JOHNSON CENTER

AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Community Dashboard

Using data to encourage community engagement and advance a foundation's mission // November 2019

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GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

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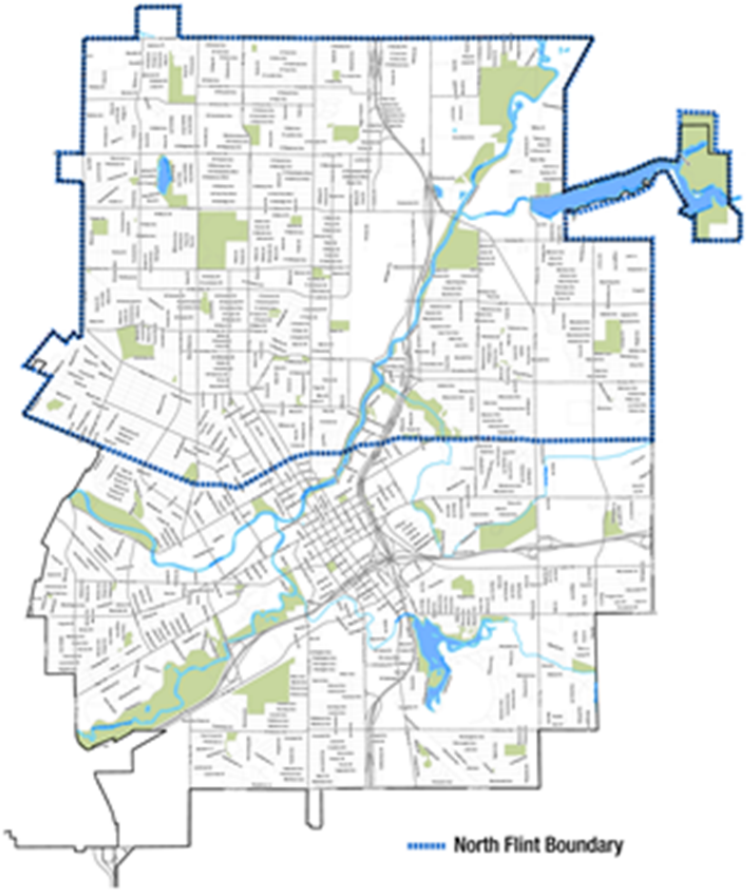
Ruth Mott Foundation

- Launched in November 2015
- Focus on North Flint
- Goal: Residents of north Flint neighborhoods create and sustain opportunities tc contribute and thrive



The Johnson Center

- **Professional Development**
- **Research, Evaluation, and Consulting**
- **Insights and Perspectives**

Why a dashboard?

- Foundation changed strategy in 2016
  - Are we appropriately identifying and exiting grants that do not effectively contribute to our desired outcomes, even if they are geographically aligned?
  - Is success both possible and measurable?
- Wanted to have a way to track progress on strategic grantmaking
- Needed to be accessible to community members

Community-Level Dashboard Purposes

From the foundation's perspective, the purposes were:

1. Provide an overview of community-level trend data for the north Flint geography as defined by the Foundation,
2. Support analysis of grantee effectiveness as a group, by priorities, and individually for the Foundation, and
3. Encourage and enhance grantee capacity for evaluation through reporting data to the Foundation, as well as using reports from the dashboard to drive decision-making.

