DHCD Address Locator Tool v.1

User Manual

The Address Locator Tool is an interactive tool that allows the user to look up important information from different sources about the social and economic situation of the surrounding area of an address of interests.

The link to the tool is the following: https://lautarocantar.shinyapps.io/ALT2019/

After the user access to the site, he will find the landing page in Figure 1. The tool requires three separate interactions from the user:

1. At number 1, the user needs to type the address that is interested in, for example, "*24 woodbury st, Arlington, ma 02476*". Even though the tool recognizes the address with typos and missing information, results improve when the user types the address as complete as possible.
2. At number 2 the user has to insert the number of bedrooms that he's voucher allows. The options are:
   - "0": Studio apartment
   - "1": 1 Bedroom apartment
   - "2": 2 Bedroom apartment
   - "3": 3 Bedroom apartment
   - "1": 4 Bedroom apartment
3. At number 3, the user needs to click "Search"

Figure 1: Landing page

Once the user clicks on "Search", the tool performs some operations in the back end and provides the information seen in Figure 2. On the right hand, the Map shows the location of the address. On the left hand, below the "Search" button, there is the following information:

- **Child Opportunity Index (COI):** is a measure of relative opportunity across all neighborhoods and is created by the diversitydatakids.org - Kirwan Institute. There are five levels: Very Low, Low, Moderate, High and Very High. The higher the score the more opportunity, the more opportunity the area provides for children.
- **AFFH Environmental Health Hazard**: summarizes potential exposure to harmful toxins at a neighborhood level. The higher the value, the better the environmental quality of a neighborhood. For more information click here.
- **Higher Payment Standard:** For those Census Tracts that have a "High" or "Very High" COI Index, DHCD will compare the DHCD Payment Standard against. The HUD Small Area FMR and use the highest value. This indicator shows what is the highest value for a unit with the number of bedrooms selected before.
- **Agency with Higher Payment Standard:** This indicator shows which is the agency with the highest payment standard for the number of bedrooms selected above.
- **AFFH Low Poverty Index:** it captures poverty in a given neighborhood. The higher the score, the less exposure to poverty in a neighborhood. For more information click here.
- **AFFH Labor Market Engagement Index:** a summary description of the relative intensity of labor market engagement and human capital in a neighborhood. The higher the score, the higher the labor force participation and human capital in a neighborhood. For more information click here.
- **Walk Score:** This index is created by walkscore.com and it is number between 0 and 100 that measures the walkability of any address (0 being the lowest value, 100 the highest). If the user clicks on the value, you will have more information about this index.
- **Transit Score:** This index is also created by walkscore.com and it is number between 0 and 100 that measures the availability of public transportation around any address (0 being the lowest value, 100 the highest).
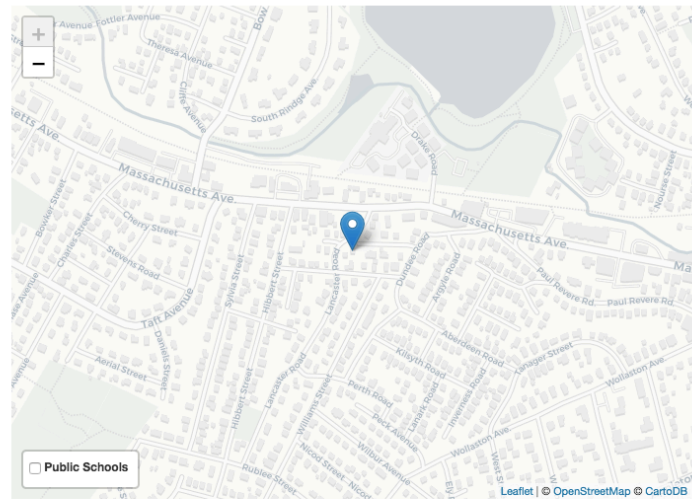
Figure 2: Results page

Figure 3 shows one functionality of the map, whereby clicking "Public Schools", the user can see in the map the schools around the address. By clicking on one of the schools, a popup shows the name, the Grade Range, the GreatSchools Rating and a link to the website.
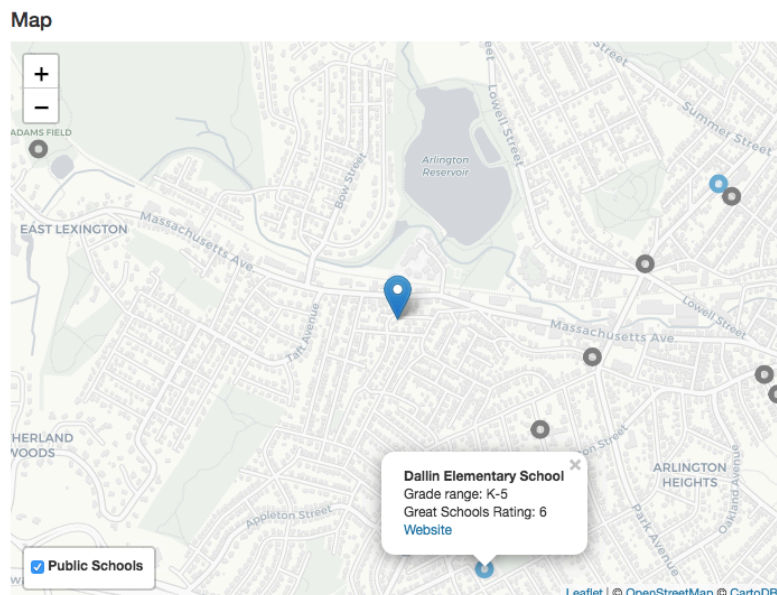

Figure 3: Map