

AYPF + NNERPP

RPP Learning Webinar Series, Part 1: How Can RPPs Pivot to be Most Helpful in Times of Crisis?

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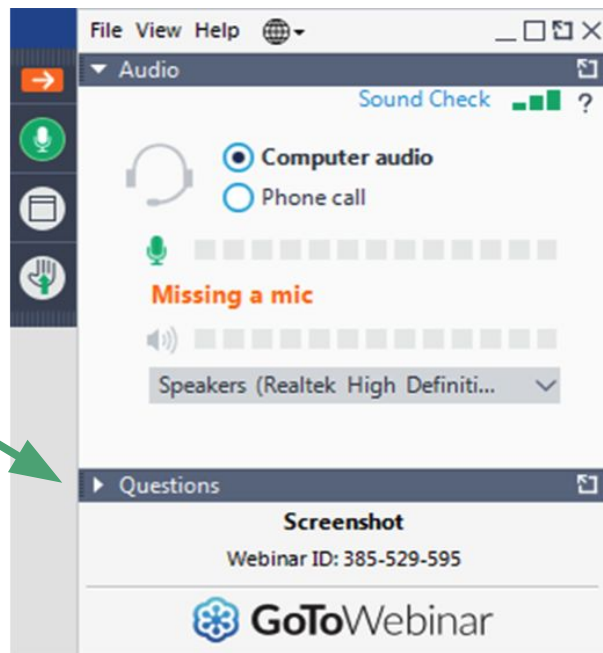


American Youth
Policy Forum



Webinar Technical Support

- GoToWebinar Support:
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- To submit live questions, please use the “Questions” box on the control panel
- A recording of the webinar and other resources will be available at www.aypf.org





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 - @ErinHenrick
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-  #RPPs

District Transformation: COVID-19 in Context

- From one perspective, COVID-19 is a tremendous shock to the education system.
- From another perspective, COVID-19 is pressing for the rapid acceleration of district transformation that has been playing out for the last several decades.
- Cross-cutting issues:
 - Access to schooling
 - Excellence and equity in education
 - Organizing and managing instruction

The Work of Instructionally-Focused Education Systems

- Building Educational Infrastructure
- Supporting the Use of Educational Infrastructure in Practice
- Managing Environmental Relationships
- Managing Performance for Continuous Improvement and Accountability
- Developing and Distributing Instructional Leadership

Types of Partnerships

- Research Alliances
- Networked Improvement Communities (NICs)
- Design-based Partnerships
- Hybrids (Improvement-Focused Collaborative Research)

The Equity Challenge

Research-Practice Partnerships (RPPs) can support the development of

- Equitable partnerships between groups with historical power imbalances
- Equitable outcomes for marginalized groups
- Equitable systems (organizational, political, systemic)

Roles partnerships can serve

- **Participate**
 - Continue research projects
 - Participate in partner school activities- just in time supports!
- **Inform**
 - Be an information channel: Send check-in emails, sharing resources from university communities
 - Provide current information on key issues: Reviews of research
- **Develop**
 - Write guidelines and best practices for differentiated instruction and support services for students
 - Develop and implement rapid assessment of students' social and emotional learning and academic needs
 - Support development efforts for school and district infrastructures that support rapid pivots to online learning
 - Reimagine and adapt instructional materials for online or modified in person learning

Roles partnerships can serve

- **Understand**
 - Collect and analyze data to understand more about students' mental health, food security, changes in behavior, sources of information, and experiences with remote learning
- **Teach**
 - Co-design and co-lead professional development for teachers and school leaders
- **Support**
 - Lead grant proposal writing for additional resources to address new challenges
 - Engage in ad hoc problem solving to provide additional capacity, resources, and personnel amidst budget cuts

An Example of an RPP Pivot during COVID-19

Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC)



RICE | HERC
Houston Education Research Consortium

We connect research to policy, practice, change.

Brief Background

- 11 public school districts in and around the Houston area
- Districts serve over 715,000 students
- Minority-majority districts
- Economically disadvantaged populations



Prior to COVID-19

- 10+ projects in progress
- 20+ research products at various stages of production
- Lots of work in motion

COVID-19 outbreak

- Mid-March
 - Public schools extend Spring Break
 - Rice University sends students home
 - Public schools shift to 100% distance learning
-
- What do we need to do or at least start doing now to ensure we have the data later to help us answer questions about COVID-19's impact?

Reached out through networks to see what's happening

- Other groups at Rice University
- Community organizations worked with in the past

- Main questions
 - Who's doing what?
 - Can we (HERC) get involved?

