual level requires diligence to ensure that the privacy rights for these persons are protected. Eight different municipal agencies provide parcel-level data on a regular basis.¹¹⁶ (See Table A1). Not all providers were initially cooperative, however. One example is Gasworks, a quasi-public gas company that provided data at first and then stopped for an unknown reason.¹¹⁷ Now that the project is successful and has received public recognition, Bradley Breuer (NIS Outreach Coordinator for the Cartographic Modeling Lab) indicated that Gasworks is interested in providing data once again.

The data acquisition process succeeds if the developer understands the dynamics between different municipal departments, and identifies partners to help introduce the system.¹¹⁸ For the PNIS, the director of the Office of Housing and Community Development advocated for the system by writing letters of introduction for the project to other city agencies and requested their participation. Meeting with city agencies throughout the development process fostered these relationships and ensured that data providers had a stake in the project.

Users of the system are able to provide data quality control by spotting errors that may have been missed by administrators. Though data is reviewed before it is uploaded, the users of

¹¹⁴ Breuer, Bradley. Philadelphia Cartographic Modeling Lab. Phone Interview. February 12, 2004.

¹¹⁵ Hiller, Amy E. , Dennis P. Cullhane, Tony E. Smith, and C. Dana Tomlin. 2003. *Predicting Housing Abandonment with the Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System*. Journal of Urban Affairs. Vol. 25. Number 1. p. 95.

¹¹⁶ Hiller, Amy E., Dennis P. Cullhane, Tony E. Smith, and C. Dana Tomlin. 2003. *Predicting Housing Abandonment with the Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System*. Journal of Urban Affairs. Vol. 25. Number 1. p. 93.

¹¹⁷ Breuer, Bradley. Philadelphia Cartographic Modeling Lab. Phone Interview. February 12, 2004.

¹¹⁸ Hiller, Amy E. and Dennis Cullhane. *Integrating and Distributing Administrative Data to Support Community Change*. 2004. Working paper.

this information are best able to discern any discrepancies or inaccuracies. Staff members from city agencies are often more familiar with how specific pieces of information are collected and then encoded, and neighborhood-based organizations that are more familiar with particular properties, provide external data checking to the system.

Data from different agencies are not always available in a usable format, and this is a challenge of acquiring data from different departments. Many departments have databases that do not allow for easy information downloads or do not keep certain records in electronic format. These data availability issues may change as technology use increases within municipal governments.

User Feedback

User feedback is collected and incorporated by the PNIS developers to determine how the system can be improved. Besides user surveys, the types of tables and queries that are requested by users are monitored to see how often they are used and how information is gathered to generate maps. Mr. Breuer said that users have often called for having the ability to export data and to define their own neighborhood boundaries, two new features that are being explored for the next release of neighborhoodBase.

Users also contact Mr. Breuer with questions or technical problems by using the feedback request form or by simply e-mailing him.¹¹⁹ Mr. Breuer says that ordinarily there are 10-15 e-mails per week on the NIS and include comments on the site such as assistance on data interpretation and comments regarding desired features for the site.¹²⁰

¹¹⁹ Philadelphia Neighborhood Information System. *Nbase Feedback*. <http://cml.upenn.edu/nbase/nbFeedbackRequest.asp>. Accessed April 26, 2004.

¹²⁰ Breuer, Bradley. Philadelphia Cartographic Modeling Lab. Email correspondence. March 15, 2004.

¹²¹ Cartographic Modeling Lab. *Current PowerPoint Presentations*. http://cml.upenn.edu/presentations/nis3_5_01.ppt. Accessed April 27, 2004.

Table A1

Examples of Data Available

Data Provider	Items provided
City Planning Commission	City-wide parcel coverage
Department of Licenses and Inspections	Housing code violations, demolitions, clean and seals, vacancy
Philadelphia Gas Works	Shutoffs, housing characteristics
Revenue Department	Property tax arrearages, lien sales
Water Department	Shutoffs, suspended service, delinquency, vacancy
Board of Revision of Taxes	Owner's name, sales date/price, land and building characteristics
Office of Housing and Community Development	Digital photographs of vacant lots and houses, vacancy survey
U.S. Post Office	Vacancy (suspended mail service)

Source: Cartographic Modeling Lab¹²¹

Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development Website

Web site: www.chicagoareahousing.org

The Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development site is maintained by a government entity, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC). The NIPC is a regional council of government that work with and provide data for the different municipalities that fall within its jurisdiction.¹²² The site focuses on data that relate specifically to housing issues in the region and coordinates the information on a number of geographic levels. For example, users can find information at the county-level, the municipal level and on specific neighborhoods within Chicago. Information for specific parcels is available only for the city of Chicago.¹²³

Data Management

The site serves a variety of users, including developers, potential home purchasers, landlords and renters. The housing information is provided in a number of different formats depending on the type of research a user is interested in. Much of the data comes from the U.S. Census and has been aggregated to allow comparisons across counties and municipalities. Users can request information such as crime rates or median property levels which NIPC has obtained from other sources in table format. Crime data for the site come from the Chicago Tribune, which publishes the annual crime rates for the region; and the number of building permits issued is collected and provided by the NIPC itself.¹²⁴ Users are able to investigate specific communities in greater detail because demographic and other property information is further organized by municipalities. Some maps are provided on the site, but interactive mapping is not currently offered.

Collaborative Partnerships

The NIPC has a number of partners involved with the project, including the Center for Neighborhood Technology, the City of Chicago departments of housing and planning, and the Metropolitan Planning Council. NIPC has received funding from the City of Chicago Housing Department and grants from MacArthur Foundation and Fannie Mae Foundation. Many CBO and data holding agencies have been involved in the development process for the system functions, and the NIPC has even funded CBO participation in giving feedback on the system.¹²⁵

Future versions of the site include plans to incorporate more local knowledge and even allow local organizations to update data

¹²² Sanders, Greg. Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. Personal Interview. February 25, 2004.

