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# THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

FOURTH OPEN GOVERNMENT  
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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February 2019

## Introduction

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union...”

So begin the opening words of the United States Constitution, a timeless call by the Founders of this great democracy to strive as a Nation toward a greater good. It is a charge built into the foundational creed of the United States that all future generations must pursue the never-ending, but ever-important, work of perfecting our country. Today, active citizens and dedicated public servants alike continue to undertake the noble task of forging a more efficient, effective, responsive, and accountable government that better serves the American people. At its core, the practices and principles required – transparency, integrity, an informed and involved citizenry – are among the bedrock precepts for the health and prosperity of all democratic governments.

In that tradition, the United States is releasing the Fourth U.S. National Action Plan for Open Government (NAP4). This roadmap for the next two years outlines a selection of Trump Administration objectives to make government information more open and accessible for developers, academics, entrepreneurs and everyday Americans – ultimately fostering increased private-sector innovation, more advanced scientific research, stronger economic growth, improved public service delivery, and greater insight into United States Government operations.

Throughout the President’s first two years in office, the Trump Administration has engaged with external stakeholders online and in person, generating valuable insights into proposed opportunities, technical expertise, implementation strategies, and project prioritization. Those discussions and recommendations played a valuable role in the publication of this action plan.

Consistent with Open Government Partnership (OGP) recommendations and best practices, this action plan seeks to highlight relevant and illustrative commitments that advance open governance objectives and the broader goals of the OGP community. The document is not a comprehensive list of all open government initiatives currently pursued by the Federal Government. In that light, the NAP4 reflects, but does not replace, the [President’s Management Agenda](#) (Performance.gov, Modernizing Government for the 21st Century); rather, it seeks to highlight objectives that advance the broader goals of the OGP community.

## U.S. National Action Plan Initiatives

The Fourth U.S. National Action Plan emphasizes important themes ensuring that Federal Government data is more accessible, the grant-making process is more accountable, and Federally funded scientific research is more accessible, among a number of other commitments. The United States Government will prioritize working with the public and civil society organizations to implement these objectives and deliver meaningful results for the American people.

### **1) Leverage Data as a Strategic Asset: Publish a Comprehensive Federal Data Strategy**

Federal data is both a strategic asset and valuable national resource, which enables the Federal Government to effectively execute its missions, ensure accountability, better manage operations, foster economic growth, and improve the overall quality of life for all citizens. By providing appropriate access to Federal data, we significantly enhance the return on the Nation's investment in their creation.

The United States will deliver a comprehensive Federal Data Strategy that encompasses Federal and Federally-sponsored program, statistical, and mission-support data. This strategy will include concepts included in existing principles, such as the protection of personally identifiable information and the expansion of data as a management tool while also informing the development of new practices and action items throughout the data lifecycle.

The Federal Data Strategy will be based upon the principles of ethical governance, transparency, conscious design, and continuous improvement.

### **2) Ensure Accountability for Grants**

Every year, the Federal Government spends approximately \$700 billion on grants and cooperative agreements for approximately 1,800 different funding categories covered in the Assistance Listings. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that more than 40,000 grant recipients receive funding annually, including State and local governments, universities, non-profits, tribes and small businesses.

The Trump Administration will pursue Results-Orientated Accountability for Grants by improving the transparency of the Federal grant-making process to the American public. The System for Award Managements (SAM) will become the central repository for common government-wide certifications and representations required of Federal grant recipients.

Under this commitment, Federal agencies will:

- Review data standards when they are published to ensure completeness and accuracy, and inclusion of critical distinctions in types of grants and recipients;
- Align agency grant-related reform initiatives to the President's Management Agenda;
- Modify existing, or design new, grant systems to use government-wide data standards.

### **3) Provide Public Access to Federally Funded Research**

Primarily through the National Science and Technology Council (Council), the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy coordinates United States efforts to make the results of Federally

funded scientific research more accessible and useful to the public, industry, and the scientific community. In the Council's Subcommittee on Open Science, thirty-two United States agency funders collaborate to improve the preservation, discoverability, accessibility, and usability of Federally funded scientific research, with the aims of bolstering the reliability of that research, accelerating scientific discovery, stimulating innovation, enhancing economic growth and job creation.

In 2018, the Subcommittee on Open Science was re-chartered to promote open science principles across the Federal Government and increase public access to Federally-funded research results. The Subcommittee's priorities include:

- (1) Facilitating coordination across Federal Government agencies on open science efforts;
- (2) Developing appropriate incentives to encourage researchers to adopt open science principles;
- (3) Streamlining and synchronizing agency and researcher data management practices for maximum utility to the public;
- (4) Collaborating with academia, researcher communities, and industry toward the development of research data standards that further open science.

As part of the Subcommittee's objectives, it will develop a report that provides recommendations for improvements to existing Federal open access policies and continued collaboration between agencies on achieving open access objectives.