Development with Community

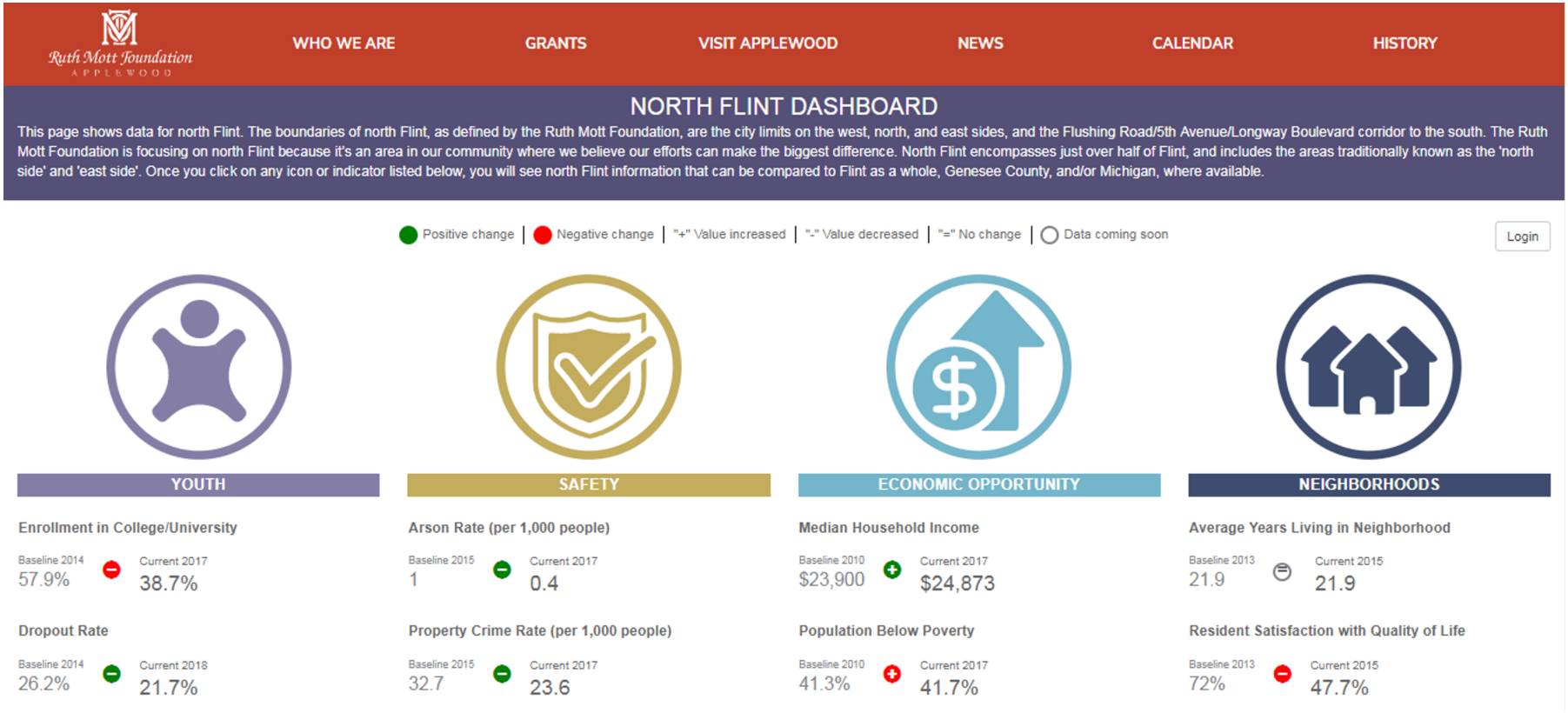
Build
- Identify indicators (theory of change and community engagement)
- Design look, feel, and functionality

Engage
- Gather community input about look, feel, functionality, and utility
- Make changes based on feedback

