

January 2020 DC visit

US Conference of Mayors, Mayors Innovation Project and associated meetings

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US Conference of Mayors

- ▶ 88th Winter Meeting took place from January 22 through January 24
- ▶ More than 280 mayors
- ▶ All Plenary Sessions were streamed live on the USCM Youtube page
- ▶ Written summary of sessions available
- ▶ Wide range of topics
 - ▶ Census
 - ▶ Homelessness
 - ▶ Affordable housing
 - ▶ Immigration
 - ▶ Recycling
 - ▶ Climate Change
 - ▶ Workforce
 - ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Public safety
 - ▶ Economic empowerment
 - ▶ Food security
 - ▶ Empowering youth
 - ▶ Resident Engagement
 - ▶ Voter Registration

Food Policy Advisors Network

- ▶ Attendees from
 - ▶ Salt Lake City, UT
 - ▶ New Haven, CT
 - ▶ Baltimore, MD
 - ▶ Madison, WI
 - ▶ Washington DC
 - ▶ Pittsburgh, PA
 - ▶ Indianapolis, IN
 - ▶ Boston, MA
 - ▶ Philadelphia, PA
 - ▶ New York, NY
- ▶ Using the time and collective power of the USCM Food Policy Advisors Network more strategically
 - ▶ Hill visits on national, unifying issues re: SNAP changes, WIC, etc,
 - ▶ Meeting with key mayors to discuss food policy issues in their communities
 - ▶ Meetings with key DC orgs (Union of Concerned Scientists, NRDC, FRAC, Heart Assn, Cancer Assn, AARP, etc,)
- ▶ Strategic analyses on creating USCM resolutions to enable future work
- ▶ Better utilizing the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#) for unified work

Mayors Innovation Project

- ▶ 28th meeting took place from January 24 through January 25
- ▶ More than 90 mayors and civic leaders
- ▶ All presentations and meeting materials [available online](#)
- ▶ Topics:
 - ▶ Designing for Extremes: featured the work of cities whose policies have tackled challenges that more directly affect specific populations and have, consequently, improved their community more broadly.
 - ▶ How will mayors make it count? Challenges and opportunities for the 2020 Census: an overview of the 2020 census implementation, highlighting best practice census strategies.
 - ▶ From Cradle to Preschool: Holistic Approaches to promote future success and collaboration across partners through which cities are protecting and promoting the brain development of infants through young children.

Interesting ideas

- ▶ St. Paul is instituting a “pink shovel” initiative where they have pink shovels by cross walks for residents to provide additional shoveling as needed.
- ▶ Census Tips:
 - ▶ Fill the data void with real information
 - ▶ Philadelphia - during parent teacher conferences, teachers are trained to give a 30 second pitch to the importance of the census for school funding and direct parents to a computer where they can fill out the form right there.
 - ▶ Social workers - When social workers do home checks for foster children, reminding the foster parents that the children should be counted as part of that household
 - ▶ Hiring people who already work with hard to reach communities
 - ▶ Implications of tribal identification for Native Americans - need to partner with Tribes
- ▶ Cities are conducting equity assessments of fines and fees and how they respond to complaints:
 - ▶ St. Paul: Issuing 60% of summary abatements for things like unshoveled snow and long grass to 30% of the people. What do these people need, and do more summary abatements help them? Instead, assembling volunteer crews to go mow the lawn or shovel when they get complaints.
 - ▶ Iowa City: if police pull you over for a broken headlight or tail light, they don't give you a ticket. They give you a voucher to get it fixed.

More interesting ideas

- ▶ Annual equity report cards
- ▶ Somerville MA has a “Children’s Cabinet” of Mayor, School Superintendent, health care partners, etc. to focus on early childhood issues
- ▶ Rochester NY screens young children for preventable learning delay issues - e.g. vision and hearing
- ▶ Registering people to vote at free tax prep clinics
- ▶ Atlanta’s Displacement Free Zones
- ▶ Homesharing between seniors and college students
- ▶ Assessing accessibility needs via “walk-alongs” with folks that have mobility challenges

Highlights

- ▶ Meeting with Former White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett - heading up When We All Vote project to increase voter turnout and “change the culture around voting.” Includes the Civic Cities Challenge, a new initiative to leverage the power of mayors to increase voter registration and turnout in every election.
- ▶ Meeting with Clarence Anthony, CEO of National League of Cities - many opportunities to engage, especially with their equity work
 - ▶ Congressional City Conference, March 8-11, 2020 in Washington DC
 - ▶ City Summit, November
 - ▶ Many webinars
- ▶ Meeting with Senator Baldwin - discussed climate resilience, transportation funding, PFAS
- ▶ Meeting with White House IGA and FTA on Small Starts application
- ▶ Speeches by Mike Bloomberg and Pete Buttigieg