MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

111 Liberty St., Suite 100
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NOTICE OF A MEETING
DEI & DATA WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REMOTE MEETING

February 19, 2025, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Introductions** – *Dave Dixon*

2. **MORPC Updates** – *Dave Dixon*
   a. MORPC State of the Region
      Dave Dixon informed the Group that registration for the March 21, 2025, State of the Regional event is open, and that members of working groups or committees are eligible for Member pricing for the event. The results of the Leaders Listen Economic Development Survey will be announced at the State of the Region.
   b. MORPC Insights Platform
      Dave introduced the MORPC Insights Platform, which aims to make community-level data more accessible by consolidating various online resources. It features a user-friendly tabbed navigation interface that allows users to select specific counties and communities to find targeted information. Set for a soft launch at the end of February 2025, the platform will gradually include more content and demographic information for different geographies, providing valuable resources for stakeholders.

3. **Working Group Name** – *Group*
   Members and staff discussed the potential name change for the DEI & Data Working Group due to the term DEI being seen as divisive. Members shared their perspectives, and the Group considered alternative names such as "Data for Social Responsibility" and "Data Access and Opportunity." Members considered the implications of each name and aimed to find a term that would not draw unwanted attention while reflecting the Working Group's mission. Staff will present proposed names to the Regional Data Advisory Committee for approval at their April 1, 2025, meeting.

4. **Data Day Sessions Debrief** – *Group*
   Dave thanked the Group for their participation in the February 5 Data Day sessions. Yan Liu and Member Masood provided recaps of their sessions, highlighting the engagement and feedback from attendees. Member Miller shared positive feedback on the overall event and the opening plenary.

5. **Using Data to Promote Healthy Communities** – *Group*
   Dave presented a grant opportunity from the Urban Institute for using data to promote healthy communities. Member Miller suggested focusing on low-stress routes to green

spaces and sidewalk conditions. The Group discussed the potential for using data to improve active transportation and green space access, and the tools available for analyzing walkability and Bikeability, including the active transportation network tool. Applying for this grant would highlight the issue of equitable access to green spaces and the challenges of prioritizing projects.

Members and staff considered focusing the next Working Group Initiative on using data to improve active transportation and green space access, and discussed the feasibility of applying for the "Using Data to Promote Healthy Communities" grant.

The response deadline for the grant is March 18, 2025.

6. **Member or Sector Updates / Good of the Order –** *Group*

7. **Adjourn**

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next DEI & Data Working Group Meeting
Will be March 19, 2025, 10:00 am
This Meeting will be held remotely; details to follow.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

DEI & Data Working Group Meeting

February 19, 2025

Members Present
Hena Masood, The Columbus Foundation
Harvey Miller, OSU CURA

Staff Present
Dave Dixon
Lynn Kaufman
Yan Liu

Lynn,

Can you save a copy of the note below and include this as a discussion item on the next DEI and Data WG meeting please?

Thank you,
Dave

From: Urban Institute External Affairs <ExternalAffairs@news.urban.org>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Dave Dixon <ddixon@morpc.org>
Subject: APPLY NOW: Using data to promote healthy communities

> **Caution:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. When in doubt, contact the IT team

Greetings—

The Local Data for Equitable Communities grant program, a collaboration between the Urban Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, seeks to help nonprofits use data to catalyze local action, address inequities, and ensure all residents can live their healthiest lives.

The program is **calling for new proposals, due March 18, 2025,** and plans to fund 30 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) nonprofits working in housing, transportation, community safety, climate and environment, the built environment, and other conditions in a place.

Each grantee will receive $50,000 to cover project implementation, peer learning opportunities, and technical assistance from the Urban Institute on data, policy, and community engagement.

I hope you'll consider sharing this opportunity with nonprofits in your community interested in using data to build places that advance community health. To learn more about the program, visit the website. On February 18 from 1 to 2 p.m. ET, the research team is hosting a webinar for interested applicants.

If you have questions or would like to speak with the grant team, please reply to this email and we can connect you.

Thanks,

- The Stakeholder Outreach team

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