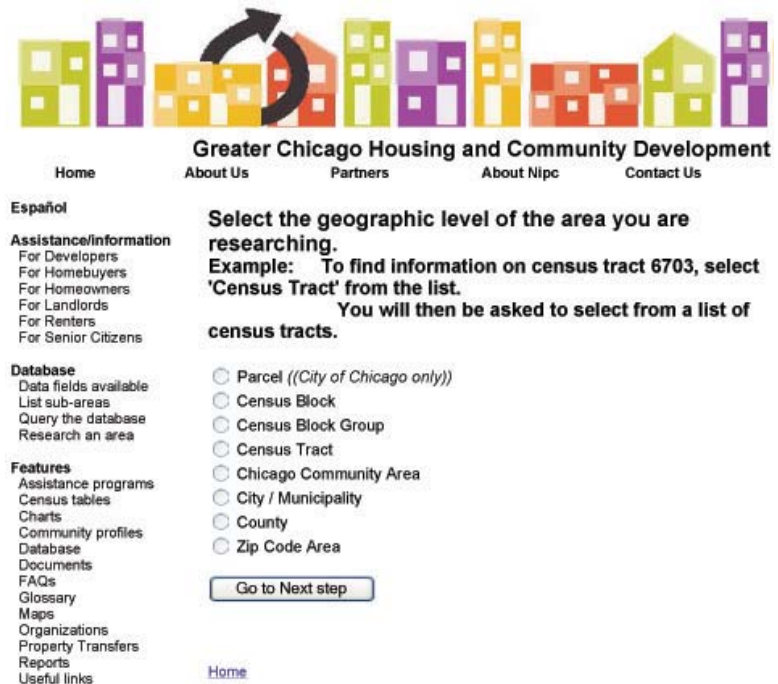
¹²³ Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development Website. *Housing Homepage*. <http://www.chicagoareahousing.org/HousingHomePage.asp>. Accessed April 26, 2004.

¹²⁴ Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development Website. *Data Info*. http://www.chicagoareahousing.org/DataField_Info.asp?datid=539. Accessed April 26, 2004.

¹²⁵ Sanders, Greg. Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. Personal Interview. February 25, 2004.

from the field with mobile phones. The program does not currently plan to produce regular reports but does present information in a number of different formats, enabling a wide range of users to gather information. This site is a regional information sharing initiative, which generates a different set of challenges but also allows for greater potential collaboration between different agencies in working together to provide information.¹²⁶ The site also hopes to enhance regional planning efforts and community mapping efforts that are being undertaken by NIPC.¹²⁷

Figure A4
Geographic Unit Selection Page



Source: Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development¹²⁸

Figure A4: The geographic options for data selection allows users to choose the level of information they wish to obtain.

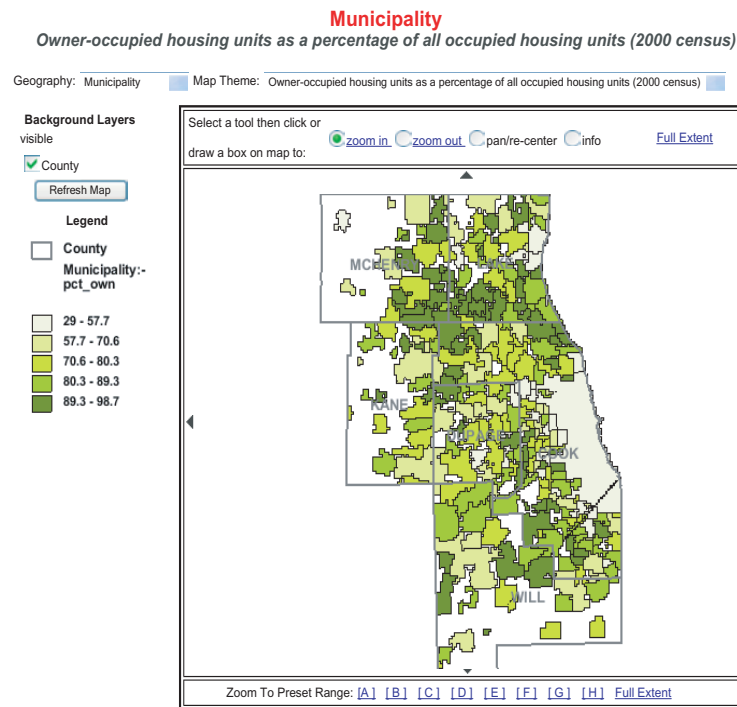
¹²⁶ Sanders, Greg. Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. Personal Interview. February 25, 2004.

¹²⁷ Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. *Full Circle Community Mapping and Planning Project*. <http://www.chicagoareahousing.org/FullCircle/>. Accessed April 26, 2004.

¹²⁸ The Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development Website. Database: *Research an Area*. http://www.chicagoareahousing.org/Area_SelectGeogLevel.asp?cb=Area_SelectGeogs.asp&context=1&newlayout=. Accessed April 27, 2004.

Figure A5

Mapping Feature



Source: Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development Website ¹²⁹

Figure A5: An example of map output from selected geographic data.

Part II: Indicators Case Studies Matrix

Part II of this appendix evaluates the web-based interfaces provided by select case study cities. The web sites are evaluated by their mapping units, ability to produce certain outputs (maps, reports, etc.), community involvement, data used, and accessibility.

¹²⁹ The Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development Website. *Features: Maps.* <http://www.chicagoareahousing.org/GIS/Theme.asp>. Accessed April 27, 2004.

	Baltimore	Boston
Data Host	Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance	The Boston Foundation
Partners	A number of different community organizations serve on committees. The city is represented by the Planning Department on the Coordinating Committee. University of Maryland social work and urban planning departments are also involved.	City of Boston/Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Metropolitan Planning Council
Goals	The system promotes better decision-making by using accurate, reliable, and accessible data and information to improve quality of life.	The site itself consists of components of the 2002 Boston Indicators report that provides data, graphs, and charts.
Geographic unit	Census tract, zip code	Neighborhood, city
Mapping features	Interactive mapping is available. There is a login screen. Static maps are provided on the site in PDF format.	Static maps are provided.
Data downloads	Data may be downloaded in PDF format for the entire city or by neighborhood.	Users can download data for some charts in Excel or view them on-screen. There is a page that looks at information comparing neighborhoods.
Reports	Main report is Vital Signs and is rich with data tables for all neighborhoods.	The system produced a comprehensive indicators report for 2002 entitled "Creativity and Innovation: A Bridge to the Future)
Level of Community Input	Initial yearlong planning process involving several citywide nonprofit groups and neighborhoods.	The level of community input is unclear.
Data Sources	Census info; administrative data from city and state sources	Compiles data from a number of different sources and surveys. Not intended to be updated on a regular basis.
Access/Training	Believes in "one stop shop" for data. Available online and in the office. Technical training and assistance available	Web and print information is available but the outputs are not customizable.
Methodology	Focus group participants were asked to state what vision and outcome they wish to see in their neighborhood in 10 years and what indicators and measures would show that this outcome was being reached.	The system aggregates a large amount of data from a variety of sources.
Other Information	Not available	Not available
Source	http://www.bnial.org/vitalsigns/index.html . Accessed April 18, 2004.	http://www.tbf.org/indicators/ . Accessed April 18, 2004.

