



## **DASH Mentor: University of Pittsburgh - UCSUR/Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center**

### **Mentor Areas of Expertise**

- Creating community indicator systems and data repositories with open and civic data
- Assessing and mapping local data ecosystems
- Developing collaborative local data partnerships
- Community engagement and civic data literacy

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) is a hub for interdisciplinary research and collaboration focused on social, economic, and health issues most relevant to our society. UCSUR hosts the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center, which provides the technological and legal infrastructure for sharing data through an open data portal from public sector agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations. As a DASH Mentor, UCSUR will draw on both local experience and participation in national networks of practice to support mentees in establishing or improving their own local data sharing infrastructure, enhancing collaborative data sharing partnerships, and/or establishing community indicator data systems.

### **Proposed Key Learnings / Objectives**

UCSUR will support Mentees in assessing and strengthening various aspects of their local data ecosystem, including relationships, capacity, and data infrastructure. To that end, Mentees will:

1. Conduct a data ecosystem mapping activity to help them identify strengths, gaps, and potential partnership opportunities.
2. Learn strategies for hosting community conversations on civic data literacy, and receive guidance on designing data infrastructure and governance processes that engage multi-sector stakeholders and community members.
3. Develop and implement a plan to develop and strengthen local data sharing relationships, build a data sharing infrastructure, define community health indicators, and develop community engagement strategies
4. Mentees will also learn how to develop and use as well as information tools informed by user-centered design.

### **Mentee Eligibility and Fit**

This Mentorship is best suited for organizations looking to use administrative and survey data from a variety of sectors to address the social determinants of health and improve community health. Communities currently working with or planning to work with public data and that are interested in external data sharing, particularly through open data platforms (e.g., non-profits or government agencies that want to share their data publicly) are ideal candidates. Potential participants may include staff of local government agencies including public health departments, universities, health care organizations, local non-profits, etc. Communities in early stages of their work and organizations that want to establish formal mechanisms for governance or structures for developing a data repository are encouraged to apply. This mentorship would not be a good match for communities who are seeking guidance about handling sensitive data (matching individual datasets) or integrating siloed datasets between government agencies.

*Mentors will work with their Mentee cohorts to narrow the focus of program activities from the list of potential topics. At the end of the mentorship, each group will have the opportunity to share tools and resources developed throughout the program with the All In network.*