

Metrics Meeting 6/19/09  
Final speed sharing session

Education – benchmarks:

- Need for data across time and details about streams of revenue
- Already exists data reported over time from school districts to states and from states to the federal government and could be used for do before/after comparisons of recovery money
- Stabilization funds vs. Title I vs. IDA funds
- Innovation funds, incentive grant funds designated for various purposes
- Many states and districts are applying for waivers for some requirements under the Recovery Act so there will be a need to track the waivers for transparency, maybe have the Dept of Edu post online
- State funding is inequitable and federal money can come in to balance it out but it's not clear where Recovery money fits in

Education – data wish list:

- Want to be do something quickly while identifying other items that need long-term analysis, data currently comes in very slowly, only now getting 2006 data, which won't help with Recovery Act
  - Want quarterly dashboards to understand how states are allocating their money
  - Web analysis so that analysis can be done as soon as possible
  - Visualization tools
  - The possibility of data overlays in order to look at districts differently –which are low wealth, high wealth, high numbers of ESL or minority kids – will help with equity considerations
  - Data at student level
  - Going beyond equity from dollar perspective, looking at equity among programs and measureable impact on students
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Energy – benchmarks:

- There is money that currently comes to states and localities that can help both businesses and individuals – need to look at wages, environmental impact, geography, demographics, labor market info, skills-building impact
- Measuring domestic content is potential strategy
- Green jobs in terms of creation and retention
- Bidding protocol
- Evaluation criteria
- Smart metering as strategy to develop data points around that
- Want to measure distress at present to figure out what kind of progress is being made two years down the line

- Points of data: unemployment, energy savings, reduced emissions, tax revenues, measures of health, welfare

Energy – data wish list:

- Seek value through high road values
  - Domestic content
  - Best value bidding
  - Community input ensures equity – need at implementation and tracking
  - Community benefits agreements/project labor agreements
  - Local hiring, apprenticeships, benefits, demographics, minority labor participation, wage standards, minority contractor, environmental impact statements
  - Environmental justice component – carbon footprint, reduction of emissions, veto rights by community for large projects
  - New technology – smart metering (residential angle to it and need to make sure the tech there is accompanied by consumer protection)
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Transportation:

- Money comes through different streams in surface transportation program - majority of money can be used on any kind of transit, is flexible, and states can use it the way they want (some has to be used for transit, others can be used for bikes, etc)
- Requirements: how many dollars, how many projects, how many jobs, and did stimulus substitute for existing state funding
- Other benchmarks: how funds are appropriated, obligated, outlayed, what is the process for contracts and direct number of jobs (and resulting indirect jobs)
- Sometimes there are discrepancies between how much was going to be dedicated versus what states end up doing
- How to get more detail behind reporting requirements – additional ones and guidance that has already been issued and contracts that have been let out for many of the transpo contracts – both “aspirational” and what we would want in the transpo reauthorization
- Main criteria: want to know where transportation projects are located, who they serve, who’s employed, and who the job is contracted with
  - Location: who’s served (census tract, demographics, transit service, etc)
  - Who’s employed: quality of jobs, characteristics of who’s employed, apprenticeship hours, wage levels, unionized, operating under project labor agreement – could potentially see what creates more quality outcomes
  - Who’s contracting: contract \$ going to DBEs, where are the workers from, what percentage of contracts are spnt on subcontracts (to make sure that projects can be actually compared)

Transportation – data wish list:

- Want to go beyond miles paved, # of people served, improved safety....cost effectiveness
  - Mapping data is great for transportation
  - Linking to communities, user-supplied data and not just standard government data
  - Raw data – people want the raw data so they can analyze it
  - Different types of analysis
  - Match location with population centers – who are these projects serving
  - Standardized reporting across states
  - Allocation based on transportation modes
  - Project labor agreements
  - Analysis of contractors
  - Other federal requirements
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#### Housing – benchmarks:

- Measurement tends to come from 4-5 programs directly related to housing (vouchers, public housing construction, etc) and then 3-8 programs that are housing-related
- For housing programs, basic measures already reported: # of units, new units weatherized, rehabs, jobs reported
- What is housing looking at? Doesn't give us enough information to know if housing is really what is needed, need to apply metrics to these categories:
  - affordability (subcategories like utilities need to be included),
  - accessibility (peoples access to homes being built – lots of barriers that developers put up to keep black/brown people out of housing – credit checks, background checks, app fees)
  - synergy – housing stability is tied to connections to other key areas (transit, jobs access, child care, etc), how does housing relate to these three key areas?
  - Community controlled accountability – what level do people in the neighborhood have to control this or what kind of hold do they have?
  - Meaningful choice of mobility – do people really have a choice of where they live or how hard is it to move to a place with more community – assumption that there are measures that are often under-measured- connection to neighbors, small businesses, etc.

