

# Fiscal Mapping Community of Practice

Session #2 | June 22, 2017

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# Setting Research Questions

# Preparing to Collect Data

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# Sample Interview Protocol

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## Goal of Study:

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Identify and confirm funding information on federal, state, local and private funding streams that **alleviate poverty and create economic opportunity for low-income residents of West Philadelphia.**

The interview protocol is designed for community organizations and private foundations.

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# Organizations to Engage

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- **Universities**
- **Key Philanthropic Foundations**
- **School Districts**
- **Non-profit and community entities**
- **Municipal Agencies such as:**
  - **Police Department**
  - **Department of Public Health**
  - **Housing Authority**

## Questions about each funding stream:

- What are the intended purposes of those funds?
- What is the primary programmatic focus?
- What are the target ages for these funds?
- Which types of services can be provided through these funds?
- Which entities are eligible for these funds?
- What are the total resources available in this funding stream?

# Best Practices for Data Collection



## Don't short-circuit the pre-data collection process

- Ensure your tool actually collects the data that answers your community's questions.
- Identify pre-defined coding terms to make data collection and analysis easier
- If multiple individuals are collecting data, provide a brief training or a coding guide to ensure collection is as consistent and reliable as possible.

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# Determine Data Collection Methods

## Methods used will depend on:

- Staffing capacity and resources
- Access to and quality of budget reporting documents
- Nature of the questions addressed in the scan

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# Typical Data Methods

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- Online survey tool
- Excel spreadsheet
- Interviews of budget holders
- Review of existing state and local budgets
- Federal and state databases
- Private funder grant making reports

## Following a funding stream from one level of government to another is not always straightforward

- Funds may be blended once administered at the local level
- Public budget documents vary in format and detail from one department to another
- Local entities may impose new restrictions on use of the original funds

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# Data Collection Challenges

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If selecting a self-reporting method of data collection, different individuals may report *differently*

- If time and resources allow, a combination of data collection methods may yield more reliable data

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# Potential Limitations

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- Limited data from municipalities & private foundations
- Limited time for states to coordinate and provide data depending on the time of year
- Subjective interpretations & perceptions of the information request

# Next Steps and Additional Resources

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# Fiscal Mapping Timeline

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- Now that you've identified your stakeholders, established the scope of your fiscal map, and outlined your data collection protocol, it is time to chart out your fiscal mapping process.
- We have included a project planning template that will help your site scope out the fiscal mapping process, identifying key milestones for collection, analysis, and presentations.
- Check out our resource here: [include link to toolkit once it is live]



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# Topics Discussed in Session 3:

- **Data analysis**
- **Writing the report**
- **Disseminating findings to your community**

Questions?

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