



DATA
FOUNDATION
data coalition

2022 Policy Agenda

As America's premier voice on data policy, the Data Coalition advocates for policies that enable government data to be high-quality, accessible, and usable. The Data Coalition's priorities fall into six core categories: data sharing, evidence-based decision-making, government spending, innovation and emerging technology, market and regulatory technology data, and open data. Each of these priorities is pursued through multi-pronged advocacy that includes support for relevant legislation, regulations, policy guidance, funding, technical assistance, oversight, and strategic planning in Congress and the Executive Branch.

Open Data

Improving Availability of Open Data

The Data Coalition was initially created to support the government's need for improved open data for transparency and accountability, and this remains a core pillar of the initiative. Open data refers to information that is freely shared and publicly available without restriction. In society, there are constant informational demands and needs for more open data, such as bolstering public accountability and transparency of government. While open data is now the legal default for federal government agencies to publish information, much work remains for the federal government to realize the vision and benefits of open government data.

The Data Coalition advocates for policies that promote open data when possible, including as much openness as possible in considering the need to protect individual or organizational privacy in some data assets. The Data Coalition continues to work toward integrating data-driven processes into government management and connecting federal spending data to programmatic outcomes. In 2022, priorities include:

- Implementation and oversight of the OPEN Government Data Act, including to prioritize access to open data for vulnerable or underrepresented communities
- Development of a rational tiered access approach for government data access
- Implementation and oversight of the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act and GREAT Act, including potential enhancements and application of lessons learned to other federal policies
- Improve access to government documents and reports, including effective implementation of the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act and the Taxpayers Right to Know Act
- Application of open data capabilities in the Legislative Branch
- ***Legislative Priorities in 117th Congress: Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act***

Market and RegTech

Incentivizing Improved Market Data and Regulatory Technologies

Market and RegTech data reflect information collected and used in the financial regulatory system. Data is gathered through regulatory reporting and involves the application of emerging technology, supported by the use of open data standards. Proposals to modernize the financial regulatory reporting system to require standardized, machine-readable data will foster an environment for emerging technologies and applications. This will improve efficiency within the financial sector and regulatory reporting. RegTech applications can republish, analyze, and automate reporting processes providing deeper insight, cut costs, and enhance fraud prevention. Government and industry must work together to standardize, share, and use high-quality regulatory data.

The Data Coalition advocates for policies to modernize the financial regulatory system's reporting requirements, facilitating cooperation between regulators and regulated industries. 2022 priorities include:

- Modernization of financial reporting to reduce burden and strengthen transparency, including the use of a non-proprietary entity identifier
- Designing of a standard business reporting framework
- Advocate for Financial and regulatory reporting through structured data taxonomies
- ***Legislative Priorities in 117th Congress: Financial Transparency Act***

Data Sharing

Fostering Responsible Data Sharing

Federal agencies are increasingly sharing data collected from programs, surveys, or other activities with each other to generate better insights and to minimize data collection burden on the American public. Sharing such valuable information can fuel more useful, actionable insights, bolster decision-making, and elevate the value of data as an asset. The more agencies share information, the more they must regard privacy protections to guard sensitive data.

The Data Coalition supports collaboration between government, industry, non-profits, and academia to ensure government data are accessible and useful for the American public. Data sharing priorities in 2022 include:

- Collaboration with the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building and planning for enhanced data sharing capabilities for the federal government
- Creation of a National Secure Data Service
- Improvement of access to government data, including historically restricted data where use restrictions can be examined or revisited, such as income and earnings data
- Establishment of processes to identify priority areas for adopting data standards and the application of open standards to government data assets
- Adoption of common and non-proprietary entity identifiers and other relevant open standards
- Development of strategies for increasing the efficiency of government data sharing
- ***Legislative Priorities in 117th Congress: NSDS Act, Health STATISTICS Act***

Evidence-Informed Decision-Making

Enabling Evidence-Informed Policymaking

The U.S. government collects vast amounts of data that can and should be analyzed to inform government policy. The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (Evidence Act) presents major government-wide reforms for making data more accessible and useful for decision-making. At the heart of the Evidence Act is the goal of increasing the availability of federal data to build evidence about government programs and policies. The law does this while maintaining strict privacy protections so that personally identifiable information is safeguarded.

