

## ATTACHMENT I – PROJECT TOPIC

### Informing Evidence-Building Capacity among State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments within a National Secure Data Service

#### Key Objective

The objective of this project is to explore how a potential, future National Secure Data Service (NSDS) could support capacity building for research and data science among state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. The [CHIPS and Science Act](#), Section 10375, requires engagement with state agencies to support governmentwide evidence-building activities in accordance with the 2018 Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. The [Year 2](#) report prepared by the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence-Building (ACDEB), further expands on the need for stakeholder engagement outside of the federal statistical community, including routine engagement with key partner groups, advocacy for use of data for decision-making, and supporting state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in conducting data linkages and analysis. One way to support state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in the use of federal and non-federal data is through capacity building, either through skill building for their staff, continuous learning opportunities, and/or access to infrastructure and tools that governments may not have access to. In order to target training, tools, infrastructure, and support needed to build capacity among state, local, territorial, and tribal governments, this project will explore their needs as data users that could potentially be provided through an NSDS; assess tools or infrastructure required to support use of federal data and interoperability of state, local, territorial, and tribal data; and determine training needs to support continuous learning regarding use and linkage of data for evidence-building. A gap analysis will be conducted to determine what needs are not currently being met and recommendations will be made as to how these needs for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments could potentially be incorporated into a broader data concierge service model within a future NSDS.

#### Background

The CHIPS and Science Act, Section 13075(c), calls for engagement with federal and state agencies through an NSDS demonstration project to “collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data in the United States and other nations to support governmentwide evidence-building activities consistent with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.” Supporting evidence-building activities among states requires determining their needs and how an NSDS can fill those needs to promote their ability to use data for evidence-building.

The year 2 report of the ACDEB provided several recommendations that also focus on capacity building among not only states but also local and tribal governments as well as the need to engage in outreach to these communities to ensure that a future NSDS meets their data needs. Recommendations 5.5 and 5.8 highlight the need to provide tools and support to conduct data linkages and analysis. Recommendation 3.11 highlighted the need for engaging with state, local, and tribal governments to ensure that a potential NSDS meets their needs and supports their use of data for decision-making. Central to these

recommendations is capacity building, or the increasing of skills and knowledge that facilitates the use of data for evidence-building among state, local, territorial, and tribal governments. Without the skills and tools needed to utilize federal data and increase better utilization of non-federal data, data users must have the knowledge and skills to find, access, link, and analyze data for their specific needs. While non-federal data users may have the educational foundation in statistics, social science, and data science to use data, navigating the use of federal data and having the necessary tools to use large datasets can require additional knowledge. In addition, state, local, territorial, and tribal governments may not have access to necessary IT infrastructure or tools that an NSDS could potentially provide. The rapidly changing data landscape can also necessitate continuous learning to ensure data users are able to analyze available data for evidence-building.

Capacity building among state, local, territorial, and tribal governments is likely not to be a single activity or tool that can be provided to enhance knowledge and skills but rather a suite of offerings within the NSDS to potentially include tools and toolkits, trainings and webinars, short courses, and potentially a platform for communities of practice. These potential educational services would not necessarily need to be offered by an NSDS, but rather the NSDS could provide a 'web of resources', leveraging resources both within and outside of government through an extensive network of training providers, universities, and already developed toolkits. This would potentially provide opportunities for learning, community building, and skill building, not currently available to state, local, and tribal governments. It could also enhance the offerings available to federal employees, who may currently be more limited to skill building available only through their own agency.

There is a wide range of potential services that could build capacity, depending on the needs of state, local, and tribal governments. In addition, these services would need to be integrated into an NSDS, determining what would be part of a potential data concierge service, providing technical and customer assistance to data users, and what would potentially be a stand-alone service within an NSDS.

As such, this project will involve:

1. A needs analysis with state data user networks, local government data users, territorial government data users, and tribal government users to determine their needs to build capacity for using federal and non-federal data with the goal of increasing evidence-based decision-making and determining what needs are currently not being met. This outreach should include topics such as training and skill-building in such topics as data science, statistics, disclosure methodologies, data dissemination, and use of large datasets; tools, including tools for data linkage such as those for privacy-preserving record linkage (PPRL) and R, Python, and other programming languages; and data use infrastructure, such as data use platforms. This needs analysis should also document the as-is state.
2. A gap analysis to determine what training, tool, and infrastructure needs are not currently being met by existing services within state, local, and federal governments as well as in the private sector.
3. Recommendations for potential services that would support capacity building within state, local, and tribal governments and how these services could potentially be integrated into a data concierge service model for a National Secure Data Service.
4. Outreach should include:

- a. All state governments within the U.S. Potential initial contacts can include individuals associated with state data offices, unemployment wage offices, and organizations such as the State Chief Data Officers Network. All state governments should be contacted with the understanding that a response may not be received by all states.
  - b. Organizations that can provide insight within local governments, such as, but not limited to, the National League of Cities, United States Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).
  - c. Tribal governments and organizations, such as, but not limited to, the National Congress of American Indians, Alaska Federation of Nations, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Outreach should include both federally recognized and non-sovereign nations.
  - d. Outreach to territorial governments.
  - e. Former members of the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence-Building (ACDEB).
  - f. The Chief Data Officers (CDO) Council.
5. Teaming is a critical component for this project and is required. It is essential that the project team includes individuals from state organizations, local organizations, tribal governments, and territories to ensure appropriate outreach and foster participation. For tribal governments, consultants from a variety of communities, including both federally recognized and non-recognized tribes, must be engaged as teaming partners to ensure appropriate and successful outreach to indigenous communities. Team members must be engaged at the project outset to obtain their input on all planning and implementation activities.

### Information Gaps

This project will identify:

- The needs of state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in building capacity for evidence-building using federal and non-federal data.
- What services and support are needed to fill the current gaps in knowledge, technology, and infrastructure at the state, local, territorial, and tribal level.
- How needed services and support could potentially be integrated into a data concierge service for a National Secure Data Service.

### Key Evidence Building Considerations

- Key focus questions (address one or more) to assess innovation in the following areas - user engagement and customer service:
  - What support do state, local, territorial, and tribal governments need to build capacity for evidence-building?
  - How can a data concierge service support the needs of state, local, and tribal governments?

### Deliverables

At a minimum, offerors will provide the following if selected for an award. Additional deliverables may be required.

- Monthly status reports on progress towards project objectives.

- Quarterly lessons learned based on what has been learned during the last quarter.
- Three reports:
  - One report detailing the needs analysis, by targeted group. This should include a picture of the as-is state for training, tools, and infrastructure at the various levels of government.
  - A second report providing a gap analysis, by targeted group.
  - A third report with recommendations to inform a future NSDS. Included in this report should be an analysis of regional gaps and needs to assist in targeting services to government entities.
- Draft and final contact lists and interview protocols for outreach activities.
- OMB package to obtain OMB approval for outreach activities to non-federal contacts.
- Stakeholder engagement strategy for each of the stakeholder groups, including the unique outreach methods to be used for each group.