	Chicago	Cleveland
Data Host	Center for Neighborhood Technology	The T2K Group is a nonprofit collaborative that works to provide information for Cleveland's community-based organizations.
Partners	Funding is provided by the Sara Lee, Maramont, Polk Bros and Fannie Mae Foundations.	Case Western Reserve University (CANDO), Cleveland State University (Neighborhood Link) Enterprise Foundation, U.S. Department of Commerce, Cleveland Housing Network, City of Cleveland, Neighborhood Progress, Inc.
Goals	The system strives to prevent neighborhood decay by identifying warning signs and facilitating data access.	An interactive source for data on Cleveland's neighborhoods and is designed for use by community-based organizations, govt. agencies, students and researchers.
Geographic unit	Parcel, ward, neighborhood, zip code	Parcel, block, block group, tract
Mapping features	Is available. Feature was added in late April 2004 after this plan went to press.	Dynamic GIS mapping is available. Some static maps are provided as well.
Data downloads	Can do queries for statistics by building and area (ward, community area, zip code). Data primarily related to building structures.	Users can export data into Access or Excel and can also query for the system for specific information.
Reports	Not available	There are no regularly produced reports.
Level of Community Input	There is a low level of community input in the system.	This site uses information that may have come out of a separate community process, but the level of community input is unclear.
Data Sources	City and county tax info, housing court cases, fire data, sales data, census data	Census; city, state and federal agencies
Access/Training	The system is accessible only through a Web site.	The system is very accessible as part of the T2K Group's information web-portal for community organizations. Users can research by property, street or an area, and can query the database. There is an online tutorial available.
Methodology	The system aggregates several data sources.	It is unclear exactly how the T2K Group has gained access to data or how regularly information is updated. There is a link to Case Western Reserve University's CAN DO neighborhood data sharing project, which does gather much of the same info for the metropolitan area as well as Cleveland State University's Neighborhood Link.
Other Information	Output is difficult to draw conclusions from and not statistically-based. Trends seem difficult or even impossible to track (time series over a neighborhood). One of the oldest systems available for compiling information for use by housing advocates. Began in 1984.	The lack of contact information other than an e-mail link on the site is unfortunate. It is unclear who T2K is and subsequent links lead to the Cleveland Housing Network. There is a wealth of information on the Web site. However, greater transparency is needed.
Source	http://www.newschicago.org/ . Accessed April 18, 2004.	http://www.cleveinfo.net/ . Accessed April 18, 2004.

	Denver	Grand Rapids
Data Host	The Piton Foundation	Undecided. A group of Grand Rapids-based non-profits and neighborhoods is currently working on data collection issues.
Partners	The "Neighborhood Facts" component of the site is a joint project between Piton and the Community Planning and Development Agency of the City and County of Denver.	The web site is maintained by Grand Valley State University. The Dyer-Ives Foundation leads meetings.
Goals	"Neighborhood Facts" provides info on Denver's neighborhoods designed for use by residents, policy makers and other interested parties.	The goal is to create neighborhood-level indicators of environmental, physical, demographic, economic and cultural conditions that can be used to evaluate and monitor the health of Grand Rapids' neighborhoods.
Geographic unit	Neighborhood Census tracts; school (not school district)	Point, address, or tract
Mapping features	A variety of interactive neighborhood maps are provided for different data categories such as economics, demographics, and education. Also a clickable neighborhood map that brings up data tables.	Not available (indicators are still being developed)
Data downloads	Data graphs are available. Data is provided on-screen. Can cut and paste if needed. Search by neighborhood on map or by list. Can do customized searches of database.	Not available (indicators are still being developed)
Reports	No regularly published reports. There are fact sheets for select neighborhoods based on census data. Also reports with data analysis of neighborhood conditions.	Not available (indicators are still being developed)
Level of Community Input	The site provides no information on whether there was community input in gathering the information.	The system encourages broad-level input to make the indicators that are chosen useful for analyzing neighborhood conditions. Several organizations have participated so far.
Data Sources	Data Sources are not described on the web site.	US Census Bureau, REGIS, City of Grand Rapids, GVSU State of Michigan, FFIEC, US EPA
Access/Training	Requires registration and login. There are samples for users to view to see the types of information available. A few links and documents go over why data is important for grants and how to interpret Census information.	The system is committed to public access but protects confidentiality. Police records, for example, are aggregated to the neighborhood level.
Methodology	Not available	A working group met with neighborhood groups and stakeholders to help develop indicators. The site discusses what other programs are doing, but how they picked the indicators is a little hard to determine.
Other Information	A Spanish version of the web site is available.	The Community Data Working Group has developed a Web site where future meetings and progress is posted. Will try to include examples of how data is being used for change.
Source	http://piton.org/default.asp?nav_id+4 . Accessed April 18, 2004.	www.nicdwg.org . Accessed April 18, 2004.

	Los Angeles	Miami
Data Host	UCLA Advanced Policy Institute	Miami-Dade County
Partners	The system is funded by: National Telecommunication Information Administration, Fannie Mae Foundation, Los Angeles Housing Department, Microsoft Corporation	None
Goals	The goal is prevention of neighborhood decay through identification of warning signs of decay, facilitation of data access, and mobilization of support for community improvement.	An information portal called "My Neighborhood" is hosted on the county's Web site. A staff member from the county works to compile community information, increase citizen awareness of their own communities, and empowers community groups.
Geographic unit	Individual property data, City Council District, Zip Code, or Census Tract, Community assets ("community" seems to have a fluid definition – you can choose the boundaries for your search)	Address, intersection and landmark
Mapping features	Includes a sophisticated and useful mapping interface, allowing flexibility in searches.	Interactive mapping is available.
Data downloads	Can view maps or tables with data. Not exportable but can cut and paste.	Not Available
Reports	No regular reports are produced.	No regular reports are produced.
Level of Community Input	The NKLA project demonstrates a high level of community input. NKLA formed as a result of a grass-roots community effort involving many neighborhood groups and the UCLA planning program	Community input is higher in the city of Miami than elsewhere, though data for other parts of the county are made available.
Data Sources	U.S. Census, tax delinquencies, code complaints, code enforcement, building permits, at-risk properties, contract nuisance abatements, non-profit orgs, identified assets, others	U.S. Census; various statistics from local agencies such as the Center for Children and Families.
Access/Training	A user must log in to access data and maps. The system conducts extensive training and outreach to ensure that NKLA is being used to improve LA neighborhoods. This training usually is targeted to community-based organizations that are involved with housing and neighborhood development.	The program has many users, composed mainly of organizations that already know about its existence.
Methodology	Not Available	Community agencies contact Miami-Dade County for information about their particular neighborhood. Information is gathered on a case-by-case basis for individual organizations, though general information is posted on a website.
Other Information	Simple searches and more advanced queries are available. A useful guidebook is included on the site, which is available in English and Spanish.	The system is essentially one staff member working with other public agencies.
Source	http://nkla.sppsr.ucla.edu/ . Accessed April 18, 2004.	http://gisims2.co.miami-dade.fl.us/MyNeighborhood/home.asp . Accessed April 18, 2004.

