

FINDING COMMON PURPOSE

A Guide to Develop and Implement a Community Dashboard to Improve Lives and Close Disparities

What is a Community Dashboard?

A northstar to align local residents and stakeholders from government, school districts, nonprofit service providers, foundations, and businesses around life outcome to reduce disparities in a geographic area. Community dashboards are used to track, analyze to inform policy and resource decisions, identify service gaps, monitor progress, and reinforce alignment.

The following is a checklist of practices and processes successful initiatives use to start, develop, and implement a community dashboard.

Checklist to Start a Community Dashboard

- Initiative is focused on a specific geographic area (i.e. county, city, neighborhood)
- Initiative's goal is to reduce life outcome disparities based on race and/or geography within a specific life stage or life stages from birth to end of life (i.e. housing, healthy births, third grade reading proficiency, income)
- Initiative works with local residents reflecting demographic make-up of the community and stakeholders from government, school districts, nonprofit service providers, foundations, and businesses

Checklist to Develop a Community Dashboard

- Initiative facilitates a process for local residents and stakeholders from government, school districts, nonprofit service providers, foundations, and businesses to engage in discussions about basic needs and life outcomes to measure within a specific life stage or life stages from birth to end of life (i.e. housing, healthy births, third grade reading proficiency, income)
- Initiative facilitates process to select basic needs and life outcomes to measure (i.e. healthy births, third grade reading proficiency, income) based on conversations with local residents and stakeholders
- Initiative establishes baseline data for a specific time period for each outcome selected
- Initiative establishes baseline data for a specific time period for each outcome selected; data is disaggregated by race, gender and geography at the neighborhood level
- Initiative facilitates a process for local residents and stakeholders from government, school districts, nonprofit service providers, foundations, and businesses to select targets for a specified time period to reduce disparities of the life outcome measures selected

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- Initiative has a system in place to collect data for outcomes selected by local residents and stakeholders from government, school districts, nonprofit service providers, foundations, and businesses
- Initiative has a process in place to regularly update the public community dashboard data
- Initiative has process in place for local residents, government, school districts, nonprofit service providers, foundations, and businesses to commit to meeting the targets selected

Checklist to Implement a Community Dashboard

- Initiative has a plan in place to staff and sustain the community dashboard
- Community dashboard is:
 - Regularly updated for the initiative to track its progress on reducing disparities
 - Tracking on-going commitment by local residents and stakeholders
 - Shared publicly, fosters discussion and is accessible to local residents
 - Being reported in various local media channels
 - Being used to inform public policy at the local and state level
 - Being used by elected officials, foundations, and government agencies to inform existing and new resource allocation
 - Being used by nonprofit service providers and government agencies to fill gaps in services