

**Data Task Force:** Meeting held at the Hartford Public Library, January 4, 2010, 10 – 11:30 am  
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We began by reminding ourselves of the challenges we face as a task force: gathering data for an RFP that is still in progress and without a clear sense about the scale (e.g., certain neighborhoods vs. the entire city) and scope (i.e., exactly what grade levels and ages are we discussing) of the project. By acknowledging that, the group earnestly began where we left off: discussing data sources.

Key considerations include:

- a. data to be used in responding to the RFP
- b. data to serve as baseline to measure any project's effectiveness.

One issue that was broached was the relative small population of Hartford (~125,000) relative to other cities. Some neighborhoods in L.A. are of that size. And when divided into neighborhoods, the population in those zones is close to 10,000. This creates a couple of challenges, one in terms of producing a competitive proposal for such a relatively small number and second is that this may prevent us from receiving very specific data because of concerns about identifying individuals.

There was also a brief but important discussion about looking for neighborhood data in terms of indicators (“needs”) as well as assets.

A considerable list of data possibilities was generated. Prominent in this list were services for children, measures of health, issues of safety and crime, and education (achievement, truancy, etc.). Agencies that might help provide this data was also begun.

As we looked at all the data sources, we came to realize that for primary grades children, there were very few valid measures. Achievement data at the state level is not reported until Grade 3 while children and family services often running from birth until when a child enters first grade. We speculated that this might be a good focus area for projects as well as an area for which time and energy should be invested through a funded grant to gather such data.

A considerable amount of discussion developed around the Neighborhood-Based Family Support Map from the Mayor's Office for Young Children. For some of us, having such a visual display of the distribution of resources (e.g., libraries) within neighborhood boundaries was quite informative.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we began organizing the data sources into categories, borrowing in part from the Promise Neighborhood Sample Analytics (c/o the HuskySport website). As future data sources are discussed, an effort will be made to sort those into those categories. Given our group's interest in birth through Grade 3, we tentatively decided to not create a separate “early childhood” category but to instead have that as a cross-cutting emphasis across education, economics, safety, housing, health and social capital.

We agreed that we can continue the conversations electronically between now and the next time we meet with the entire Hartford Children's Zone group.