Implement
- Launch in the community
- Find needs in the community and promote

Maintain
- Plan for ongoing updating through data-sharing agreements and budget

DASHBOARD OVERVIEW

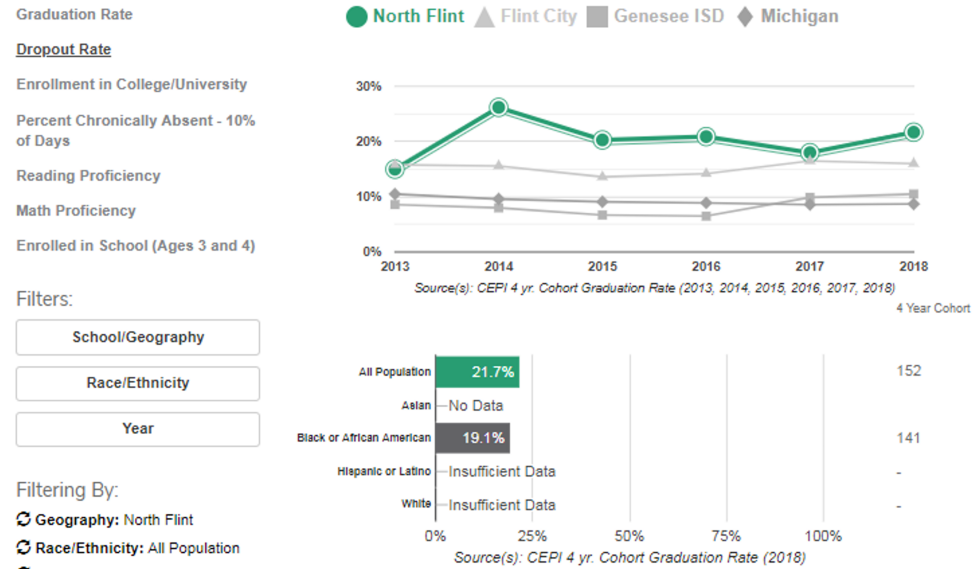


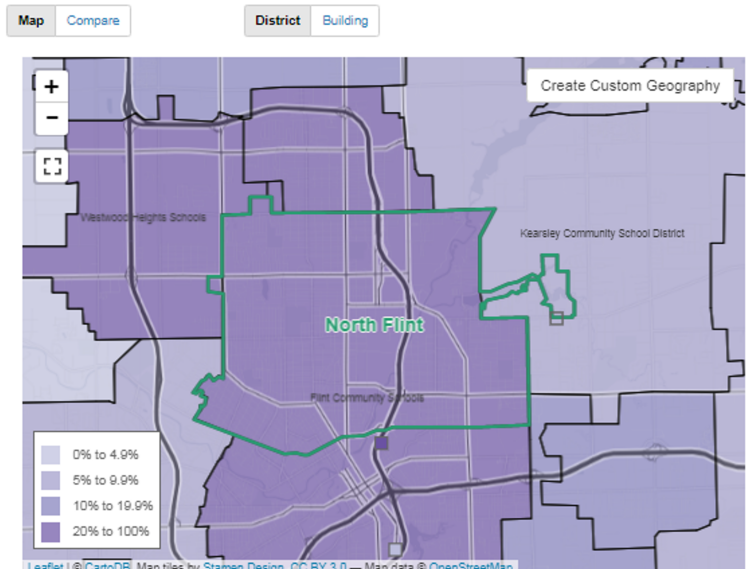
DASHBOARD OVERVIEW

Dropout Rate: North Flint: All Population: 2018

Quick Analysis:

While north Flint and Flint school's dropout rates were nearly identical for the 2012-13 school year, there was a sharp contrast between the two for the 2013-14 school year as North Flint schools' dropout rate was about 11 percent higher than Flint schools as a whole. During the 2016-17 school year, the dropout rate for North Flint schools decreased slightly, while the dropout rate for Flint schools increased to 16.5%. During the 2017-18 school year the dropout rate for North Flint schools increased to 21.7%, whereas the rate for Flint schools overall decreased slightly to 16%. It is notable that Flint Northern High School closed in June 2013, and Flint Northwestern High School closed in June 2018. Both Flint schools and north Flint schools have significantly higher dropout rates than the Genesee Intermediate School District and the state of Michigan for all years. High school graduation rates are strongly related to economic and social outcomes.





Lessons Learned

- Acknowledge time as the most significant investment in establishing a dashboard tool.
- Be mindful of how the dashboard may complement or compete with other large-scale projects of importance to the organization.
- Develop a strategy to manage stakeholder expectations of reported dashboard data.
- Seek insight and perspective from other communities implementing similar dashboards.
- Consider accessibility and internal capacity of all stakeholders to collect and report data associated with the dashboard.

Moving Forward

- Strengthening the alignment between grantee program-level indicators.
- Promoting dashboard updates through social media to increase traffic and engagement.
- Formalizing a community advisory group of grantees, residents, and data partners
- Developing a “Community Dashboard 101” session
- Collecting feedback from grantees and other dashboard users through survey tools

Questions?

http://gis.cridata.org/RuthMottFoundation-dashboard/

www.ruthmottfoundation.org

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