Data Maturity Assessment for Georgia's Governmental Agencies

Project Lead(s):

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Project Work Location:

Hybrid: Atlanta, GA and remote

Project Description:

Neighborhood Nexus is a collaborative partnership of the Atlanta Regional Commission, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way of Greater Atlanta. Our mission is to grow a culture of data-informed decision-making among Georgia social sector. We do this by building and maintaining public-access data infrastructure, providing data fluency training, and consulting.

Through our work with nonprofits, foundations, and governmental agencies in Georgia, we realized that there are opportunities in developing their organizational capacity on data management skills and knowledge.

There are countless examples of how data helps better align an organization's services with their target community's needs. In our recent experience, after developing a tool that measures the current barriers to economic mobility by neighborhood, Invest Atlanta's Resurgence fund is targeting the grants to small businesses - which are typically Black and Brown-owned - by giving additional points to applications from neighborhoods with lower overall mobility scores.

However, to achieve a robust data culture within Georgia governmental agencies, data must be collected, processed, and shared. This takes time, skills, and experience. To improve Georgia's governmental agencies work, we are developing a Data Maturity Assessment model for local governments to assess themselves against benchmarks from which to develop. This will allow them to leverage their data programs and undertake continuous improvement.

With the guidance of Neighborhood Nexus, in partnership with Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and Georgia's County Association (ACCG), interns will research, conduct interviews, and design the model based on Georgia's local governments' needs.

The development of this data maturity assessment is a key step in achieving Neighborhood Nexus's vision of a state where communities have the resources and confidence to make data-informed decisions. Further, we are seeking to grow mutually beneficial partnerships that

facilitate the missions of individual organizations as well as deepen the collective impact of partnered organizations through shared data and information networks.

Project Learning Goals:

By the end of the project, interns would have connected with several organizations and local government representatives—from city and county governments across the state to the associates (GMA and ACCG) that support them—which is critical for their professional networking in the nonprofit and public service career path.

Second, interns will gain experience in the critical business skill of understanding client needs, building a solution, and communicating it with the client.

Lastly, they will have developed knowledge in data and Data Maturity Assessments, which will help them undertake leading roles in advancing a data culture within Georgia's nonprofits and government agencies.

Top Desired Intern Skills:
- Research experience (literature reviews, interviews, and comparative analysis).
- Networking and communication skills.
- Comfortability with data.
- Curious and self-driven.
- Microsoft Office suite.

Intern Deliverables:
- Report reviewing and comparing existing models.
- Notes from interviews taken to government officials.
- Document with recommendations for the Data Maturity Assessment model based on the research done.
- First version of Data Maturity Assessment Model.