disc
Data Integration Support Center
WestEd

Bridging the Data Gap: Creating State-Wide Data Pathways to Support Connecticut's Disconnected Youth

September 25, 2025

Welcome

**LeAnn Fong-Batkin, Ed.D.
Senior Project Manager, Co-PI**

WestEd's Data Integration Support Center

Public Act 24-45 (2024)

Directed P20 WIN to:

- Develop a plan to establish a state-wide data intermediary that would provide technical support, create data sharing agreements, and build and maintain the infrastructure necessary to share data between nonprofits serving disconnected youth

- Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (CT OPM) partnered with the WestEd's Data Integration Support Center (DISC) to lead the plan's development

Who are Disconnected Youth?

Disconnected youth (statutory definition):

- Ages 14-26, inclusive:

- At risk student enrolled in high school (HS); or Not enrolled in HS;

- Has not obtained a HS diploma, GED, or its equivalent;

- Is unemployed and not enrolled in an adult education program, postsecondary, or a workforce training program (including apprenticeships); or

- Is incarcerated

Methodology

- Surveyed local educational agencies (K-12) to identify nonprofits

- Interviewed CT nonprofits

- Interviewed data intermediaries in CT and some nationwide

Key Findings: Survey of schools

- LEAs identified 80 organizations that they work with that serve opportunity youth (Appendix D);

- About half (49%) of LEAs provide data about students referred to or connected with external organizations and receive data from organizations about the students who received services; and

- The most common services provided by organizations working with high schools included mental health services, basic needs, and family involvement (such as parent support groups and workshops).

Key Findings: Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofits will need:

- Technical assistance, training and resources;

- Without additional funding, nonprofits may have to choose between providing information to a data intermediary or providing more services to the groups they serve; and

- To share data with a known entity that they trust (known for its protection and safeguarding of data).

Nonprofits: Benefits and Concerns

Benefits	Concerns
• Strategic Planning • Summary Data • Better Understanding of State Services	• Privacy and Security (sharing personally identifiable information) • Resource Limitations (staff/capacity) • Capacity to Provide Data

Key Findings: Data Intermediaries

Common Features

- Collect information (including data) from other organizations, ensuring data-sharing and security and privacy regulations are met;

- Have the ability to scale their infrastructure operations and, in some cases, scope;

- Create reports (summary-level);

- Create protocols for researcher access to data; and

- Provide training, support, and technical assistance.

Use Case 1: Developing a New Data Environment

- The State of CT can develop a new and independent data environment that would follow the report's recommendations.

- Note: This option would need a significant amount of funding from CT, time, and a multitude of resources for both the data intermediary and the nonprofit organizations who would submit data.

Use Case 2: Building on Existing State Resources (Using P20 WIN)

- P20 WIN can use existing state resources to expand its capacity to serve as the data intermediary;

- P20 WIN's capacity is already limited, and it would need an infusion of resources (financial, human resources, and infrastructure support); and

- The local context of trust between P20-WIN and the nonprofits needs to be understood.

Use Case 3: Expand Capacity for Current Organizations

- The capacity of current data intermediaries could be expanded;

- One or more data intermediaries can collaborate based on their areas of strength (trust between them and nonprofits; ability to handle data); and

- Of the entities we interviewed, Dillinger, the CT Data Collaborative, and Connie (CT's Health Information Exchange) are potential organizations who can collaborate to serve as a data intermediary.

Funding Options

Implementation Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option 1: Developing a New Data Environment	CT can build a data intermediary customized to meet the needs of nonprofits	• Significant amount of funding and effort • Time and resources are already constrained • Additional resources would be necessary (financial, human resources and infrastructure)
Option 2: Expand P20 WIN	Existing data governance, infrastructure, data sharing agreements, and security/privacy	• Additional resources would be necessary (financial, human resources and infrastructure)
Option 3: Expand Capacity for Current Organizations	Flexibility in implementation and funding through philanthropy	• The state would not have control over this program

Final Considerations

- How to incentivize nonprofits' participation in a data intermediary;

- Consider a phased pilot project with these implementation considerations:

    - Goals

    - Region

    - Workgroup/Steering Committee

    - Funding

    - Data-sharing agreements

    - Statute

    - Evaluation

Thank you!

Stay in touch with us by emailing us at lfongba@wested.org
or by visiting us at DISC.WestEd.org

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