The Data Coalition is committed to ensuring the Evidence Act is successfully implemented and seeing more evidence-informed and data-driven decision-making throughout government. 2022 evidence-informed decision making priorities include:

- Implementation and oversight of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, including relevant government-wide guidance and capacity for chief data officers, evaluation officers, and statistical officials in agencies
- Developing processes of government that enable improved data quality and access without inhibiting use
- Implementation and sustainability of the Federal Data Strategy
- Development of agency learning agendas with key data collection, management, and evaluation attributes
- Promotion of effective agency evaluation policies, standards, and practices
- ***Legislative Priorities in the 117th Congress: PRA Reauthorization, Appropriations***

Innovation and Tech

Promoting Innovation and Emerging Tech

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- Responsible policies that enable adoption of AI in federal agencies
- Effective implementation of the AI in Government Act
- Confidentiality and privacy policies that support innovation and new technology
- Reasonable applications of privacy-enhancing technologies for sensitive or restricted data

Data Workforce

Promoting Capacity and Skills for Data Innovation

Federal agencies must have staff trained in supporting data innovation, analytics, management, and protection to facilitate priorities in the Federal Data Strategy and other cross-government initiatives. The Data Coalition supports efforts to upskill and reskill the current workforce to ensure modern capabilities remain for enabling the use of data in coming years. In 2022 priorities include:

- Encouraging data literacy and fluency of federal employees
- Share knowledge and capacity from private sector experts with public employees
- Creation of a Digital Services Academy
- *Legislative Priorities in the 117th Congress: Data Science Occupational Series Legislation*

Topical Data Advocacy

Applying Data Policy Reforms to Specific Topics

In addition to the broad government-wide efforts the Data Coalition prioritizes, we also focus on several specific policy domains that are prioritized by members as initial areas of focus to improve data quality, access, and use. In 2022, priority topics include:

- Financial Services
- Education and Workforce
- Public Health and Health Care
- Energy and Climate
- Criminal Justice

Legislative Priorities

for 117th Congress

As America's premier voice on data policy, the Data Coalition promotes policies that enable government data to be high-quality, accessible, and usable. The Data Coalition's legislative agenda includes legislation that addresses the policy priorities for data sharing, evidence-based decision-making, government spending, innovation and emerging technology, market and regulatory technology data, and open data. Legislative priorities are updated as bills are filed.

Financial Transparency Act

The Financial Transparency Act adopts recommendations from the U.S. Treasury Department to reduce regulatory overlap and duplication for financial institutions, improving data sharing, and applying uniform data standards for regulatory data.

National Secure Data Service Act

The National Secure Data Service Act establishes a new data linkage resource at the National Science Foundation.

Health STATISTICS Act

The bipartisan Health Standards to Advance Transparency, Integrity, Science, Technology Infrastructure, and Confidential Statistics Act of 2020 (Health STATISTICS Act) promotes the rapid adoption and use of existing data standards created by industry and non-profit partners, while also planning for future data innovation.

Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act

The Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act establishes a process and requirements for the Government Publishing Office to make available reports provided by federal agencies to Congress, subject to redaction for sensitive information.

Paperwork Reduction Act Reauthorization

The Paperwork Reduction Act provides sweeping authorities for managing government data collection and quality, as well as prescribing policies for governing relevant activities. The Data Coalition supports modifications to the Paperwork Reduction Act that improve efficiency of operations, transparency of decision-making processes, and effectiveness of data governance.

Appropriations

Agencies need adequate resources to implement data governance and management activities. The Data Coalition supports appropriations that enable Chief Data Officers, Evaluation Officers, and Statistical Officials across government agencies to implement responsible data policy. The Data Coalition supports funding for key organization attributes and activities that affect data access, government, quality, management, and use, including application of emerging privacy-preserving technologies.