Harvey Home Connect

- Tied to Harris County Long-Term Recovery Committee
- Developed post-Hurricane Harvey to aid in recovery
- Goal is to connect resources/information to families and households in need

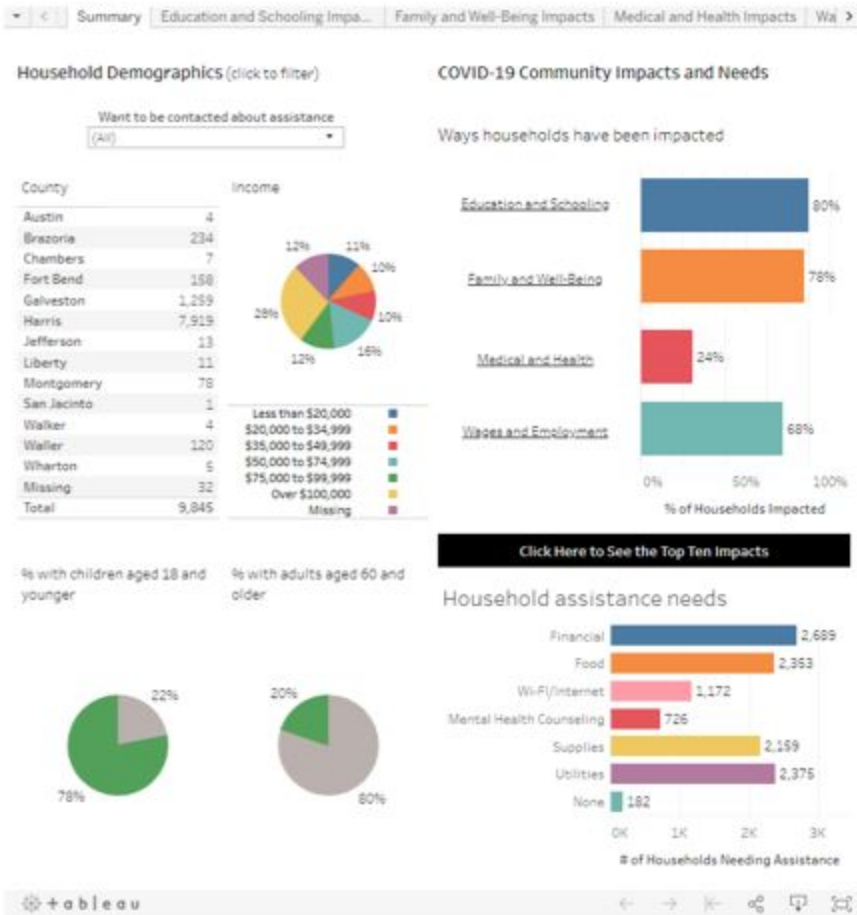
- Not researchers

Gulf Coast Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Impact Survey (gulfcoastcovidsurvey.org)

- Get data to assist nonprofit organizations and local governmental agencies in identifying needs and connecting resources
 - Houston Food Bank, Urban Harvest, Collaborative for Children
- Contrast with how researchers often describe the disaster
- Impact of COVID-19 on jobs and employment, education and schooling, health and medical care (not symptoms), and family and well-being

Gulf Coast Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Impact Survey – Data Dashboard

- Data starts coming in, need a tool to start sharing it back out
- Designed, developed, programmed, tested, and launched interactive dashboard available to public with filters to look at aggregate data
- Updated regularly to give latest insights into the impacts of COVID-19 on the Houston area



Gulf Coast Coronavirus (COVID-19) Community Impact Survey – Data points

- Producing an ongoing series of data points highlighting information from survey to learn more about the impact of COVID-19 on the Houston area

- Currently released data points
 - Impacts on employment by industry and earnings
 - Evidence of digital divide and parental concern about students being ready for next year
 - Information sources used to learn about COVID-19
 - Financial (in)security
 - Ability of families to care for children at home due to school closures

At the same time...

- Continued moving forward with pre-existing work
- Continued holding regular meetings with district partners
 - Checking in: how is everyone doing?
 - Also, be flexible and know when to “step back”
- Continued to make HERC available to districts for their data/research needs
 - Worked with district partners in the design, development, programming, and administration of surveys to parents, teachers, and students

What enabled this “pivot” to happen?

- Partnership-based research, not project base
- Schools and districts very focused on curriculum and instruction
- Organizational interest and commitment to a “greater good”

Key Takeaways

- Availability of matched expertise to arising needs
- Brokerage role of the RPP
- General funding that is not project specific
- Lay foundational infrastructure during one pivot for a future pivot

Audience Q & A

- To submit questions, use the “Questions” box on the GTW control panel

Webinar Survey + Recording/Resources

- Please fill out our survey upon exiting the webinar
- A recording of this webinar + relevant materials will be emailed to all attendees, and posted on the AYPF website: www.aypf.org

THANK YOU!
