



Services and Capacity Building Focus Area

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Background

Subcommittee Charge

- The overarching purpose of this focus area is **ensuring NSDS users—be they federal, state, local, or other authorized entities—can make the best possible use of the Service’s potential for secure and privacy-protecting evidence building, regardless of their existing analytic capacity.**
- Primary remit is making recommendations on **providing technical assistance** to qualified researchers.
- Secondary remit is making recommendations on approaches to **communicating** about the Service with citizens, policymakers at all levels of government, and researchers focused on the Service’s potential value proposition for each.

Main Ideas for Year 1 Report

Two Primary Recommendations

- The technical assistance remit of an NSDS could include: completing administrative processes required to gain access to linkable administrative data; ingesting those data into an NSDS ecosystem; analyzing linked data in secure, privacy-preserving ways; privacy protection, including how to analyze the risk associated with releasing de-identified confidential data.
 - This work would likely be carried out by an NSDS-based “data concierge” that is supported by agency-based subject matter experts. The concierge could also have a role in matchmaking stakeholders with questions but lacking analytic capacity to researchers and building or maintaining networks, user communities, or coalitions.
- Communications functions at or about an NSDS should target a range of stakeholders including: the public; federal, state, and local policymakers in executive and legislative roles; data providers; researchers and other evidence-building partners; and advocates for data, transparency, and privacy.

Committee Discussion

Discussion Questions

- A frequently-mentioned model for the “data concierge” are FSRDC Academic Partners. **Are there other models we should explore?**
- Our early thinking on communications are heavily weighted toward describing the value proposition of an NSDS to key stakeholders and being transparent about its operations. Communication is a two-way street, though: the NSDS should expect to “receive” as much as it should expect to “transmit.” **How might an NSDS be positioned to ensure it is an active listener and remains responsive to the stakeholders it serves?**