

MOVING FROM LEARNING TO ACTION: DEVELOPING THE NICS BUSINESS PLAN

8:30 A.M – 4:00 P.M
Tuesday, April 12, 2005
Falk Auditorium, The Brookings Institution
Washington, DC

BACKGROUND, PURPOSE AND APPROACH

Between September 2004 and February 2005, the NICS Community of Practice (CoP) carried out a “learning phase,” the hosting of four workshops to assemble the information needed to assess the desirability and feasibility of NICS and prepare a strong business plan for its development. Each workshop focused on one category of potential NICS participant organizations (community-level, state, federal, and nonprofit/commercial). All were framed by the following questions:

- What can we learn from the efforts of existing data intermediaries, information applications builders, and e-government initiatives that can inform the development of NICS?
- How can NICS best serve the needs of potential participants?
- What capacities will organizations need to participate in NICS?

Over the course of the learning phase workshops, a consensus emerged to add a particular dimension to the development of NICS—the selection of “use cases” that collectively can serve as the initial building blocks of NICS and explore and demonstrate technical and institutional solutions to key NICS design and implementation issues. These use cases may be existing or new statistical system efforts and may focus on a particular topic (e.g., environment) or geographic area.

The April 12th meeting will initiate the next phase of the NICS development process. The meeting is structured around the review and discussion of learning phase findings and recommendations in each of three workgroup domains—participant needs and applications, systems architecture, and governance and finance. Through this process, we will develop agreement regarding:

- the criteria for selecting use cases,
- the specific use cases to pursue,
- the outline of the NICS business plan, and
- the process for preparing the business plan and launching the use cases.

The outcome will be a framework that the NICS CoP will use to guide actions in the near term, and move closer to making NICS a reality.

AGENDA

Continental Breakfast – 8:00-8:30

8:30-9:00 Introduction – Andrew Reamer, Urban Markets Initiative, The Brookings Institution

9:00-10:30 Participant Needs and Applications: Findings and Recommendations

- Presentation – Tom Kingsley, Urban Institute, and Roderick Harrison, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
- Breakout sessions for discussion
- Plenary discussion

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:15 Systems Architecture: Findings and Recommendations

- Presentation – Joe Ferreira, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Breakout sessions for discussion
- Plenary discussion

12:15-1:15 Working Lunch

1:15-2:45 Governance and Finance: Findings and Recommendations

- Presentation – Pari Sabety, Urban Markets Initiative, The Brookings Institution
- Breakout sessions for discussion
- Plenary discussion

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-4:00 Business Plan and Use Case Development: Next Steps – facilitated by Andrew Reamer, Urban Markets Initiative, The Brookings Institution

4:00-5:30 Refreshments and Conversation

NICS CoP CORE WORKGROUP

Troy Anderson, KnowledgePlex, Fannie Mae Foundation

Marshall DeBerry, FedStats, Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

Joseph Ferreira, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Roderick Harrison, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Tom Kingsley, National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, The Urban Institute

Brand Niemann, Federal CIO Council and US Environmental Protection Agency

Andrew Reamer, Urban Markets Initiative, The Brookings Institution

Pari Sabety, Urban Markets Initiative, The Brookings Institution

Cynthia Tauber, The Jacob France Institute, University of Baltimore

Susan Turnbull, US General Services Administration