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?