**Finding Open Data Success Stories and Gathering Community Resources**

**Finding Local Stories**

While this curriculum provides a linked set of resources and open data success stories, new breakthroughs and innovations occur on a regular basis. As you work through this curriculum with community members, you may seek to find stories that connect more directly to your local circumstances. Your library may already be involved in local government open data efforts. If not, contact the IT, economic development or, if you have one, the innovation team for your city or county. While open data efforts are housed in a variety of departments, each of those three departments should be represented and will have information about success stories. For example, after a decade of collecting health data in Sacramento County, government, nonprofit, and community members launched [an initiative to reduce African-American child deaths](http://www.shfcenter.org/raacd) through collaboration, coordination, and targeted service delivery. Some open data efforts look more like quality of life or performance management dashboards. (See Sacramento County’s [Be Healthy Sacramento](http://www.behealthysacramento.org/index.php?module=Indicators&controller=index) dashboard, for example.)

Below are some other ideas for finding local stories:

* Many major newspapers have data journalism units that work to help communities understand the impact of data on their lives. Talk to your local paper and learn whether they have any open data successes that allowed them access important data for a story. They may also know about community groups that could be interested in taking the course.
* Government specific publications, such as Governing Magazine and Government Technology Magazine regularly mine communities for stories to tell about the impacts of open data. Search their site to find new stories from similar communities.

**Getting Connected with Open Data Community Resources**

There are also instances of individuals undertaking work to open up data and make it more accessible to community members, leading to interesting findings about local neighborhood issues as well as national challenges. For example, a local New York resident used the city’s parking violation data to [save drivers from being unfairly ticketed.](https://www.techdirt.com/articles/20160512/03464034417/analyst-uses-nypds-open-data-to-uncover-millions-dollars-bogus-parking-tickets.shtml) Most areas with an active open data community will also have a Code for America Brigade. These local groups of computer software programmers, web developers, designers often meet to share information and work on projects that help the community. You can search for [your city on this list.](http://brigade.codeforamerica.org/brigade/list) Another way to find local open data resources in your community is to do an online search - try searching for “open data” and your city or county. This might also yield information about other community groups or other stakeholders who are involved in local open data work.