

Linking State and Federal Data to Strengthen Federal Program Evaluation (SFPE-25) FAQ

	Question	Answer
1	Who are the kinds of “HUD stakeholders” who could be involved in the linkage analysis task, both at the federal and state level?	HUD stakeholders are broadly defined as internal staff who are involved in data management, analysis, or research. We envision that the most relevant staff would be in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (PDR).
2	Who is the intended user within the “federal evaluation community” for the toolkit deliverable?	We envision that evaluation offices across government agencies would benefit from such a toolkit.
3	What potential data holders and users are the expected parties within the DUAs for ingesting state data into federal systems like SCET? NCSSES? HUD? State agencies? Selected vendor? Other entities?	The potential data holders for the DUAs will be the two states selected for the implementation and replication of the use case. A data sharing agreement will be executed between each state, NCSSES and HUD
4	The RFS asks about evaluating the ability for NSDS to “serve as a trusted third-party.” What specifically does “trusted” mean here? Does this mean trusted to receive hashed or encrypted PII (as is common in privacy-preserving record linkage), direct PII (as is common in probabilistic record linkage), or potentially both?	As a trusted-third party, the NSDS would receive hashed or encrypted PII to facilitate linkage using privacy-preserving record linkage (PPRL).
5	Aside from evaluating the quality of linkages, the RFS states that HUD is interested in answering: “To what extent are HUD-assisted households receiving child care vouchers funded by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grant?” Does the selected vendor need to perform this analysis or potentially other analyses, in addition to evaluating the linkage quality?	The selected vendor will conduct this and other necessary analyses.
6	Would it be possible to extend the deadline to Friday, July 18th at 5pm ET?	No.
7	Can you share any documentation on the national secure data service? In particular we would like to know more about how data is stored within the system and what software is available.	More information about the National Secure Data Service can be found here: Consortia Member Training – ADC America's Datahub Consortium . Please note that the NSDS is not a data repository. This project intends to

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		conduct the data linkage process within the NSDS Secure Compute Environment Testbed (SCET) with the final linked dataset(s) stored within a project space designated for this project.
8	Can you confirm whether state data for the use case task will be ingested as part of the project? Or will that be data be ingested by the NSDS team.	The contractor will be responsible for the ingestion of state data into the Secure Compute Environment Testbed (SCET) as part of the project.
9	Can you define non-traditional entity?	Non-traditional entity” means an entity (construed in its broadest sense to include qualified large and small businesses, universities, non-profits, philanthropic organizations, partnerships, joint ventures, and other entity forms) that is not currently performing and has not performed, for at least the three-year period preceding the solicitation of sources by NSF for the procurement or arrangement, under any NSF procurement contract or NSF instrument of financial assistance.
10	For the DSA executed with state agencies: Do you anticipate this DSA being executed between the state and the funded research partner? Or between the state and the NSDS?	A data sharing agreement will be executed between each state, NCSES and HUD.
11	What is the relationship of this project to the other evaluation project with Summit LLC focused on a very similar research question that was referenced in the RFS? Will there be any collaboration between the two project teams?	This project is a stand-alone, separate project. The HUD evaluation project, Study of Childcare in Public Housing , with Summit LLC is complete. However, the contractor may find it helpful to interview the COR for that project and other relevant staff involved to learn more about their experience and challenges they faced in trying to obtain and link state childcare data.
12	<p>The list of deliverables in the Project Topic (Attachment 1, page 4) includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report that includes description of linkage process, description of coverage of the linked data, a summary of the quality of resulting linked data (e.g., estimates of precision and recall), and assessment of potential linkage bias, including information on how the use case performed within the NSDS Secure Compute Environment Testbed. • Three final reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Linkage analysis, including but not limited to methods, findings, and recommendations. 	<p>In total, the project will result in 4 reports. The reports differ based on their main objective and audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main objective of the process report is to provide technical documentation to NCSES, serving as a roadmap for federal-state linkages for government evaluations inside the NSDS Secure Compute Environment Testbed. • The main objective of the linkage analysis report is to provide a brief analysis of the resulting linked datasets to HUD stakeholders so that

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use case, including but not limited to data infrastructure, methods, data agreement, and recommendations. ○ Lessons learned from the project of a length and style suitable for the general public. <p>Can ADC confirm that the report described in the first bullet is requested in addition to the three reports described in the following bullet, for a total of four separate reports? If so, can ADC clarify how its intended content is distinct from the content of the three final reports?</p>	<p>they have an overview of the childcare needs of HUD recipients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main objective of the use case report is to serve as a guide to government evaluation offices to help them streamline federal-state data linkages in future evaluations. • The main objective of the lessons learned report is to inform the public of the lessons learned from this project.
13	<p>Is it required that the proposed solution be conducted in the NSDS Secure Compute Testbed? Or, would an offeror be welcome to conduct the work and develop deliverables within its own secure environment, provided that it is a fully operable and FedRAMP certified secure facility?</p>	<p>The data linkage process should be conducted within the NSDS Secure Compute Environment Testbed.</p>