



## PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

### DELIVERING OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES TRAINING | TECH + INNOVATION ACTIVITY

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#### GOAL

Develop skills and frameworks to leverage local tech, innovation, and data resources to accelerate change in communities by using all the tools we have available to us.

#### CITY NAME

Circle case study city: Detroit, MI    Youngstown, OH    Long Island, NY    Gary, IN

#### ACCESS LOCAL CAPACITY: SCAN FOR HIGH POTENTIAL PLAYERS IN THE ECOSYSTEM (5 MINS)

At your tables complete the following:

- Who are the major players in the local civic tech, data and innovation ecosystem (i.e., look for Code for America Brigades, City data and innovation officers, quantity and quality of Tech Meetups, etc.)? For ideas, review the seven ecosystem partners summarized on pages 3 – 9.
- What partnerships already exist between players in the ecosystem?
- Use the internet to research organizations in the local tech, data and innovation ecosystem.

*Write on the table flipchart the ecosystem players who rise to the top as having the most potential?*

#### CHALLENGE

*Write on the table flipchart a community challenge that was mentioned in the case study that might be particularly well-suited to the players you've identified in the ecosystem. If there is nothing directly from the case study, use your new knowledge of the local challenges to identify an area that might benefit from engagement with the tech community.*

#### PITCH

As a fed working with this community, how might you serve as a bridge to spark new approaches, foster unlikely collaborations, or hit a wider range of community goals by building opportunities to bring together players in the ecosystem to address community challenges?

*Continue a more targeted environmental scan based on the challenge you chose. Synthesize the findings from your environmental scan, develop a strategy to engage the ecosystem to help solve the challenge, and prepare a 1-minute pitch to the large room.*

Sample pitches:

- Host a 24 hour design and innovation competition (i.e., make-a-thon) with members of the local maker community (e.g., designers, artists, product manufacturers, etc.) , young people in STEM programs and city tech staff and civil engineers to design low-cost sensors to detect street flooding.

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- Use Army Corps of Engineering funds for the collection of street-level imagery so resident volunteers can crowdsource the scoring of property condition and building elevation to inform residual flood risk and serve as a baseline for post-disaster damage assessments.
- Host a data dive that brings together the Code for America Brigade, local code academy, city Chief Innovation Officer, police department and domestic violence advocates to review a draft of city open data to determine how to balance the value of transparency with the need to protect victim privacy.
- Host an event that brings together Promise Zone community partners with civic technologists from the local Tech Meetup to use local and federal data to visualize and understand where there are gaps in key neighborhood resources such as access to transit, affordable housing, grocery stores, or parks.

## DELIVERING OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES TRAINING | TECH + INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS

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### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*City, county, and regional governments often harbor pockets of quality data, tech capacity and innovation that can help activate other departments or collaborate with the community to solve challenges.*

**Job titles and departments to look for in local government:**

- Chief Innovation Officer
- Chief Resilience Officer
- Chief Data Officer
- Open Data\*
- Neighborhood Engagement
- Strategic Planning
- Performance Management (or CityStat programs)
- GIS (Geospatial Information Systems)
- Planning department
- Regional planning organization

### FINDINGS

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### NATIONAL NETWORKS THAT PARTNER WITH LOCAL GOV

*These national networks engage directly with local government, and may be indicators of government capacity for data and innovation. Often, the engagement will be with a specific government department. Though some engagements (like the Code for America Fellowship) are time-limited, they often leave behind innovation capacity and eagerness to do more.*

### WHAT WORKS CITIES BY BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES

A national initiative to help 100 mid-sized American cities enhance their use of data and evidence to improve services, inform local decision-making and engage residents.

[whatworkscities.bloomberg.org](http://whatworkscities.bloomberg.org)

### 100 RESILIENT CITIES (100RC) BY ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

Helps cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.

[100resilientcities.org](http://100resilientcities.org)

### CODE FOR AMERICA FELLOWSHIP

Pairs teams of technologists with government officials and the communities they serve, taking a user-centered, data-driven, iterative approach to redesigning core government services.

[codeforamerica.org](http://codeforamerica.org) (<https://www.codeforamerica.org/why-government/our-partners> for list)

### LIVING CITIES

Works with cross-sector leaders in cities to build a new type of urban practice aimed at dramatically improving the economic well-being of low-income people.

Innovation Partners: <https://www.livingcities.org/about/innovation-partners>

Project on Municipal Innovation: <https://www.livingcities.org/work/project-on-municipal-innovation/about>

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### CIVIC TECH & DATA NATIONAL NETWORKS

*These national networks are a way to identify which groups and organizations may be in place in a given community and applying their skills to real-world problems.*

#### **NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD INDICATORS PARTNERSHIP (NNIP)**

Intermediaries that facilitate the direct, practical use of data by city and community leaders, with focus on building the capacities of institutions and residents in distressed neighborhoods.

<http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/partners/profiles>

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS**

Nonprofit organizations revitalizing local areas, typically low-opportunity neighborhoods with historical disinvestment. CDCs often use data and information to target investments and resources.