	Portland	Washington DC
Data Host	Auditor's Office, City of Portland	DC Agenda- a nonprofit civic organization.
Partners	Portland Multnomah Progress Board	The DC Data Warehouse is managed by the Urban Institute's Metro Center. The Annie E. Casey Foundation provides funding.
Goals	Establish benchmarks that are intended to gauge conditions in the community, encourage organizations to focus on outcomes, and increase collaboration to deal with significant, long-term conditions	The system provides community-based organizations and residents with local data and analysis they can use to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. The goal is to democratize data for use as a tool in civic engagement.
Geographic unit	City and county	Council Wards, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC), Neighborhood Clusters (Clusters are used by the DC municipal government for budgeting, planning, service delivery, and analysis) Police Service Areas (PSA), Census tracts
Mapping features	Not available	Maps are used to choose geographic area.
Data downloads	Can download benchmark trend data into an Excel spreadsheet or download as a PDF.	Data charts are viewed on-screen. Users must cut and paste to utilize data.
Reports	There are a few reports that can be downloaded on benchmark trends.	"Issue Scan" is regularly produced report that looks at changes in neighborhood conditions. Report briefs are also posted on the site.
Level of Community Input	Medium: Citizens initially helped develop goals and translate them into benchmarks.	Limited
Data Sources	Census, city and state and federal departments.	US Census, TANF Cases, subsidized housing, crime reports & arrests, vital statistics records, home mortgage lending activity, property Sales, child abuse & neglect cases
Access/Training	Not available	Tables are available on the web site: mostly tables for each set of indicators. Published reports and briefs w/ data analysis and suggested applications Community outreach and capacity building. Technical assistance forms on web site, provides "on-demand" technical assistance to local organizations
Methodology	The system used community input to develop goals and indicators. The Progress Board currently tries to define benchmarks to track those issues of community concern.	The Metro Center cleans and stores the data files to be distributed through the NIS site.
Other Information	These benchmarks are not for use in comparing neighborhoods. However, there are a number of interesting indicators that have been included. The FAQ page on the site provides useful information about how benchmarks are used and how they are selected.	Two full-time support staff persons administrate system.
Source	http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=27347 Accessed April 18, 2004.	http://www.dcagenda.org/nis/ . Access April 18, 2004.

West Oakland	
Data Host	Pacific Institute, a nonprofit research organization
Partners	The 7th Street Neighborhood Improvement Initiative
Goals	The goal is to give residents the information they need to revitalize their communities, especially information about environmental issues.
Geographic unit	Neighborhood
Mapping features	Not available
Data downloads	Not available
Reports	Individual indicator reports can be downloaded in PDF format.
Level of Community Input	The system is a resident-driven process managed and implemented by Pacific Institute.
Data Sources	Various city departments, EPA, other
Access/Training	Neighborhood groups have access to data and use it to advocate for the neighborhood.
Methodology	Neighborhood residents on a Neighborhood Taskforce choose indicators. Technical assistance and training is provided through different coalitions. Brochures and speakers are available to inform residents about the project.
Other Information	Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security
Source	http://www.pacinst.org/eip/woeip.html . Accessed April 18, 2004.

Part III: Data Providers for Neighborhood Indicators Systems

This appendix reports on the different data sources that have been used by the cities reviewed in case study research for this plan. Each city has used data beyond U.S. Census information to enrich their neighborhood indicator system. The local, state and federal agency from which data was obtained is listed as well as the type of information provided.

BALTIMORE, MD

Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance
218 W. Saratoga Street, Suite 5B, Baltimore MD 21201
(410) 235-0944 - bnia@bnia.org
Web site: <http://www.bnia.org/index.html>

This list of data from different partners comes from the BNIA's data inventory report. (<http://www.bnia.org/PDF/DATA%20INVENTORY%202004.pdf>)

Baltimore City Board of Elections

- Population 18-25 registered to vote in general election
- Population ages 18-25 who voted in general election

Baltimore City Data Collaborative

The BCDC is a separate organization that warehouses public health from other agencies data on children and families for the City. (www.baltimorekidsdata.org)

- Arrest information for juveniles

Locations for:

- After-school programs
- Pre-school programs
- Head start programs
- Tutoring/mentoring programs
- Teen pregnancy prevention centers, family support centers
- Births data—born at full term, satisfactory birth weight, births to teens, births to bother receiving prenatal care
- Maternal and child health index
- Child abuse and neglect
- Emergency and non-emergency ER visits
- Children with asthma

Baltimore City GIS (Mayor's Office of Information Technology)

Site provides information for maps. Some of these features are added by BNIA.

- Bus routes
- Major streets/roads
- Light rail routes/stations
- Boundaries of police districts
- Public schools
- Libraries
- Colleges and universities
- Locations of health care clinics
- Mental health care clinics
- Stadiums
- Government buildings
- Museums
- Cultural centers, theaters
- Grocery stores
- Banks
- Post offices
- Recreation centers
- Parks
- Community gardens
- Religious organizations
- Maryland General Assembly legislative district boundaries
- City Council district boundaries
- Census tract boundaries
- Community Statistical Area boundaries
- Zip code boundaries

Obtained from Department of Housing and Community Development:

- Vacant and abandoned homes
- Other housing violations
- Baltimore City Health Department
- Information organized by zip code
- Houses with active lead violations
- Children ages 0-6 diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels
- People with vaccine-preventable disease
- AIDS cases

Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development

- Residential construction investment (new and rehab)
- Designated historic buildings
- Vacant lots

