

Best Practices from Cities to Move the Needle on Matrices

Category 1

Unemployment rate

- New York City as a part of state initiative is helping the long-term unemployed become entrepreneurs through a business training course called the Self-Employment Assistance Program.
- New York City in partnership with IBM run Pathways in Technology Early College High School, or P-TECH program which is a six-year career and technical program that combines high school with two years of college to make students ready for entry-level technology jobs after graduating.

https://apolitical.co/en/solution_article/new-york-trains-long-term-unemployed-entrepreneurs

<https://www.city-journal.org/html/vocational-ed-reborn-15253.html>

Category 2

Poverty rate –

- Atlanta, designated Economic Opportunity Zone inside URA (Urban Redevelopment Area) to encourage development, redevelopment and reinvestment in areas with high rates of poverty
- Large, midsize, and small cities, such as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (population 1.6 million), Kansas City, Missouri (pop. 490,000), Providence, Rhode Island (pop. 180,000), Oswego, New York (pop. 17,000), and many others have opened anti-poverty offices which help in gross root level coordination of various governmental programs and also in outreach and policy advocacy.

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/home/showdocument?id=40525>

<https://www.governing.com/blogs/view/gov-nyc-center-economic-ppportunity-cities-launch-antipoverty-centers.html>

Transportation to work

- Businesses in Seattle provide transit Incentives to employees for using public transit instead of personal cars to commute which leads to more riders, which in turn leads to more frequent services feasible.
- City of Seattle supports a programs under which businesses with 20 or more employees are required to offer their employees the opportunity to make a monthly pre-tax payroll deduction for transit or vanpool expenses.

- City of Seattle coordinates with State Department of Transportation, employers and the business community to support Commute Seattle which works with 270 large employers to promote and support investment in smart commuting solutions
- Research under the State of Region initiative has consistently shown that public transit availability (measured by revenue miles) is a key driver of regional income (GRP) per capita.

<http://seattlebusinessmag.com/seattle-using-public-transit-more-ever>

Digital access

- City of Springfield, Il has partnered with Verizon to provide 1,000 Wi-Fi hot spots to public school students.
- City of Kansas City, Mo and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City have partnered with the business community to run the Employer Laptop Challenge under which local businesses donate old computers to be refurbished and given out to those in need.
- City of Chicago Public Libraries is the largest provider of free WIFI in Chicago and also hosts the YouMedia program, a teen learning initiative with an emphasis on "digital media and the maker movement,".

<https://www.govtech.com/network/Cities-Deploy-Rapid-Digital-Inclusion-Efforts-Amid-Crisis.html>

<https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/library-smart-city-hub-digital-intelligence-inclusion/569012/>

Category 3:

Poverty rate gap

- City of Rochester, NY coordinates with employers and industry sectors where minorities are both underpaid and work towards increasing wages to help meet the goal of increasing self-sufficiency and reducing poverty gaps.

Category 4

3rd/8th Grade Math and English FSA

- City of San Jose supports 'Teacher Homebuyer Program' which provides teachers with up to \$40,000 in no-interest loans to help them purchase their first home, making sure quality teachers stay with the community.
- Smart Start San José Program built early education centers that are operated by school districts, community organizations, Head Start and private preschools.
- San Jose city has added after-school programs to extend the school day which helps at risk students to do better in the classroom and also stay away from crime, drugs and alcohol.
- San Jose city supports 220 homework centers which provide clean, safe and supportive environments where students can conveniently study, receive tutoring and use computers.

https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/college/collegespecial3/coll_opinion_gonz.html?8bl

HS Graduation Rate

- Cities in Indiana such as Lafayette coordinate with school district to implement Early Warning Information and Intervention Systems which tracks progress of high school students and gives early warnings to counselors, teachers, and administrators when a student deviates from the timely graduation path which leads to timely intervention.
- Chicago city has worked with the University of Chicago and school district to reduce 9th grade failure rate and high school dropout rates by establishing summer programs, and using data to track student attendance.

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2017/03/24/six-ways-to-improve-high-school-graduation.html>