

# Advancing an Equitable Data Network in the St. Louis Region

 **Data for Social Impact**  
An initiative of the Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis

*Data for Social Impact is a collaboration of:*

 **Washington  
University in St. Louis**  
SOCIAL POLICY INSTITUTE

 **Center for  
Inclusive Growth**

  
ST. LOUIS  
Regional Data Alliance

**data.org**



# Data for Social Impact

Objective: To build connection and capacity among social sector organizations working to increase impact *for* and *with* the communities they serve; to cultivate **collaborative and equitable data practices** across government, philanthropy, non-profits, and impacted communities.



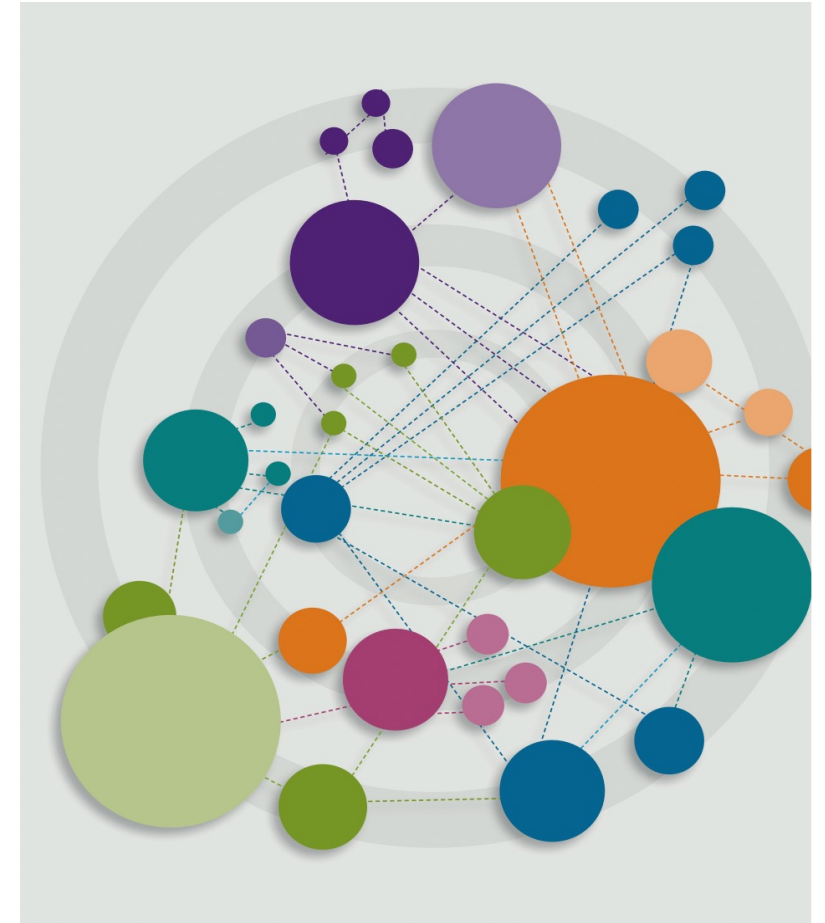


# Mapping an Equitable Data Network in St. Louis

**What:** A collaborative process for conceptualizing an Equitable Data Network in the St. Louis region.