- Business construction and investment
- Vacant commercial properties
- Total commercial properties
- Empowerment Baltimore Management Corporation
- Empowerment zones
- Empowerment zone village centers

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

- Locations of public senior centers

Baltimore City Department of Planning

- % Of area covered by tree canopy (environment)
- Locations of community organizations
- Racial diversity index (from 2000 U.S. Census)
- Economic diversity index (from 2000 U.S. Census)

Baltimore City Police Department

- Criminal offenses
- Violent crime
- Domestic violence
- Total 911 calls
- Locations of police and fire stations (for maps)

Baltimore City Substance Abuse Systems

- Locations of drug treatment centers

Citistat (an accountability program for every City agency)

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/news/citistat/index.html>

- Illegal dumping
- Dirty streets and alleys
- Clogged storm drains
- Abandoned vehicles
- Rats
- Parks maintenance

BNIA

- Main Street initiative programs

Maryland Center for Community Development

- Locations of community development corporations
- Maryland State Department of Education (compiled by school)
- Maryland student assessment test scores
- Enrollment
- Dropout rate

- Graduation rate
- Graduates completing advanced programs
- Locations of non-public schools

Maryland Department of Environment

- Ozone days (for entire city)
- Days above 90 degrees
- % Of population served by high quality water treatment
- Locations of hazardous waste sites (formerly and presently investigated) [mapping]

Maryland Transportation Authority

- Average daily boarding for weekdays and weekends

OTHER PROVIDERS

First American Real Estate Solutions, Maryland Property View

- Total properties-- residential
- Housing units sold
- Owner and renter-occupied units
- Sales prices and dates

Maryland Regional Information System

- Number of days property is on the market

Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore

- Dun and Bradstreet data on number of businesses including small businesses
- Households receiving temporary cash assistance (TCA) (from Maryland Department of Human Resources)

BOSTON, MA

The Boston Foundation Indicators Project
Web site: <http://tbf.org/indicators/>
The Boston Foundation
(617) 338-1700 info@tbf.org
75 Arlington Street, 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02116

These are the data providers for information that related specifically to Boston's neighborhoods.

Boston Office of Cultural Affairs

- Free and reduced price tickets at cultural institutions and venues in Boston by neighborhood

Boston Department of Neighborhood Development

- Median home prices by neighborhood, Boston, 1998-2002
- Distribution of affordable housing units by Boston neighborhood
- Abandoned residential properties by Boston neighborhood, 1997 - 2002

Boston Police Department

- Domestic violence by neighborhood
- Partnerships with law enforcement agencies by neighborhood

Public Citizen Survey

- Boston residents' trust in neighbors
- Resident public perception of safety and quality of life ranking by neighborhood

Boston Public Health Commission

- % Of children under 6 with elevated lead levels
- Asthma hospitalization rates for children under 5
- Reported cases of lead poisoning, 1992 - 2001

Boston Public Library

- Library books in circulation, by Boston neighborhood

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Boston Redevelopment Authority

- Green space distribution, acres/1,000 children by Boston neighborhood

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management

- % Of Tree cover by neighborhood

Mass GIS

- Miles of bike paths

U.S. Small Business Administration

- Small business loans by neighborhood

After School for All Partnership

Public-private partnership focused on children

- Children served by after-school programs versus children ages 5-18, by neighborhood

Boston Indicators Project

Based on analysis of 2000 U.S. Census data

- Residents within a 10-minute walk or short drive from transit nodes by race, income, age group and transit dependency

Boston Natural Areas Network

Oversees many of the city's gardens

- Community gardens in Boston

Boston VOTE

Nonpartisan organization that tracks voting information

- Registered voters and participation rates, Boston, 2000-2002

New England Foundation for the Arts

- 2.3.1 Distribution of Boston's arts and cultural facilities

Bankers and Tradesman

- Mortgage foreclosures by Boston neighborhood, 1990 - 2002

CHICAGO, IL

CityNews

Community Technology and Neighborhood Early Warning System

Web site: <http://www.newschicago.org/>

Center for Neighborhood Technology

2125 W North Ave. Chicago, IL 60647-5415

(773) 278-4800

This is a list of the data that are available for view on the web site. The website does not give information as to which city departments in Chicago are responsible for providing these housing data.

(Note: A new mapping feature with additional information was introduced to the site after this plan went to press. Please refer to the web site for more information).

- Number of parcels
- Fires
- Code violations
- Housing court visits
- Annual sales
- Vacancies

Tax Class

- Buildings with Tax Classes
- Exempt
- Vacant
- Residential
- Rental
- Not for Profit
- Commercial and Industrial
- Industrial Incentive
- Commercial Incentive
- Commercial and Industrial Incentive
- Multi Family Incentive

CLEVELAND, OH

Cleveinfo

Web site: <http://www.cleveinfo.net>

Sponsored by the T2K Group, a nonprofit collaborative that has developed a web-based information portal.

The Cleveland Housing Network, Inc.

2999 Payne Avenue Suite 306 Cleveland, Ohio 44114

(216) 574-7100

Listing for data sources if found here: [http:// www.cleveinfo.net/AllIndicators.asp](http://www.cleveinfo.net/AllIndicators.asp)

City Community Development Dept

- Residential and commercial investments through city programs
- Building permits
- Code violations

Cleveland Municipal School District

- Public school attendance rate
- Public school enrollment rate

Cleveland Police Department

- Alcohol-related violations
- Drug-related violations
- Weapons violations
- Domestic violence
- Violent crimes (aggravated assault, homicide, assault, rape)
- Property crimes (arson, auto theft burglary, larceny)
- Arson

Cuyahoga County Auditor

- Auditor market value assessment
- Tax assessed value
- Sales price
- Building condition
- Building Size
- Buildings: general info, number of buildings, year building was built
- Amount of delinquent taxes as certified by the County
- City land bank property
- Address of owner
- Previous sales price of property
- Total property value
- Size of lots in square feet

Cuyahoga County Elections Board

- Registered voter participation rate
- Number of registered voters
- Voter participation rate
- Voting population

Starting Point

- The county's childcare referral and resource agency.
- Number of slots for children ages 0-18 months (infant), 18-36 months (toddler), 3-5 years (preschool), 6-12 (school age)
- Childcare centers with evening shifts
- Childcare centers that participate in the Headstart program
- Childcare centers that have overnight shifts

Ohio Department of Health

- Vital statistics
- Births to teen mothers/1,000
- Births to unwed mothers/1,000
- Low weight births/1,000
- Infant mortality rate
- Total births

