Our mission & Our work

Striving for informed decision-making across Connecticut, we empower an ecosystem of data users by democratizing access to public data and building data literacy.

Make data accessible

Liberate data

Increase data literacy
Objectives

1. Increase data literacy
   - Build confidence
   - Encourage critique and skepticism
   - Embrace data as a necessary piece of decision making

2. Expand data capacity
   - Equip with tools and skills
   - Evaluate current data collection and analysis efforts

3. Enable all to use data effectively
   - Assemble a network of data users and producers
   - Connect and engage the data network
Three central principles:

Data life cycle:

- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Data Reporting

CT DATA ACADEMY
Three central principles:

Data life cycle:

Data alone does not equal impact.
Three central principles:

Data life cycle:

Data Collection → Data Analysis → Data Reporting

Data alone does not equal impact.

Data → Info & Insight → Action

Data are people.
Content Development

- Focus groups including state agency staff, non-profit staff and private philanthropy
- Assessed existing professional learning (locally & nationally)
- Piloted new content as conference session
## CT Data Academy Products

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## CT Data Academy Products

### Data Basics
- Free, monthly
- Open to the public
- Convened in "open" or "public" spaces

### Data in Depth
- Three-part series
- Rolling out to the public
- Deeper engagement with data collection, analysis and reporting

### Data in Person
- In-person and e-connections
- Conferences & special topic workshops
- Monthly open data call

### 2017 Progress

#### 7 workshops (February-July)
- 114 participants
- 30 towns

#### Pilot partnership
- 14 participants
- Focus on one county

#### 8 monthly calls, reaching 95 participants
- Convened 2 statewide conferences (200 attended)
- Convened 2 small in person gatherings

More progress:
- Convened Advisory Group
- Invitations to present at APDU, NCPP, LeanCT
- Developing new content: Client Satisfaction, Intro to Public Data, Data Storytelling, Data for Advocacy
Feedback: What people are saying....

"This general knowledge will be super helpful as a foundation."

"I will be looking at data and information with a more analytical eye."

"I will use my new awareness to be a better partner for nonprofits."

"I need to go back to basics: definitions. What do I want to know, why do I want to know, what will I do?"
Lessons Learned

• Survey existing resources & seek feedback on content as you go
• Push the fine line between theoretical & practical
• Expect resistance to the idea of change
• Manage expectations about takeup and engagement
• Pilot content to receptive audiences
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On going challenges

- Developing generic enough content
- Baking in data literacy to all of our work
- Establishing a fee structure that works for nonprofits
- How to scale up when limited by bandwidth
Stay in touch

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