The Standard Application Process (SAP)

The Evolving Federal Data Ecosystem

Development of the SAP as a Front Door to Requesting Data
The Standard Application Process (SAP)
The Evidence Commission recommended a single process to apply for government data

“The Office of Management and Budget should promulgate a single, streamlined process for researchers external to the government to apply, become qualified, and gain approval to access government data that are not publicly available.”

Source: The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking, Rec. 2-8, p. 46
The Evidence Act requires the establishment of a SAP

- Application processes established by each statistical agency
- Common application form
- Review criteria for access determination
- Timeframes for prompt determinations
- Standards for transparency
- An appeals process for adverse decisions
The SAP standardizes different application processes

- For the first time, all statistical agencies will use a standardized process for accepting and reviewing applications for restricted use data.

- Will add value through the streamlining of data discovery, standardization, and increased coordination.
The SAP is customer-centric, providing a one-stop shop for applying for access to restricted use data from statistical agencies/units.

The SAP is a service being built by and within the statistical system today under the Evidence Act.

The SAP is a framework for future government-wide evidence-building efforts – being built with room to grow.
The Evolving Federal Data Ecosystem
The Federal statistical system and the data revolution

- Statistical agencies have been very successful at meeting their missions over time.

- The decentralized Federal statistical system is evolving as part of the data ecosystem.

- The Evidence Act and Federal Data Strategy give us some tools to meet new challenges.
The Evolving Federal Data Ecosystem

The path to evidence-based policymaking

Major Influencers: legislation (long lifecycle to permanency) and Budget (recurring lifecycle with uncertainties)
Development of the SAP as a Front Door to Requesting Data
SAP Policy—Key Elements

- **SAP Data Inventory** -> data discovery begins the process
- Common application form
- Standardized review criteria
  - Merits of the proposal -> Common review criteria
  - Suitability of applicant(s) -> Standardization across four authorization levels
- **Timeframes** -> w/ progress tracking for applications
- Appeals process
- Public reporting for transparency
Phase 1 was a successful pilot that provided many lessons learned.
Phase 2 builds on earlier efforts and will expand capabilities

- Full single application
- Enhanced metadata
- Participation from additional agencies
- Use of standard review criteria for agency reviews
- Standard timeframes for reviewing application
The ACDEB Year 1 report on the SAP connection with the NSDS

“In addition, the NSDS should leverage ongoing efforts to develop a Standard Application Process...”

Source: Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building: Year 1 Report, p. 20
We continue to expand SAP engagement efforts

Stakeholder feedback is integral to ensuring that the SAP supports improved access to restricted-use data and expanded evidence-building capacity.

We plan to have more frequent two-way communication with an increasing number of stakeholders as the SAP develops:
- Regular email updates to a wide range of stakeholders
- Public website with information on the SAP
FRN published

- OMB published the SAP policy proposal on January 14, 2022
  - federalregister.gov/d/2022-00620
- 60-day public comment period
  - regulations.gov
What will ACDEB engagement look like moving forward?

Iterative  
Multiple channels  
How should we engage with you?
We invite you to share your feedback.
Thank You

Questions? Contact us at icspsupport@gsa.gov