Ohio Department of Human Services

- Food stamp recipients
- State public assistance recipients

Ohio Division of Liquor Control

- Address of liquor license holder

Home Mortgage Disclosure Act

- Denial rate for home improvement loans (%)
- Number of home improvement loan applications
- Number of home improvement loans approved
- Value of home improvement loans
- Denial rate for home purchase loans
- Number of home purchase loan applications
- Number of home purchase loans approved
- Value of home purchase loans

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Number of section 8 units
- Number of renters with Section 8 vouchers
- Number of units with HUD rental assistance in this property
- Number of total units w/section 8 expirations

Local CDCs

- CDC housing production--number of square feet, units
- Total cost of CDC sponsored project
- Year building was built/renovated
- CDC-related project-- include total cost, type of project, year built

DENVER, CO

The Piton Foundation
Web site: www.piton.org
370 17th Street, Suite 5300 Denver, CO 80202
info@piton.org

Denver Planning Office

- Number of housing units
- Average home sales price (from Denver Assessor's Office)
- Publicly assisted housing units (from Denver Housing Authority, Colorado Housing Finance Authority and HUD)

Denver Public Schools

- Public school children receiving free school lunch
- Student enrollment
- percent of students who speak no or limited English
- High school graduation rate
- Test scores
- High school dropout rate
- Public school suspension and expulsion violent offense rate

Denver Department of Safety

- Property crimes
- Violent crimes

Denver Department of Social Services

- People on public assistance

Denver Regional Council of Government (DRCOG)

- Type of jobs by sector
- Total number of jobs
- Average annual wage
- Average household income

Colorado Department of Human Services

- Out-of-home placement (children in foster care)
- Adults on TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families)
- Number of childcare slots at licensed day care centers
- Number of children in subsidized childcare
- % Children on Medicaid
- Confirmed child abuse and neglect rate

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

- Total Births
- Teen birth rate
- Births to unwed mothers
- Births to women receiving prenatal care
- Low birth weight rate
- Premature birth rate

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

NICDWG
Neighborhood Indicators/Community Data Working Group

Contacts:
Lee Nelson Weber
Neighborhood Initiative Director
Dyer-Ives Foundation
Grand Rapids, MI
Lnweber@dyer-ives.org

Mark Hoffman
School of Public and Nonprofit Administration
Grand Valley State University
Grand Rapids, MI
Hoffmanm@gvsu.edu

(616) 454-4502
Web site: <http://www.nicdwg.org/index.html>

This site is an interesting resource because it documents the process of developing a neighborhood indicators system. There are meeting minutes available on-line for review, especially regarding reviewing available data and selecting indicators. (<http://www.nicdwg.org/minutes.html>)

The group started meeting in January of 2002. Another section of the site details the availability of data from different agencies and organizations and the success of NICDWG in obtaining the information for use. (<http://www.nicdwg.org/sources.html>)

Currently, the Community Research Institute (CRI) at Grand Valley State University has community profiles with information about Grand Rapids neighborhoods. CRI staff has worked to gather relevant data such as crime, which must be requested directly from the police department. The City of Grand Rapids has a policy that requires individual departments to be responsible for the dissemination of information.¹³⁰

As for confidentiality issues, NICDWG will aggregate the data appropriately so individual privacy rights regarding sensitive topic such as health and financial situation are protected.¹³¹

The list of available information and the agencies that have provided them are detailed below and were compiled directly from CRI's web-site. Much of the data listed is from the 2000 U.S. Census.

¹³⁰⁻¹³¹ Neighborhood Indicators/
Community Data Working
Group. *Meeting minutes*. <http://www.nicdwg.org/minutes.html>.
February 19, 2003.

City Clerk's Office

- Voting participation rate by age

Grand Rapids Police Department

- Crime rate for residential areas

Potential indicators under consideration:

Assessors Office

- Percent of land used for open space
- Percent of parcels that are vacant land
- Sq. ft. of retail space / person
- Percent multi-family units
- Absentee landlords
- Commercial property tax delinquency
- Percent of homes owner-occupied
- Median home sales price
- Residential property tax delinquency
- Percent vacant units

Building Department

- Building Permits

Police Department

- Crime rate
- Reported disturbances / housing units

State Health Department

- Teen birth rate
- Infant mortality
- Percent low birth-weight births

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Amount of pollution emissions

Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA)

- Home lending activity

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) data

- Business lending activity by tract

Other types of information

- Use of public space (observation)
- Volunteerism (neighborhood association)
- Satisfaction of residents (survey)

LOS ANGELES, CA

Neighborhood Knowledge Los Angeles (NKLA)

Web site: <http://nkla.ucla.edu/>

Advanced Policy Institute, UCLA

3317 Public Policy Building

Box 951656 Los Angeles, CA 90095

The NKLA project had its origins with the research program at the UCLA Department of Urban Planning. Initial funding for NKLA came from the City of Los Angeles through block grants.¹³² The city required that the project be based out of a non-profit organization rather than at the university to ensure direct accountability to an organization that was actively dealing with housing issues. Later as the project came to rely more on the computer labs and the graduate students at the school, NKLA moved back to UCLA.

In terms of gathering administrative data sets, NKLA's strategy was to work with the individuals who built and managed each database system and identifying whether there was a need for them to obtain information from other departments.¹³³ Since NKLA also had a contract with the Los Angeles Housing Department, establishing a formal basis for the researchers to be gathering data from different city departments relating to the project. The county government's main concern there was that the site would make public a unique assessor parcel identifier that is sold to private real estate firms.¹³⁴ An agreement was reached to sell UCLA only a portion of the assessor's data.

The sources for the property data is detailed in this section: <http://nkla.spsr.ucla.edu/Master.cfm?Page=PropertyDataGuide.cfm>

City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

- Building permits
- Hazardous/public safety problems on property
- Building code complaints

City of Los Angeles Housing Department

- Code violations for rental properties
- "At-risk" affordable housing (affordability agreement has run out)

¹³² Neighborhood Knowledge Los Angeles, *The History of NKLA*. <http://nkla.spsr.ucla.edu/Master.cfm?Page=History/Main.cfm>. Accessed January 25, 2004.

¹³³⁻¹³⁴ Neighborhood Knowledge Los Angeles. *The NKLA How-to Kit*. <http://nkla.spsr.ucla.edu/Master.cfm?Page=HowToKit/main.cfm&Page2=Political.cfm#2>. Accessed January 25, 2004.

