

ATTACHMENT I – PROJECT TOPIC

Data Protection Toolkit Use Case Analysis

Key Objective

The objective of this project is to conduct a use case analysis of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology's Data Protection Toolkit. This use case analysis would identify successful use cases and potential enhancements to the Toolkit for enabling access to federal data assets while protecting confidentiality. The Data Protection Toolkit is located at <https://nces.ed.gov/fcsm/dpt/>.

Key Evidence Building Considerations

America's DataHub Consortium brings together capabilities and infrastructure to securely fill information gaps and to take on key analytic questions and evidence building challenges. As demand for access to confidential federal data assets increases alongside novel analytical approaches, privacy protections must be in place to ensure the protection of privacy and the confidentiality of the data. Privacy-preserving technologies and approaches represent a means to reduce the disclosure risk when allowing access to confidential data, and balancing disclosure risk against the need for accurate, granular output that can be used for decision-making for public policy and programs.

The Data Protection Toolkit is a government-wide, shared resource in response to the Evidence Act and Federal Data Strategy that builds on well-established expertise within the Federal Statistical System. The Toolkit provides resources, tools, and content about protecting data while increasing access to a variety of users.

Information Gaps

This project will identify:

- What feedback do users have on the Data Protection Toolkit? Does this vary by sector (government, academia, and the private sector), and different user groups within a sector (e.g., in the government, differentiating between Statistical Officials, statistical program staff at both statistical agencies and non-statistical agencies; CDOs, SAOPs, EOs)?
- Is the Toolkit being used and by whom? If so, how? What are the use cases?
- Are there future data users (not currently using the DPT) that could benefit from the DPT or need more tailored content for their needs (e.g., State and local government data users) or initial training to be able to effectively interact with and use the toolkit?
- Could the DPT benefit from user centric choices, where the user needs are assessed broadly upfront to enable them to drill down to a subset of recommended tools within the larger, comprehensive toolkit?
- What elements of the Toolkit work well, or don't work well, with respect to access, usability, accessibility, and protections? Does this vary by type of user?
- Are there limitations to the Toolkit? If so, what are those limitations? Also, what are recommendations for future enhancements to address those limitations? Does this vary by type of user?

- How can a future National Secure Data Service (NSDS) as a shared service, envisioned by the CHIPS and Science Act and the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building as described in their recent [recommendations report](#), leverage the DPT to meet its goals? How can an NSDS improve the reach and usefulness of the DPT? Are there gaps that need to be addressed?