**How:** Capture and visualize how organizations work collaboratively with data to promote equitable outcomes.

**Why:** Utilize the **process** and **outputs** to advance collective learning, action, and impact.





# Why is collaboration important?

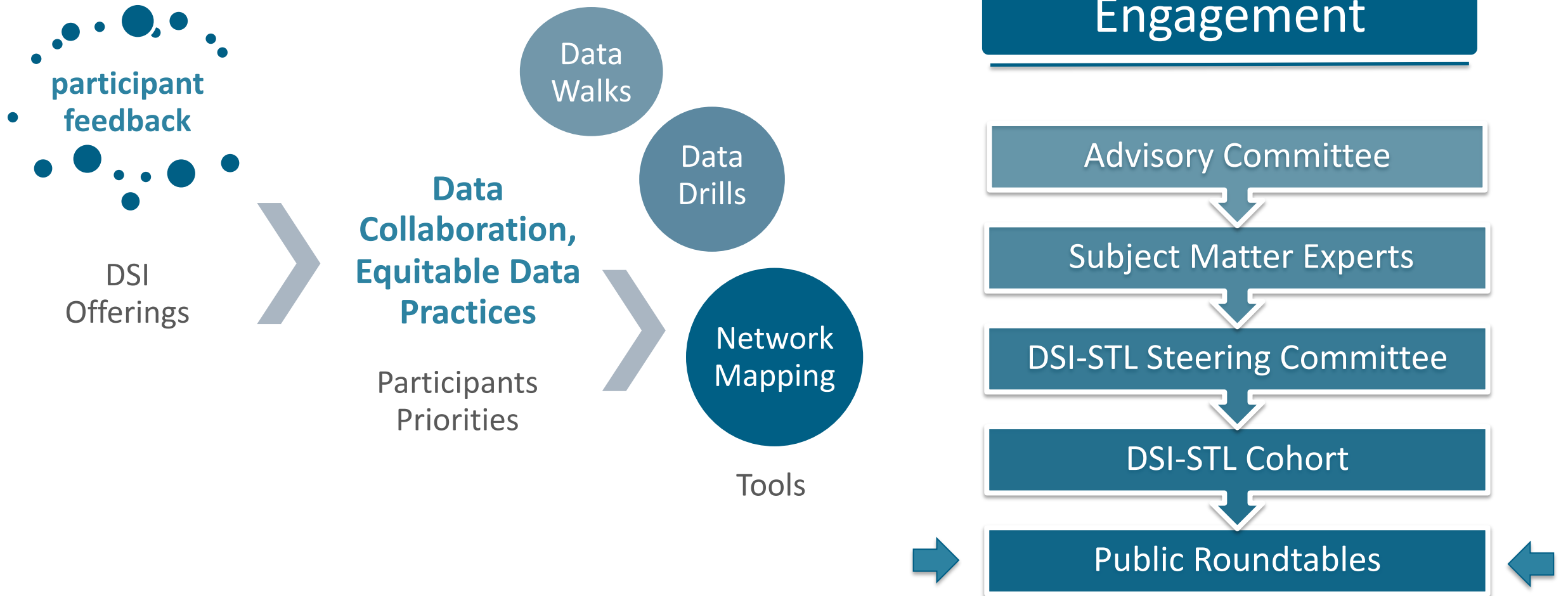


Simon Huang serves as the Chief Technology Officer for the City of St. Louis and St Louis Development Corporation in the Office of Mayor Tishaura O. Jones.

His focus areas are long-range technology planning and strategy, effectiveness of internal operations and programs, and application of technology to improve government services.



# How we got here





# “It's the process, not the product.”

We hope this process will:

- Build shared language about data and equity
- Cultivate critical conversations and knowledge sharing
- Strengthen collaboration

