

Detroit

On the heels of a dispute with federal officials over Census data, Detroit leaders strived to create uniform reporting and incorporate data use across their workforce. By the end of their CDA engagement, the team had introduced new data governance standards and begun work on their own data academy.

Highlights

Created [Chief of Strategy](#) role on the mayor's team to oversee data governance and promoted Director of Data Strategy and Analytics Kat Hartman, who was [highlighted as an innovator](#) for leadership in data governance.

Mayor Mike Dugan's Data Governance Executive Order cemented city efforts to standardize property records to sustain and create more affordable housing and ensure an accurate 2030 Census count.

Built a scalable data warehouse to support data governance policies and refined [Base Units Tools](#).

Developing a city-specific workforce training program based on the [Baltimore Data Academy](#).

Background

Detroit joined City Data Alliance amid a [dispute](#) with the federal government over the 2020 Census, which may have been hampered by non-standardized address records. As the city's strategy and analytics team worked to clean up address records and promote uniform reporting, they hoped their CDA engagement would lead to more connectivity among departments. Mayor Mike Dugan asked the Detroit CDA team to integrate databases and promote cross-departmental coordination to solve high-priority challenges such as neighborhood blight.

Simultaneous to their CDA engagement, the city worked toward platinum level certification through What Works Cities and leaders hope to formally announce their data governance executive order alongside certification.

Impact

Despite limited capacity and competing priorities, Detroit city staff worked with CDA coaches to complete the program's key deliverables and strengthen data practices citywide.

Led by Director of Strategy and Analytics Kat Hartman, city staff used the momentum of the 2020 Census undercount to emphasize the importance of breaking down data silos across departments. The city used American

Rescue Plan Act funding to add several data-focused roles to Hartman's team and has reimagined job descriptions to be more attractive to skilled data professionals.

The mayor's office also created a strategy chief role, filled by former Chief of Staff Trisha Stein, who is a champion for Hartman's work and has transitioned the strategy team to a more flexible approach to developing strategy.

A team from Detroit enrolled in GovEx's "Data Inventory and Data Quality" course, which supported the development of their new enterprise data sharing platform. Detroit is now planning to launch a Detroit Data Academy, modeled on the Baltimore Data Academy, to increase access to data training for city employees. GovEx will support development of the Academy.

During its CDA engagement, the city also developed data interoperability language for use in contracts, purchase orders, and requests for proposals, a centralized [list of Public Facing Data Tools](#), and standards for metadata, address data, department names and disaggregated demographic data.

City officials also improved tools to use its Base Units - the way it tracks city data - by integrating into the 911 dispatch system for improved response accuracy, adding right-of-way units (roads, lanes, curb cuts, medians, etc) to Base Units schema, launching the [New Detroit Business Data Explorer app](#) which uses the Base Units data to combine previously siloed datasets that affect local businesses, and using the data in the city's permitting platform for more consistent location data.