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Overview: Map Your Community is a web-based mapping tool that allows users to create custom maps of Tenth District communities, counties and states using key economic and demographic indicators. Users can overlay multiple data indicators including educational attainment, demographic trends, various types of lending activity and homeownership rates onto their maps.

This guide displays how to use the functions available in the Map Your Community widgets.

Search for Geographies: The search bar allows users to enter a state, county, address, or zip of interest. Once entered, select “Go.” The map will then zoom down to the geography level selected.

Moving around the Map: Users can pan around the map by left-clicking and holding the mouse. On the left of the screen is the zooming bar. By selecting the + sign, users can zoom-in. Likewise, by selecting the – sign, users can zoom-out. As users zoom in closer, more specific levels of data are automatically displayed. Depending on availability, data are available down to the block group level.

The Info Bar: The info bar displays the type and geography of the data. Users can change the geography level by clicking on the geography dropdown. The data source is also listed in the info bar. Clicking on the info bar displays more information about the source, type of statistic, geographies available, and websites for more information.
Changing/Adding Data Layers: All data layers available through Map Your Community are located to the far left. Data layers are divided among eight broad categories. To select a data layer, scroll over the area of interest and then select the specific layer to map. To change the data layer for viewing, just click on a new layer.

Using the Legend: The legend displays the shading representation of the data. Users can also change the year of data displayed, change the variable from dollar, number, or percent change (depending on type of data). The data source of the layer is also listed in the legend. The source is also hyperlinked which takes users to more information about the source, type of statistic, geographies available, and websites for more information. You can also remove data by clicking on the X near the title.
**Changing/Adding Data Sites:** Map Your Community also offers data sites which are point features added on top of the data layers. The data sites show specific locations of federal housing such as low income housing tax credit locations, multifamily establishments and public housing locations.

Unlike data layers, multiple data sites can be added to the same map. There is also the option to remove one or all of the data sites from the map. The link next to the source provides more specific information about the statistic. The example in the image below displays more specific data options. Users can also select “Search.” This option allows searching capabilities by name (project name, property name).
Gathering Data/Statistics: One of the biggest benefits of using Map Your Community is the ability to gather hard statistics rather than simply a range. To view a hard statistic for any of the data layers, just click on the area of interest. This will generate a bubble that includes the geography selected as well as statistics for larger geographies. Users can click on the geographies listed in the bubble, and Map Your Community will focus to that selected geography.

To gather data specific to the data sites, follow the same methodology of selecting the location. This will generate a site-specific bubble. Depending on the data available, some sites offer specific information on terms of location, Contact Company, project detail, and funding information. To view additional details, select the tab of interest.
Exporting Maps: For users who desire to save or share their maps, you can print the map. By selecting this option, a PDF of the map will be created that can be saved. The map image will include the legend as well as the data layer name, year, and the brief description of the data.

Additional Map Features: A few additional mapping features are available to assist users in making maps. You can expand to a full-screen mode by clicking on “View Larger”. To clear a boundary, click the X located on the boundary. The “Boundaries” data category places a dark boundary around the category chosen (For example, “state” boundaries creates a dark border around all states). Finally, to easily “start over” or just get back to the map view when Map Your Community is first launched, refresh the page.

For More Information: Map Your Community is a product from PolicyMap. For more information about Policy Map, please visit www.policymap.com or select the PolicyMap icon in the bottom right corner of the map.