OUR PURPOSE: To advance the use of data and information for public policy, strategic planning, program and service improvement, and public accountability purposes at the state, regional, and local community levels.

RESULT: The people of Connecticut have broad access to public data in a format that facilitates rigorous analysis to determine program effectiveness and policy direction

CONNECTICUT DATA ● ● ● COLLABORATIVE

CHANGE THEORY: Display information in such compelling ways that state policy makers will increase attention to data and invest in systems to make data more readily available in useable formats.

WHAT WE DO

Advocacy – Advocating the value of open data to drive planning, policy, budgeting and decision making in state government.

Standards – Promoting and modeling use of data standards around privacy, interoperability, data definitions and quality.

Access & Building Capacity – Meeting demands for public access to data and fostering a learning community and peer support. Helping state agencies to access and use their own data with our tools.

Sustainability - Embedding the Collaborative in our state data systems, changing long-term how agencies do business, broadening partnerships and financial support.
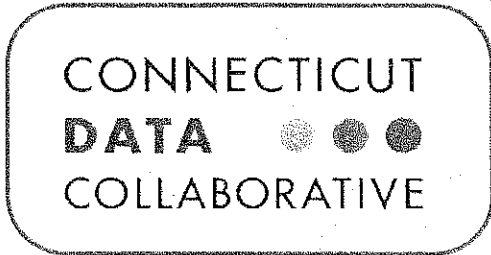
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

CTData.org is our fully operational website providing public access to over 2,000 measures of various aspects of well-being in Connecticut. The Collaborative has helped develop the Weave visualization software and other powerful analytical tools as part of the national Open Indicators Consortium. The site includes a number of portals that allow visitors to choose subject matter or geographic indicators of particular interest to them.

The Collaborative invites users to provide regular feedback on the functionality of the CTData.org website as part of a process of continuous improvement. Through outreach to potential members, the Collaborative has established a robust learning community. Over 325 individuals from a diverse array of organizations have already registered at CTData.org to explore the web site and work of the Collaborative. Over 500 unique users a month visit the web site.

CTData.org Knowledge Center, a Wiki-based repository support our growing user group with extensive user guides and metadata (information on the data) for all indicators included on the website. A Google Group (ctadata@googlegroups.com) facilitates communication between and among active users and project developers.

CTData.org also incorporates our other major platform, the **Connecticut Nonprofit Strategy Platform**, built in collaboration with the UConn Nonprofit Leadership Program and the Urban Institute as part of a new national resource on nonprofits. The Nonprofit Strategy Platform brings to CTData.org a rich array of data on Connecticut's nonprofit sector and tools to analyze it and work collaboratively. It allows state agencies, Connecticut nonprofits and stakeholders to map nonprofit data (including United Way of CT 2-1-1 and IRS 990 financial data) together with socioeconomic information.

[1] *Portals developed to date include subject matter portals on Early childhood, Behavioral Health, Rural Health, Health Equity, Municipal Economic Indicators and geographic portals for Coastal Fairfield County and South Central Connecticut (DataHaven). All data subsets become part of the overall CTData.org database*

PARTNERING WITH THE STATE

Legislature's Appropriations Committee

The state legislature's Appropriations Committee leadership has expressed strong support for the Collaborative's results and indicators. The Collaborative's data visualization tools housed at CtData.org will enhance successful implementation of the Appropriations Committee's Results-Based Accountability Initiative, and provide ongoing analysis of state population outcomes tied to state programs.

Office of Policy and Management

Representatives of the Collaborative have met on numerous occasions with officials of the Office of Policy and Management. Our agenda includes continuing updates on the status of the Collaborative's programs. Discussions are concentrated in two areas: access to data from state agencies, and the possibility of state funding for the Collaborative. Reaction by OPM has been extremely positive and supportive of the data access goals of the Collaborative.

State Agencies

With the formal launch of the full CTData.org portal in Spring 2012, we are concentrating efforts on more formal relationships with state agencies for data access. Customized portals within CTData.org have been or are being developed for the Secretary of the State's Office, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity, and the Connecticut Office of Rural Health, and we have been in direct discussions about data access with a dozen other agencies including DEEP, DSS, DPH, DCF and SDE.

From the outset of the Collaborative's work, we have been driven by the potential to assist state policy makers and the public in making better decisions through the use of compelling data visualizations.

GOALS AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Over the past three years of our development, we have launched the data platforms, established rigorous standards for data documentation, pursued open data policies at the state level, created subject matter and geographic portals for specific organizations, and built a strong community of data users. This work has been accomplished primarily with a grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, with early support also being provided by the William C. Graustein Memorial Fund.

The Collaborative's work has provided an important service to the citizens of Connecticut by providing access to information that can be displayed in consistent, compelling formats with powerful analytical tools. With these relationships and the ability to access state data on the data portals, the Data Collaborative will, in effect, be the "public utility for data" in Connecticut.

Now we need to take advantage of the momentum and support to finalize additional data agreements and integrate the new data sets into the CTData.org platform. This will require new sources of funding. We have developed a sustainability plan that calls for an annual budget of $800,000, with $600,000 for core operations of the Collaborative and $200,000 for work on special projects. These dollars will come from four primary sources: State funding for the base program of the Collaborative, state agency funding for specific issues of importance to the agencies, funding for individual portals that represent subject matter or geographic data sets, and philanthropic support, which rather than that could fund subject matter portals or the base operations of the Collaborative.