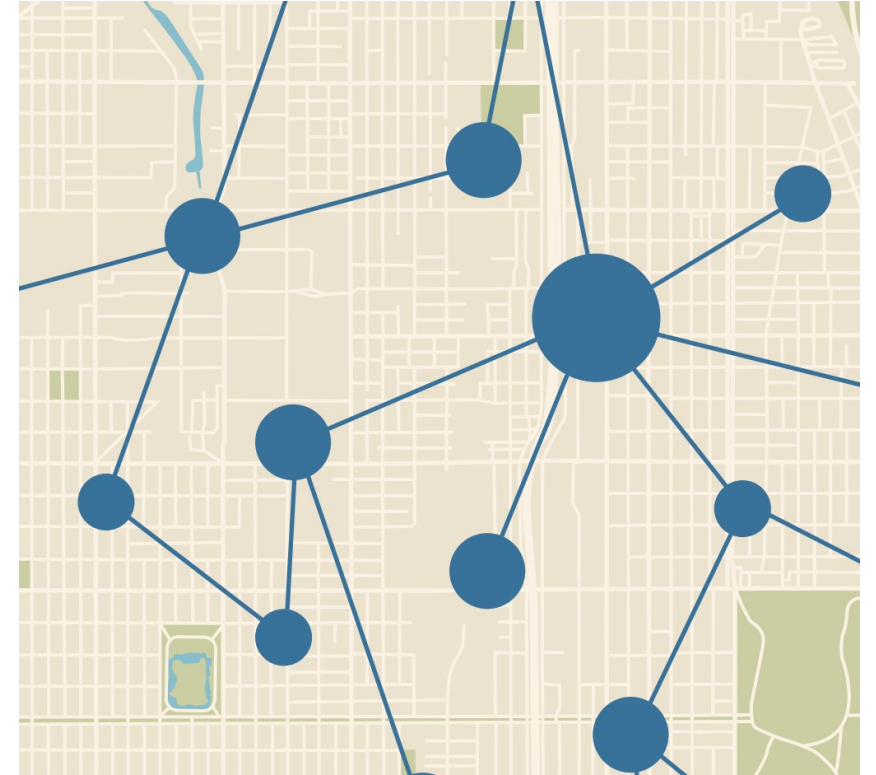




# What is Social Network Analysis and Network Mapping?

A **network** is a set of relationships or social ties. These ties can be among individual people or organizations.

**Social network analysis** measures the structure of these relationships, which are often visualized through illustrations called **network maps** or sociograms.





# Building Blocks of Networks: Examples from Chicago Community Networks

## THE ORGANIZATION

*A community actor working on neighborhood improvement*

Some elements of organizational success:

- Quality of service models
- Organizational capacity
- Available resources
- Credibility in the community



AN ORGANIZATION

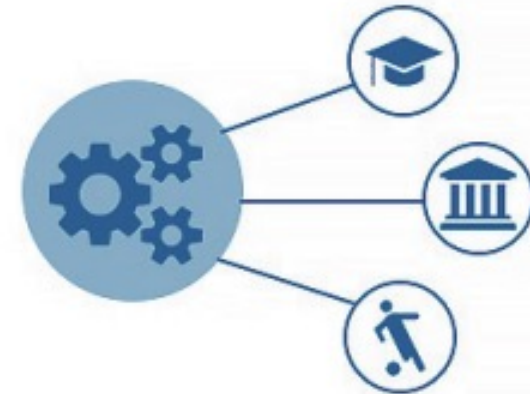
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## PARTNERSHIPS

*Relationships between two or more organizations that amplify the reach of a single actor*

The value added by different types of partners:

- Local organizations can help with the same, or different, areas of work.
- Civic organizations can provide access to their facilities. For instance, a youth sports league can provide a youth development organization access to its athletic facilities.
- City agencies can provide an organization access to new tools or resources such as summer jobs for clients.
- Local schools can help spread the word about an initiative that may benefit its students and families.



AN ORGANIZATION AND ITS  
DIRECT PARTNERS





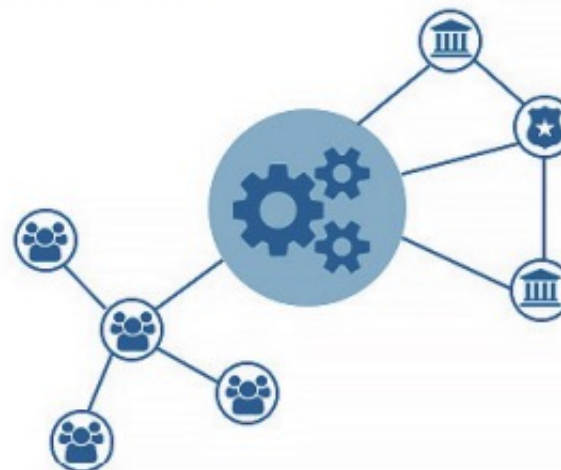
# Building Blocks of Networks: Examples from Chicago Community Networks

## AN ORGANIZATION'S POSITION

*An organization's position in a network can have a great impact on its ability to effect positive change*

In a network, an organization can have many connections to other organizations or have a limited number of connections.

- Organizations that have many connections to other organizations can play the role of brokers because they can link two or more organizations that may or may not have worked together to achieve a common goal. As brokers, they can provide information and coordinate the efforts of others to reach shared ends.
- Organizations that have a limited number of connections often play a peripheral role.