#### **CODE FOR AMERICA (CFA) BRIGADE**

Volunteer groups that collaborate with local government and community partners to build new tools that help with local civic issues.

[codeforamerica.org/brigade/](http://codeforamerica.org/brigade/)

#### **TECH MEETUPS\***

Groups of people who get together for a common purpose. *Tech* meetups can include software developers, designers, game developers, social media, including some specifically targeted to groups under-represented in tech.

[meetup.com](http://meetup.com) (Search for “Tech” within X miles of the city you are researching)

#### **NATIONAL DAY OF CIVIC HACKING**

Nationwide day of action where developers, government employees, designers, journalists, data scientists, non-profit employees, UX designers, and residents join in civic tech events leveraging their skills to help their community.

[hackforchange.org](http://hackforchange.org)

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## CODE ACADEMIES, INCUBATORS & STEM EDUCATION

*These tech training and incubator spaces may be ripe places to engage diverse tech-talent-in-training in solving real-world challenges, along with their tech mentors.*

### **CODE ACADEMIES (AKA, “CODING BOOTCAMPS”)**

Typically intensive 3-month training programs that teach software development, data science, and related skills. Some are intentional about including those who are under-represented in technology.

### **MAKER SPACES**

Places where people gather to create, invent, and learn, often having 3D printers, software, electronics, craft and hardware supplies and tools. They can be found in warehouses, libraries, schools, and elsewhere, may have portable components, and serve young people, adults or both.

### **STARTUP INCUBATORS**

Accelerate growth and success of startup companies by sharing a common, collaborative workspace with management training, expert mentoring, networking shared infrastructure and sometimes access to seed funding.

### **COMMUNITY INNOVATION SPACES**

Rec Centers, libraries, churches and other community convening spaces that also serve as innovation spaces that may include maker spaces, educational technology, and STEAM initiatives. For example, Digital Harbor Foundation’s Rec2Tech center in Baltimore.

### **STEM SUMMER CAMPS/AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS\***

STEM stands for Science Technology, Engineering and Math (sometimes it includes Art and is called STEAM). STEM programming can be powerful ways to bring young people into solving real-world challenges.

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**LOCAL & COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS**

*Local funders have the ability to convene, influence their grantees, and provide resources for new programs and capacity building. There are many ways to find funders, here are a few funder-networks whose missions might align with your community work:*

**NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDERS GROUP**

A membership association of grantmaking institutions with the mission to build the capacity of philanthropy to advance social justice and community change.

<http://www.nfg.org/members>

**GRANTMAKERS FOR EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS**

Provides grantmakers with the resources and connections to build knowledge and improve both mindset and practice, including strengthening relationships with grantees, supporting nonprofit resilience, learning for improvement, and collaborating for greater impact.

<http://www.geofunders.org/about/members>

**FUNDERS NETWORK FOR SMARTH GROWTH**

Advocates for policy, resource and money flows at all levels of government; effective collaboration and governance; civic engagement and inclusion; focus on equity and inclusiveness by increasing access to services and opportunities; and interdisciplinary grantmaking that reduces incentives that encourage poor land use decisions.

<http://www.fundersnetwork.org/connect>

**UNITED WAY OF AMERICA**

Focus is on education, income and health, and their activities include advocating for better public policy and promoting volunteering and giving.

<http://www.unitedway.org/find-your-united-way/>

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**COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES, ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS**

*Academic and other anchor institutions can provide resources, convening power, facilities, expertise and diverse talent eager to tackle real-world challenges.*

**Community college & university programs/departments to look for:**

- data science
- GIS (Geospatial Information Systems)
- service learning
- community engagement
- design thinking
- computer science
- multidisciplinary applied research centers

**METROLAB NETWORK**

MetroLab Network is a group of 34 city-university partnerships focused on bringing data, analytics, and innovation to city government. Its members include 34 cities, 3 counties, and 44 universities.  
[metrolab.heinz.cmu.edu](http://metrolab.heinz.cmu.edu)

**OPPORTUNITY FINANCE NETWORK**

CDFIs (community development financial institutions) are mission-driven financial institutions that serve communities and individuals mainstream finance sees as too risky or not credit worthy enough for financing. They work closely with the people and businesses in these disinvested areas.  
<http://ofn.org/cdfi-locator>

**FEDERAL RESERVE BRANCHES**

Individual regional branches have community development departments that may conduct their own research, hold public events, and publish data and analysis for the region. They also have many offices in major cities outside of their primary branch.  
<https://www.federalreserve.gov/aboutthefed/directors/map-of-districts.htm>

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**FEDERAL DIGITAL AND DATA RESOURCES**

*Federal tech and data resources that can support innovation and revitalization at the local level.*

**Federal resources to look for:**

- Chief Data Officer
- GIS (Geospatial Information Systems)
- Chief Innovation Officer
- Data.gov
- Census.gov
- Agency Challenges and Prizes
- Presidential Innovation Fellows
- 18F and United States Digital Services
- Opportunity.Census.gov
- OMB Map of Community Based Initiatives
- Innovation Labs

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