



# Informal Report to Mayor and Council

What Works Cities Update
--------------------------

City Council Meeting Date: November 27, 2018
--

## ISSUE

Update the Council on the City's work with the What Works Cities initiative.

## DISCUSSION

In the fall of 2016, the City applied to become one of 100 cities selected by the Bloomberg Philanthropies to improve its data practices as a part of its What Works Cities (WWC) program. WWC is an initiative to promote local government use and availability of data and evidence in decision making and to increase public engagement. The first phase of WWC relied on a four-step process in which cities commit to data and evidence use, measure progress towards goals, review results to take stock of progress and then make decisions based on that data and evidence.

As a participating city, Arlington engaged in an initial evaluation of current data and evidence use and then developed a plan of action with the What Works Cities team. Arlington's plan of action involved two areas of work; treating data as a strategic asset and laying the foundation for more advanced data practices. Both areas of focus involve making data more consumable, reliable and available for residents, staff and leadership. In this work, the City worked with two partners, Johns Hopkins University Center for Government Excellence (GovEx) of Baltimore, MD, and the Sunlight Foundation of Washington, DC.

The following milestones have been achieved in this work:

- Creation of the internal Data Governance and Innovation Team – September 2017
- Council adoption of an open data policy – October 17, 2017
- Achieving a data certification level within 14% of the silver status – January 2018

As a result of the City's efforts in the initial phase of WWC, Arlington was invited to join a beta launch of WWC 2.0, a continued initiative to help cities achieve the WWC data certification and deepen our effort to use data in decision-making. The City has been again paired with GovEx for this phase and we are awaiting our updated data certification score. We have committed to achieving the silver level of data certification by 2020 and are in the process of working with the WWC and GovEx teams determining our area of work for this next phase. The WWC programs are free of charge to participating cities.

## ACTION

Staff seeks any feedback or suggestions that Council has related to the What Works Cities program.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attached:	None
Under Separate Cover:	None
Available in the City Secretary's Office:	None

STAFF CONTACT(S)

Jennifer Wichmann  
Assistant City Manager  
Shared Services  
(817) 459-6408  
[jennifer.wichmann@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:jennifer.wichmann@arlingtontx.gov)

Devon Waters  
Senior Budget Analyst  
Finance Department  
(817) 459-6382  
[devon.waters@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:devon.waters@arlingtontx.gov)

Alexa Aragonéz  
Senior Management Analyst  
Communication and Legislative Affairs  
(817) 459-6347  
[alexa.aragonéz@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:alexa.aragonéz@arlingtontx.gov)