AN ORGANIZATION IN A NETWORK

## THE OVERALL STRUCTURE OF A NETWORK

*A network may consist of organizations that are well connected and well coordinated, or largely separate and functioning somewhat independently of each other.*

Types of networks:

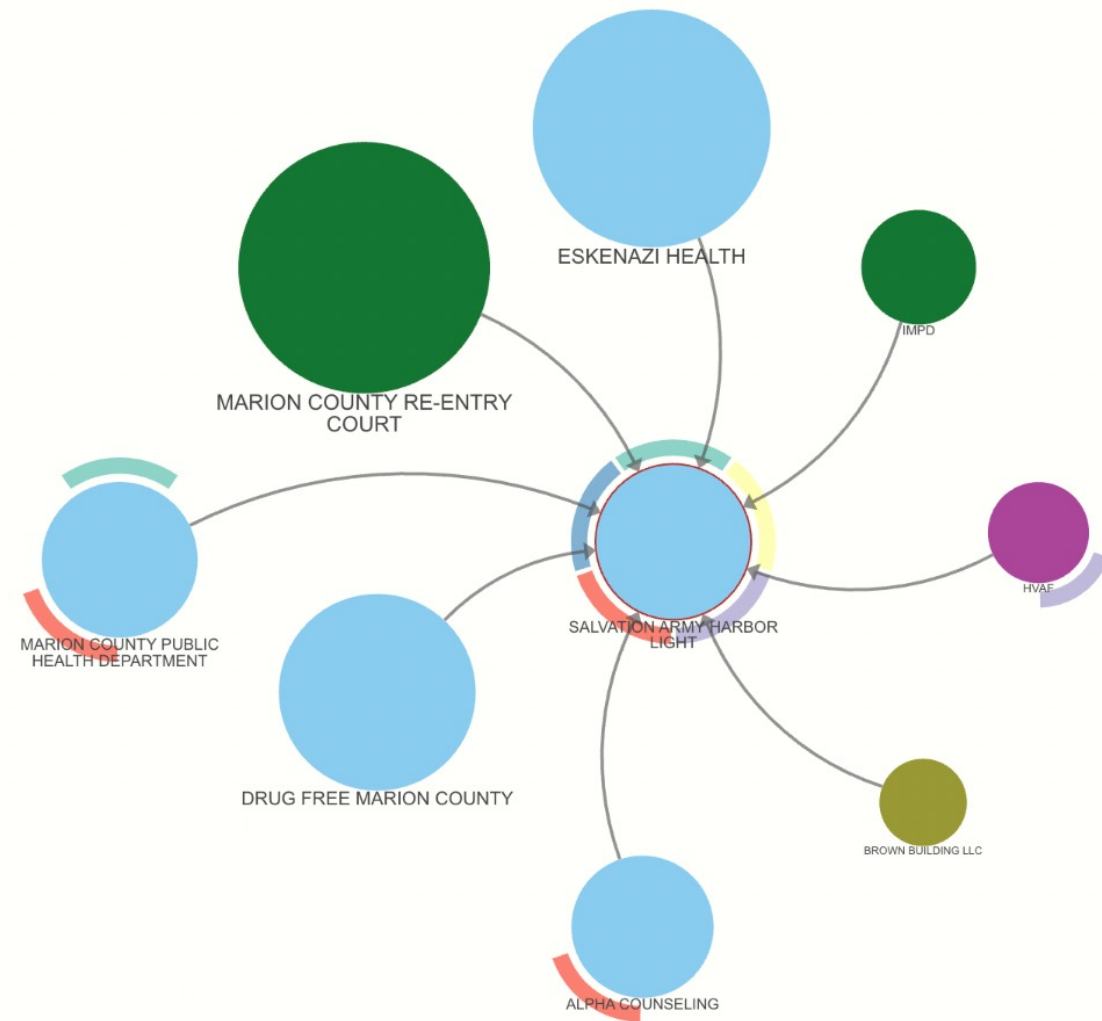
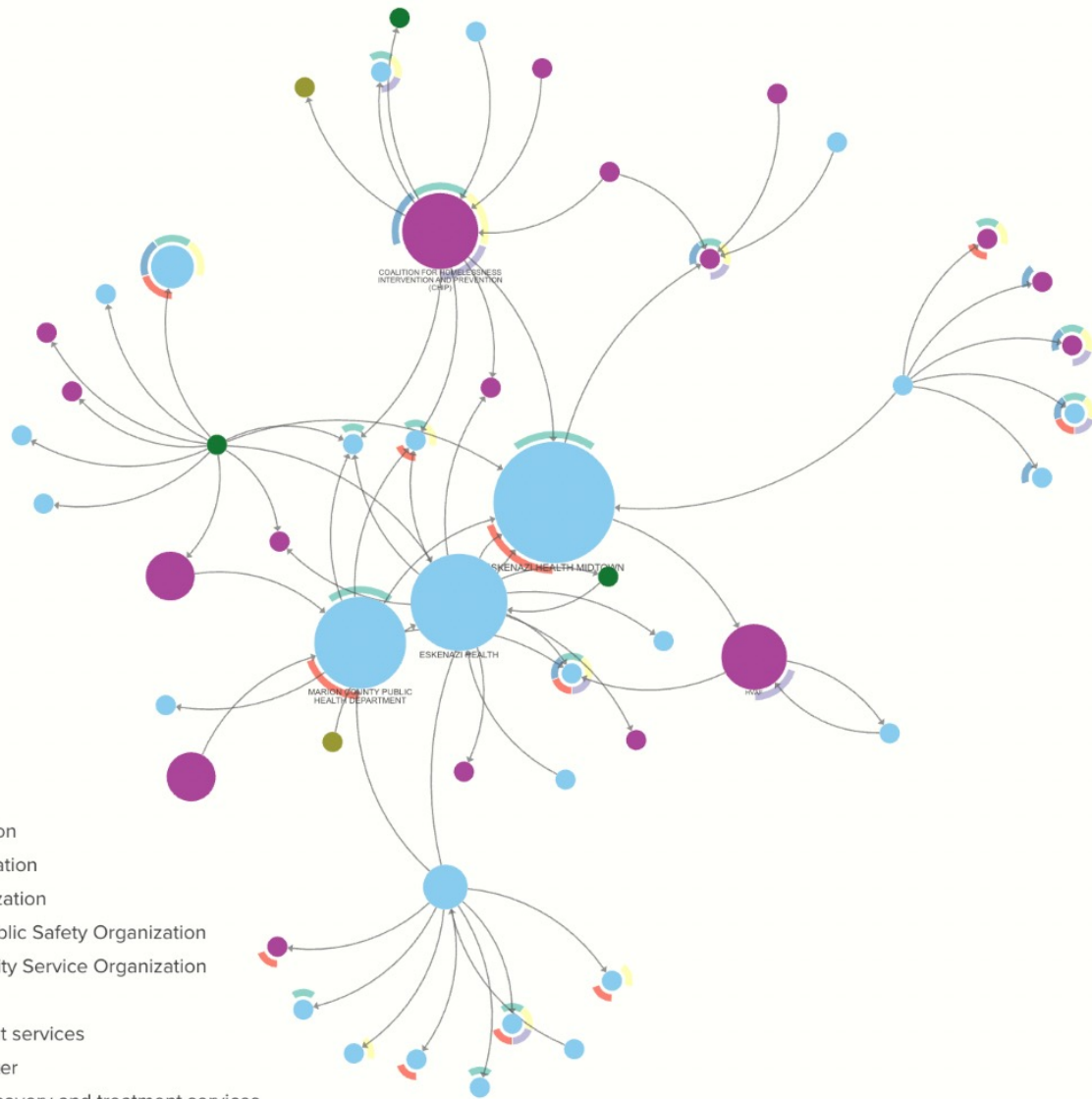
- Well-connected networks consist of organizations that have many intersecting partnerships that facilitate close collaboration and coordination across a network.
- Fragmented networks may contain two sub-networks of organizations that do not interact with each other. This can make it difficult to involve the entire community or reach everyone in the neighborhood who may benefit from a single organization's services.



