# Using Data to Guide Strategies for Closing the Racial Wealth Gap

Tuesday morning 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

At the NNIP Partners' Meeting in Oakland last fall, we sought to broaden Partners' understanding of the racial wealth gap through a session that framed wealth as a key measure of one's ability to thrive. Speakers described how racist policies and practices ensure disadvantage for Black individuals and strip Black communities of wealth. They also illustrated how individual wealth connects to neighborhoods' collective wealth, power, and vitality.

Addressing the racial wealth gap and building individual and community wealth is a central component of reaching NNIP's vision of all neighborhoods becoming places where people can thrive. Local data are an important tool for interventions that seek to build wealth and address inequities. Data can be used to understand and quantify the drivers of wealth and wealth extraction and to inform the variety, design, and implementation of innovative solutions.

*The purpose of this session is to share examples with NNIP Partners of how data are being used to guide local strategies to address the racial wealth gap and explore ways Partners can apply these approaches to support their own communities.*

The session will be moderated by David Asiamah, the research and content development manager at the Black Wealth Data Center (BWDC). BWDC is building a racial wealth equity database that aims to empower decisionmakers with reliable data and raise the national standard for data collection and accessibility. David will give brief remarks and introduce the three panelists who will each have 10 minutes to present their work.

- *Miranda Santillo* is a policy program associate at the Urban Institute and member of the Financial Well-Being Data Hub team. The Data Hub brings together disparate data sources to provide a holistic understanding of people's financial well-being and shares evidence-based solutions to narrow inequities.
- *Alex Camardelle* is the Vice President of Policy and Research at the Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative, a catalytic nonprofit that seeks to achieve shared prosperity by building Black wealth through community wealth building strategies.
- *Lamar Gardere* is the executive director of The Data Center, which has recently released local wealth estimates for New Orleans to inform the SEE CHANGE Collective's efforts to close the racial wealth gap.

Following the presentations, David will moderate discussion among the panelists for 15 minutes, and then open the session for 25 minutes of questions and discussion from the audience.

**Discussion:**

- What strategies do you use to equip local leaders and movement-building groups with the data they need?
- What challenges with data or collaboration have you encountered on this topic locally?
- How have you incorporated qualitative data into your work on the racial wealth gap?
- What is one thing you think NNIP collectively could contribute to national conversations on this topic?

**NNIP Strategic Framework Connections:**

- Goal: Local actors adopt data-informed policies and practices to distribute resources more fairly and equitably across neighborhoods.
- Strategies: Harness the power of the network by expanding the roles and engagement opportunities of NNIP Network members; strengthen the exchange between NNIP and Urban Institute.

**Resources:**

A Profile of Wealth in the New Orleans Metro | The Data Center

Advancing Black Wealth through Local Data and Engagement | NNIP cross-site project

Black Wealth Data Center

Building A Beloved Economy: A Baseline and Framework for Building Black Wealth in Atlanta | Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative

Financial Well-Being Data Hub | Urban Institute

Financial Health and Wealth Dashboard | Urban Institute

Nine Charts about Wealth Inequality in America | Urban Institute

Racial Wealth Equity Resource Center | Boston Indicators

Reframing "Wealth" and Activating Data as an Effective Tool for Change | The Data Center