#### **4) Foster the Expansion of Workforce Data Standards**

The American economy is undergoing a rapid transformation; entire industries are being reshaped. From manufacturing to healthcare, retail to transportation – no sector is immune to the collective impact of emerging technologies. In the years ahead, data will serve an increasingly vital role in navigating these rapid changes. It is important to provide current and future job seekers, employers, educators, researchers, and policy makers with the data necessary to make informed decisions and achieve positive outcomes.

Toward that end, the President has tasked the National Council for the American Worker (NCAW) with developing strategies to leverage data in three fundamental areas:

- Create increased transparency around educational outcomes;
- Provide increased transparency over job posting data;
- Ensure transparency over data for skills/credentials leading to family-sustaining jobs.

## **5) Create Agency-Level Chief Data Officers**

Increased access to data and the use of rigorous evidence is essential to optimizing government services that improve the lives of American citizens. In recent years, though, many Federal Government agencies have become deluged by vast and expanding volumes of information that complicate their ability to manage, analyze, and integrate the data to inform public policy deliberations. Most Federal agencies do not yet have a senior official empowered to, and responsible for, coordinating the active use of data within their agencies. Consequently, and consistent with legislation signed into law by President Trump on January 14, 2019, the Administration will prioritize the appointment of a Chief Data Officer (CDO) at each CFO-Act agency. Each designated CDO will be required to possess the right level of competencies, experience, and training in – and will be responsible for improving the respective agency’s performance of – the suite of issues pertaining to data management, governance, collection, analysis, protection, use, and dissemination.

## **6) Using Open Data to Fuel Innovation to Improve Public Health**

Based on extensive feedback from healthcare and technology stakeholders, the Federal Government will leverage data to foster the next generation of healthcare innovation.

- **Data-Driven Innovation for the Opioid Crisis.** The HHS Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) will host a series of co-creation events to discover insights from a comprehensive set of Federal, State, and private datasets related to the opioid crisis.
- **Data-Driven Innovation for Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases.** In response to online petitions and public demand that the Federal Government prioritize Lyme and tick-borne diseases, the HHS Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) will launch a new public-private collaborative — a Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Innovation Accelerator. Lyme disease sickens more than 300,000 Americans every year and is the fastest-growing vector-borne disease in the United States, which drains tens of billions of dollars from the economy. To address this multi-faceted challenge, HHS will host a series of “Lyme Innovation” listening sessions, roundtables, and events designed to harness the power of the crowd and leverage emerging technologies in order to co-create solutions with patients and practitioners as partners.
- **Data-Driven Innovation for Value-Based Healthcare.** The HHS Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) will launch a series of “open innovation” prize challenges to improve value-based healthcare with Federal open data, patient-powered research, open science, open source, and open innovation (e.g., crowdsourcing, citizen science, and innovative public-private partnerships).

## **7) Implement Intelligence Community “Enterprise Objective” on Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency**

The U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) must be accountable to the American people in carrying out its national security mission in a way that upholds the country’s values. The core principles of protecting privacy and civil liberties in our work and of providing appropriate transparency about our work must be integrated into the IC’s programs and activities. Building on the IC’s open government commitments made in NAP3, and reflecting the further institutionalization of the Principles of Intelligence Transparency, the 2019 National Intelligence Strategy of the United States of America (NIS) establishes an Enterprise Objective on privacy, civil liberties, and transparency. Enterprise objectives provide the foundation for integrated, effective, and efficient management of mission capabilities and business functions. To meet this enterprise objective, we will incorporate privacy and civil liberties requirements into IC policy and programs to ensure that national values inform the intelligence mission. We will engage proactively with oversight institutions and our partners to enhance public understanding and trust in the IC. We will practice and promote appropriate transparency in the IC to make information publicly available without jeopardizing national security. Doing so is necessary to earn and retain public trust in the IC, which directly impacts IC authorities, capabilities, and resources. Mission success depends on the IC’s commitment to these core principles.

## **8) Expand Public Participation in Developing Future U.S. National Action Plans**

Citizen engagement and public participation are among the most important elements of the NAP co-creation process. During the development of this NAP4, everyday Americans provided some of the most thoughtful and engaging ideas. As we begin to contemplate a fifth national action plan, we will prioritize including a more geographically diverse and diffuse representation of citizen stakeholders in the development of the document. We will aim to conduct a series of consultation sessions, in-person meetings, and livestreamed discussions around the country to generate ideas, encourage public input, and engage in conversations with the most important stakeholder – the American public.

## **Conclusion**

Making progress toward our national ideals is an ongoing project, passed like a baton from one generation to the next throughout our country’s history and into its future. This NAP4 reflects a selection of high-priority deliverables tailored to deliver meaningful results and improve the quality of life for the American people. In that spirit, the United States Government appreciates the considerable input, thought leadership, and deliberation over the last two years from active citizens as this plan was in development. Moving forward, the Federal Government looks forward to engaging with the American people in the ever-important work of achieving a more open, accountable, efficient, and effective government.