TWO SUB-NETWORKS OF ORGANIZATIONS



# EX: Referral Networks in the Indiana Opioid Crisis



- Legend**
- Health Organization
  - Business Organization
  - Education Organization
  - Government & Public Safety Organization
  - Social & Community Service Organization
  - Health service
  - Case management services
  - Housing and shelter
  - Substance use recovery and treatment services
  - Social service

Source: *Indiana Data Partnership*



# Ideas from past DSI sessions

- Mapping **referral networks** could raise awareness of who is providing different services and expand referral opportunities
- Mapping different **levels and types of collaboration** could help orgs think about who they could deepen collaborations with
- Capturing **equitable approaches to collaboration** could help orgs identify strategies for increasing the impact of their partnerships
- Seeing **who is missing** from the map could indicate gaps in connectivity and encourage new engagement



Esther Shin is President of Urban Strategies, Inc. She leads a team of diverse professionals with expertise in human capital and economic development to help people in communities across the United States. Esther believes that all residents want safe, vibrant neighborhoods to work, live, and play.

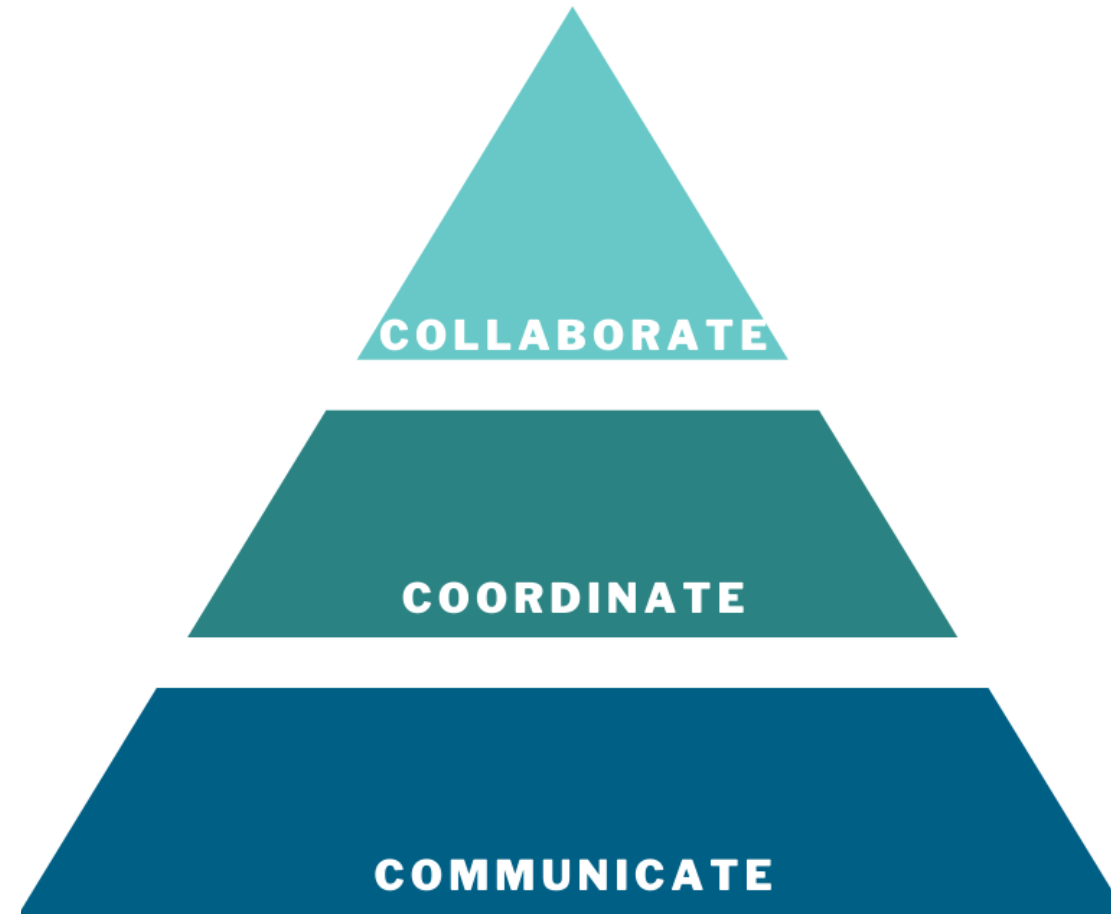


# Activity 1: Types of Data Collaboration

**Communication.** Communicate about data, have meetings where data or data strategy are discussed across organizations.

**Coordination.** Consult with other organizations and coordinate activities and resources to better serve community and mission.

**Collaboration.** Share data and resources in ways that require formal data use agreements or governance.





# Activity 2: Equitable Data Practices

How do you approach data collaboration with equity in mind?

What are some data practices we can collectively identify that promote more equitable partnerships and outcomes?