City of Los Angeles Information Technology Agency

- Property data base (addresses, zip codes, census tracts, council districts)

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

- Liens on property for unpaid utility bills

Los Angeles County Tax Collector

- Tax delinquent properties (amount due)

MIAMI, FL

My Neighborhood

Website: <http://gisims2.co.miami-dade.fl.us/MyNeighborhood/home.asp>

Miami-Dade County

Stephen P. Clark Center

111 N.W. First Street

Miami, FL33130

The data are assembled from different county-level departments. The web site maps information in the following categories:

- Capital improvement projects (multiple agencies)
- Code Violation (multiple agencies)
- Crime Incident (Miami-Dade Police Department)
- Land Use Information (multiple sources)
- Sales Information (Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser)
- Sexual Offender/Predator (Florida Department of Law Enforcement—state agency)
- Transportation Improvement (links to the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization)

MILWAUKEE, WI

COMPASS

Community Mapping and Analysis

Web site: http://www.milwaukee.gov/compass/public_applications.html

809 N. Broadway, Suite 400

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Metadata page: <http://compass.ci.mil.wi.us/metadata/metadata.htm>

City of Milwaukee Assessor's office

- Assessed value of residential property for each parcel

Department of Community Development

- Building inspection requests
- Neighborhood boundaries

Milwaukee Fire Department

- Reported fires

City of Milwaukee Health Department

- Births
- Percentage births to teens
- Percentage low birth weight
- Percentage prenatal care during pregnancy
- Percentage smoking during pregnancy

Information Technology Management Division

- Location of fire stations and police stations
- Non-owner occupied properties

Department of Neighborhood Services

- Raze orders for properties
- Property violations
- Permits for construction, plumbing and electrical

City of Milwaukee Police Department

- Violent crimes
- Property crimes

Milwaukee Public Schools

- Community learning centers

Treasurer's Office

- Tax-delinquent properties (parcel)

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Urban Ecology Coalition Neighborhood Sustainability Indicators Project

Web site: <http://www.crcworks.org/nsip.html>

Crossroads Resource Center

P.O. Box 7423

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407

Seward Neighborhood Group, Inc.

2323 E. Franklin Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55406

<http://www.sng.org/>

Longfellow Community Council

2727 26th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55406

<http://www.longfellow.org/>

More information about specific indicators and the process of working with neighborhood organizations to develop indicators can be obtained from the Neighborhood Sustainability Indicators Guidebook: <http://www.crcworks.org/guide.pdf>

The city of Minneapolis has drafted a sustainability plan to be reviewed and adopted. In January 2004, the Minneapolis Sustainability Initiative, which includes the city's Community Planning and Economic Development office, held a recent roundtable where possible indicators were proposed.¹³⁵ The following list details the neighborhood sustainability indicators that were developed by the Seward Neighborhood group as key indicators for measuring long-term neighborhood sustainability.¹³⁶ The data for many of these indicators will come from surveys.

Annual visual survey

- "Friendly spaces"-rate neighborhood spaces, both private and public

Annual business and/or resident survey

- Consumption by residents at independent local stores

Annual business survey

- Purchases from local vendors by local businesses
- Number of home-based businesses and resident-managed studio/office spaces

¹³⁵ Crossroads Resource Center. *Minneapolis Sustainability Roundtable: Possible Indicators*. <http://www.crcworks.org/msi/indicdraft.pdf>. Accessed April 26, 2004.

¹³⁶ Crossroads Resource Center. *1999 Neighborhood Sustainability Indicators Guidebook*. p. 24-25 <http://www.crcworks.org/guide.pdf>. Accessed April 26, 2004

Annual resident survey

- Number of residents who share skills or barter services with each other
- Number of residents who volunteer for church or community service work
- Residents who plan to stay in neighborhood for a specified number of years
- Percentage residents earning a living wage
- Percentage workers that work inside and outside of the neighborhood

Annual count of bike riders and cars

- Number of bicycles traveling on key routes compared to number of cars

PORTLAND, OR

Community Benchmarks

Web site: <http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=27347>

Portland Multnomah Progress Board

1221 SW 4th Ave, Rm 140 Portland, OR 97204

Data notes are provided for each benchmark category. The data providers are diverse and varied because information is being collected at the city and county levels as well as for the metropolitan area. This site does not compare local neighborhoods. However, some interesting data sources have been used to identify indicators that are useful for creating policy changes.

Portland Audit Services Division

- Annual government performance survey (city only)
- Neighborhood safety
- Crime victims
- Emergency preparedness
- Neighborhood livability
- Street cleanliness

Portland Police Bureau

- Graffiti locations

City of Portland's Office of Sustainable Development

- Climate change
- Energy use

City of Portland's Water Bureau

- Water use

Port of Portland

- Number of metropolitan airports served by nonstop flights

**Portland-Vancouver Air Quality Maintenance Area
Air Surveillance Network**

- Ambient air quality

Multnomah County Elections Division

- Voting information

**Multnomah County's Office of School and
Community Partnerships**

- Homelessness

Oregon Department of Education

- Student achievement scores
- High school graduation rates

**Oregon Department of Employment, U.S. Bureau
of Labor Statistics**

- Average annual wages (also U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- Number of jobs
- Average annual unemployment rate

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

- Water quality
- Pounds per capita waste disposed in the tri-county metro region

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Indicator species—counts on fish and blue heron in the region

Oregon Department of Human Services

- Teen pregnancies
- Healthy birth weight babies
- Early diagnosis of HIV
- Domestic violence-child abuse
- Adult alcohol and drug abuse (telephone surveys)
- Fire injuries and fatalities

Oregon Progress Board/Oregon Department of Education

- Kindergarten readiness (survey)

Law Enforcement Data System, Oregon State Police

- Domestic violence-partner abuse
- Crimes motivated by prejudice
- Reported insides of crime
- Arrests

Oregon Department of Transportation

- Vehicle miles traveled

Oregon Healthy Teens

- Student illicit drug, alcohol and tobacco use

Oregon Population Survey

- Volunteer activity
- Access to health care

American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau)

- Public transportation trends
- Educational attainment
- Poverty rates
- Income spent on housing
- Commute times

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- Per capita income (county)

**Center for Population Research and Census
(Portland State University)**

- Population growth

Regional Arts and Culture Council

- Per capita government spending on the arts

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DC Agenda
Neighborhood Information Services
Web site: <http://www.dcagenda.org/nis/>
1825 K Street, NW, Ste 710
Washington, D.C. 20006

Urban Institute
DC Data Warehouse
http://www.urban.org/content/PolicyCenters/Housing_Communities/Projects/DCDataWarehouse/DCDataWarehouse.htm

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

Sources for data used in the neighborhood profiles are provided on this page of the web site: http://www.dcagenda.org/nis/common/Sources_notes.html

D.C. Metropolitan Police Department

- Violent crimes
- Property crimes

D.C. Department of Health

- Percent low weight births
- Percent births to teen mothers

Neighborhood Change Database (NCDB) from the Urban Institute

<http://www.urban.org/nnip/ncua/ncdb.html>

The data are available from Geolytics, Inc. and are based on the U.S. Census from 1980, 1990 and 2000. The information is remapped to fit 1990/2000 census tract boundaries. This allows for greater analysis of trend development across census tracts.