#### Housing – data wish list:

- Would love to get quality of jobs
- Want to get race/ethnicity of recipient, gender, class, geography (zip code or census tract), disability tract – would allow administering agencies to make the decisions about what they do with that
- Thought about how to turn metrics into communications campaign to communicate challenges and opportunities to achieve equity
- Need for inside/outside strategy
- At state level, need a power analysis, determine who are key decision makers as game shifts to local level, commissions, governor boards, will depend on agency

- Hold up the heroes of transparency, equity, how it's being infused into advocacy (conversely, expose bad examples)
- In states, four of five governors who refused \$ were southern states – what's the strategy in those states?
- OMB, RATBoard
- Other ways that this can be injected - Green jobs, climate bill

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#### Thoughts about working together

- Can go quickly from “we want more data” to “oh my goodness, we have data” – maybe it's about splitting it up so that divide-and-conquer analysis can happen
  - Ongoing communication and sharing would be great – central clearinghouse (wiki page?) where we can share where we're getting data
  - Aware that economic situation is providing great opportunities but this one is appealing because when we look back on obama, this recovery act will stand out as one of the boldest things attempted – it could be great or not so great depending on what we do – if we came together for a few weeks, we could influence the agencies collecting it? So far it's been small groups doing little pushes and trying to push agencies to a set of metrics. There's a window to do something. If it's a 2-3 week effort, where do we go from there?
  - Different set of skills between those who work on transparency versus those who work on equity
  - It's nice that the administration is asking our opinion of how to fix things but are we wearing them out with all the different yet similar messages? Perhaps it would be more efficient to have one unified message.
  - If we do simple things, it could have impact on reauthorization (a future) – ask for simple things in recovery act now
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#### Gary's summary and proposal

##### Quick thoughts:

- Recovery funds are critical and essential but there are authorizing laws, efforts in terms of spending bills that we want to refine and build out
- Not everyone is going to have same energy level to engage

##### Four things I heard:

1. Identify which data elements are essential for equity
2. Make that web-accessible, visualization and analytical tools that people have access to
3. Who's going to do further analysis?
4. Who's going to organize around that data?

##### Suggestions:

1. Need coordination system that allows for further discussion in substantive areas, build out those areas with precision, understanding this is a multi-year agenda – connect areas (substantive and procedural)
2. Lots of specific suggestions – find way to break out box – can we identify some elements after this meeting that we can endorse? Endorsing equity measures and use that as a powerful tool
3. Team that builds kind of tools to get to that level of having web-accessible – would need coordination piece (specific data elements)
4. Advocacy for aspiration components – things like power analyses, hopeful data, make sure contracts at state level are made available, all the agenda items (some data, some not)

Feedback from participants:

- Phil: accountability in CAR/STAR doesn't refer just to transparency – accountability needs to include equity. Creating a separate coalition would seem bizarre and not strategic – let's use existing forums to advance program and increase participation from other groups that are not formally in the network and in ways where it may not be necessary for groups to join something.
- Anne: multiplier effect – there are resources and people who would love to support our efforts to build tools (ex. Grad schools of education) so it doesn't seem like it's a lack of data but rather the organizing and translating of data. There are collaboration possibilities between people like economists and people in states who would love to contribute to our efforts.
- Maya: there are already people who are involved in the equity agenda (LCCR, Opportunity Agenda, etc) – the data was disaggregated after the Civil Rights Act but it seems like there is a leveraging opportunity to make OMB look at enforcement of data collection, etc.
  - Data collection need: opportunity to open up all these things around transparency from the Administration. Location-based data collection – can communities able to see where money is being touched and if their communities are reached?
  - Synergy: we could be all connected – if we had location-based data, it could help finding coordination points and support community organizing happening on the ground.
- Celeste: communities can get weary when continually separate them from opportunity.
- John: we could take Phil's presentation and metrics, incorporate that into a common document and send it to everyone (including existing coalitions like CAR, STAR) and see if a wide range of groups sign on. We could take that and set up a meeting with those people whom we think are in power and throw the challenge on the table. Instead of many separate meeting meetings, we could strengthen and consolidate our voice.
- Mary: the big challenge in education is that people don't have a shared vision of where we want to go – maybe it makes more sense to focus on federal data that we can access faster.
- Emily: what to do between now and when data is released in October? How do we prepare for when actual reporting comes out? What about state/local folks who want to do this type of work now? [Gary's note: there are two sets of data – where the federal government gave money (direct contracts, grants), which will be reported before the recipients report in October]
- Phil: what's the message that we think should come out of this? Will the data potentially reflect badly on the government and how will that affect our advocacy efforts? Perhaps we can make

the reverse argument and say that examining issues of equity will restore image, add legitimacy of the Recovery.

- Sarita: we've been asked to say what the measures should be – how do we reframe what government should be?
- “you need to make me vote against the chair”

Immediate next steps:

1. Short distribution of modified summary of action via email
2. Mandate: “Phil” list
3. Distribution of general notes
4. OSI will email the RFP regarding the state funding opportunities
5. Development of plan-of –action for how the coordination will start up