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METROLAB RELEASES “FIRST, DO NO HARM ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING PREDICTIVE TOOLS WITHIN HUMAN SERVICES” REPORT

WASHINGTON, DC, September 26- [MetroLab Network](#) released a [new report](#) that provides brief, practical guidance to local governments on how to mitigate the risks that come with applying data science techniques to human services. It is structured around four principles — engagement, model validation, review and transparency — each with specific cautions and recommendations, as well as suggestions about how to approach foundational issues like data stewardship and crisis communications. The report's authors expect to see many more of these predictive models built and sold into the human services fields in the coming years. Whether they reduce or amplify the structural biases in the sector may depend on how vigilantly local governments and child advocates adopt and improve upon ethical guidelines like these.

MetroLab launched its [Data Science and Human Services Lab](#), as an effort to bring together academics, city and county practitioners, and non-profit leaders to consider the issues at the intersection of technology, analytics solutions, and human services deployment. MetroLab’s activity in this domain, including the development of this report, is supported by the generosity of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

MetroLab Network introduces a new model for bringing data, analytics, and innovation to local government: a network of institutionalized, cross-disciplinary partnerships between cities/counties and their universities. Its membership includes more than 35 such partnerships in the United States, ranging from mid-size cities to global metropolises. These city-university partnerships focus on research, development, and deployment of projects that offer technologically- and analytically-based solutions to challenges facing urban areas including: inequality in income, health, mobility, security and opportunity; aging infrastructure; and environmental sustainability and resiliency. MetroLab was launched as part of the White House’s 2015 Smart Cities Initiative.

You can read the full report by [clicking here](#).