- Percent change population
- Percent change children
- Percent foreign-born
- percent different house 5 years ago
- Population by race/ethnicity
- Poverty rate
- Unemployment rate
- Percent population employed
- Percent households on public assistance
- Percent population without a high school degree
- Percent female-headed families with children
- Percent households with phones

- Percent households with vehicles
- Percent children in poverty
- Average family income
- Percent change in family income
- Occupied housing units
- Rental vacancy rate
- Homeownership rate

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Total HUD assisted units
- Percentage of public housing
- Section 8 housing units
- Section 8 certificates and vouchers

Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (HMDA) Data

- Total mortgage origination
- Home purchase loans
- Average mortgage value
- Average home purchase loan

DATA WAREHOUSE

Information about neighborhood data used in building the DC Data Warehouse is found in the most recent publication of “Issue Scan.”¹³⁷ In collecting data for the warehouse, the Urban Institute’s Metro Center and DC Agenda have negotiated data sharing agreements with city departments such as:

- Office of Planning
- Metropolitan Police Department
- Office of Chief Financial Officer
- Department of Human Services
- Office of Income Maintenance

Other sources of information used by the researchers and writers for the “Issue Scan” are described below.¹³⁸

- D.C. Department of Human Services
- Information and Referral Program
- Answers Please! Database

The database has information on services provided by the city as well as private organizations for citizens who call in seeking assistance. The data were geocoded and analyzed by the DC Data Warehouse staff.

D.C. Public Office of Educational Accountability

- Achievement test scores

¹³⁷ DC Agenda. 2004. *Issue Scan: An Annual Report Examining Changes in Neighborhood Conditions in the District of Columbia*. <http://www.dcagenda.org/pdf/neighborhooddata.pdf>. p. 129. Accessed April 26, 2004.

¹³⁸ DC Agenda. 2004. *Issue Scan: An Annual Report Examining Changes in Neighborhood Conditions in the District of Columbia*. <http://www.dcagenda.org/pdf/neighborhooddata.pdf>. p. 125-126. Accessed April 26, 2004.

D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue

- Real property assessment database <http://cfo.dc.gov/services/tax/property/database.shtm>

Users can use the site to search and provides online real property information

- Parcel identification
- Property sales
- Property characteristics

U.S. Census Bureau—Building Permits

<http://www.census.gov/const/www/permitsindex.html#estimates>

The Census Bureau releases monthly data on new privately owned residential housing units that have been issued building permits. The data are available at the county-level and tabulate the number of buildings, the number of units and the construction costs.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Dataset for “A Picture of Subsidized Households, 1998”

<http://www.huduser.org/datasets/assthsg/statedata98/index.html>

There are census tract summaries as well as project and agency summaries for each state. The HUD programs that are covered include:

- Indian housing
- Public housing
- Section 8 certificates and vouchers
- Section 8 moderate rehabilitation
- Section 8 new and substantial rehabilitation
- Section 236
- Other HUD subsidies
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)

Fair Market Rents dataset

<http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr.html>

Fair market rents are used to determine the eligibility of rental housing units for section 8 as well as for calculations for subsidies. HUD estimates FMRs annually for metropolitan areas. The data are downloadable in an Excel spreadsheet.

FFIEC Community Reinvestment Act

<http://www.ffiec.gov/cra/default.htm>

- Small business loans data

The Community Reinvestment Act requires lending institutions

to disclose small business, small farm and community development loans. Data are available for census tracts and can be downloaded online.

WEST OAKLAND, CA

West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
Web site: <http://www.pacinst.org/eip/woeip.html>

654 13th Street, Preservation Park
Oakland, CA 94612

The full report “Neighborhood Knowledge for Change: The West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project” may be accessed using this link: [http://www.pacinst.org/reports/EIP_final_\(w_printers_marks\).pdf](http://www.pacinst.org/reports/EIP_final_(w_printers_marks).pdf) The appendix contains detailed information about the data sources and methodology for each indicator.

City of Oakland, Business Tax Division

- Newly licensed businesses
- Business development by category

Office of the City Clerk

- Percentage of population eligible, registered, and who voted

Community and Economic Development Agency

- Land use conflict
- Percentage of West Oakland population living within 1/8 mile of an industrial area
- Bikeable Master Plan--total miles of streets in West Oakland with bike lanes

Community and Economic Development Agency

- Oakland Housing Authority
- Publicly subsidized housing

Fire Department Emergency Services

- % sensitive sites (public schools, childcare centers, parks, shelters, hospitals) that are within 1/8 mile of facilities that are at highest risk for chemical accidents

City of Oakland Public Works Agency

- Illegal dumping
- Tonnage removed per month & number of citations issued

Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Number of children to have tested with elevated blood lead levels (zip code)
- Lead abatement—number of housing units that have lead clean up

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

- Accessibility of public transportation
- Average bus service miles

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

- Patient discharge database
- Number of children hospitalized and diagnosed with asthma

Toxic Release Inventory System (TRI)—U.S. EPA

- Air Pollution- amount of air pollutants released by large polluters
- Health risks to residents from air pollution
- Neighborhood toxic volumes

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Superfund sites

California Department of Toxic Substances Control, State Water Resources Control Board, and City of Oakland Emergency Services (Fire Department)

Compile from different local, state and federal sources and geocoded

- Toxic waste sites
- Site that handle hazardous materials

Oakland Association of Realtors

- Multiple Listing Service sales data
- Median home prices

Claritas, Inc.

- Income estimates

Homefinders, Inc.

- Median rents

University of California at Berkeley Dept of City and Regional Planning

- Metroscan (parcel-level data)
- Percentage turnover of parcels by land use
- Number of parcels bought and sold within a given time period