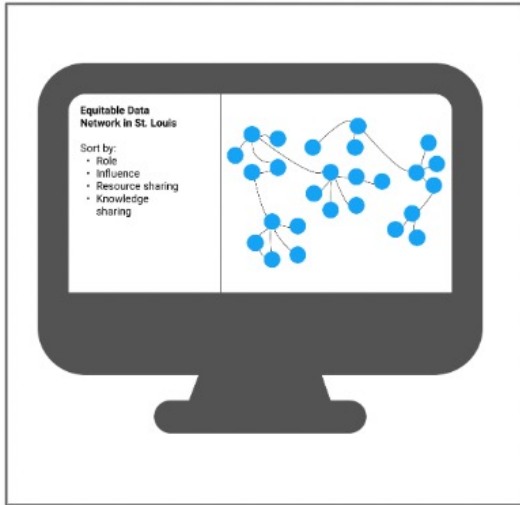
Please share in the Jamboard!



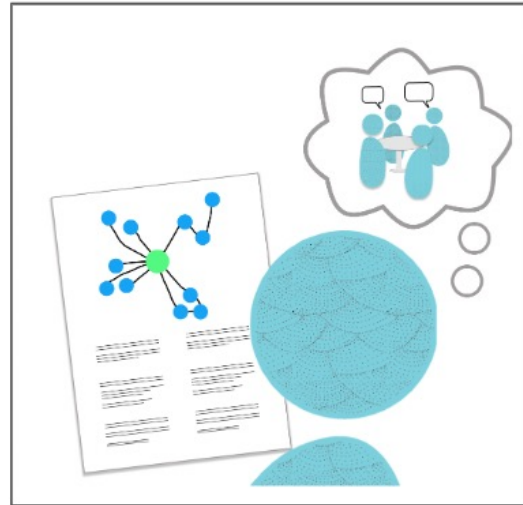


# Activity 3: From Ideas to Action

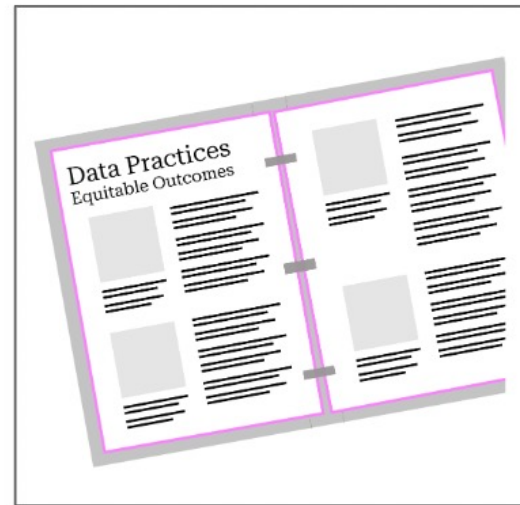
How can we approach this project in a way that is actionable? Past conversations have given us some starting points and ideas. Here are a few possible outputs.



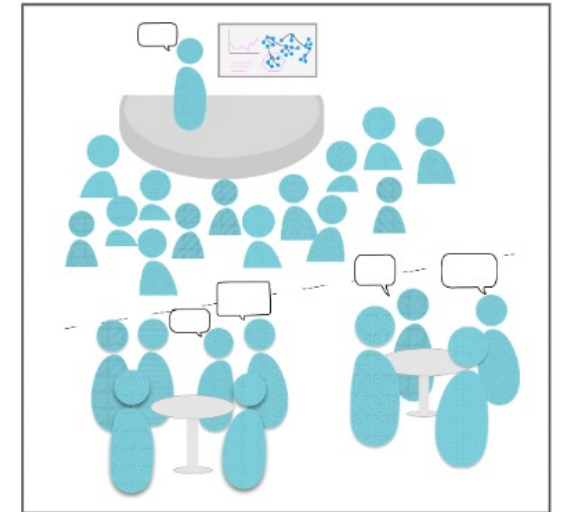
1. Access to a network map that you can explore and sort on your own



2. Access to your org's own network map that you can use with your team



3. Reference guide to equitable approaches to data collaboration



4. Opportunities to reflect and share learnings and ideas across the network



# Breakout Discussion

You will automatically be assigned to a breakout group.

Each group will focus on one of the 4 outputs and discuss how it could be most useful and actionable.

There will be someone from the DSI team in each room to facilitate.





- Take the conversation back to your organization.
- Participate in the network mapping project.
- Stay in touch!
  - Check out [DSI offerings](#)
  - Contact [jenrose@wustl.edu](mailto:jenrose@wustl.edu) to share ideas/learn more

