

Evidence in Action: Implementing the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018

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July 29, 2019

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Presentation Roadmap

- Overview of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (“Evidence Act”)
- Implementation Approach
- Key Requirements of the Evidence Act
- Questions?

What is the Evidence Act?

Background: 3 Big Ideas

1. Evidence-Based Policymaking Requires Systematic Planning
2. Effective Federal Data Asset Use Requires High-Quality Data Governance
3. Privacy-Protected Data Sharing Requires Coordinated Support

What is the Evidence Act?

Background: 3 Big Ideas

1. Evidence-Based Policymaking Requires Systematic Planning

- Start by identifying high-value questions to address
- Strategize approaches to obtaining answers
- Assess capacity and needs
- Maintain portfolio of current and planned activities

2. Effective Federal Data Asset Use Requires High-Quality Data Governance

3. Privacy-Protected Data Sharing Requires Coordinated Support

What is the Evidence Act?

Background: 3 Big Ideas

1. Evidence-Based Policymaking Requires Systematic Planning
2. **Effective Federal Data Asset Use Requires High-Quality Data Governance**
 - Curation (file formats, archiving best practices, etc.)
 - Documentation (meta-data, inventories, codebooks and user support)
 - Open Data Planning: making data available to the public
 - Continue development of useful technologies
3. Privacy-Protected Data Sharing Requires Coordinated Support

What is the Evidence Act?

Background: 3 Big Ideas

1. Evidence-Based Policymaking Requires Systematic Planning
2. Effective Federal Data Asset Use Requires High-Quality Data Governance
3. **Privacy-Protected Data Sharing Requires Coordinated Support**
 - Identify trusted intermediaries; articulate high confidentiality standards
 - Empower trusted intermediaries to access data assets
 - Ensure effective provision of data to evidence-builders
 - Build tools and infrastructure

What is the Evidence Act?

Background: The Commission for Evidence-Based Policymaking

- Established by 2016 law (Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray)
- Wide variety of expertise (Program Evaluation, Statistics, Economics, Data Governance, Privacy)
- Produced 22 recommendations to encourage:
 - 1) Systematic Planning for Evidence-Building
 - 2) High Quality Data Governance
 - 3) Coordinated Support for Privacy-Protected Data Sharing

What is the Evidence Act?

Background: The Foundations of Evidence-Based Policymaking Act!

- Introduced by Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray after the release of the Commission report in September 2017
- Addresses 11 of the Commission's 22 recommendations
- Signed by the President and enacted into law on January 14, 2019 as P.L. 115-435
- Includes three Titles:
 - Title 1—Federal Evidence-Building Activities
 - Title 2—Open Government Data Act
 - Title 3—Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency (CIPSEA)

Why Does the Evidence Act Matter?

- Builds on longstanding principles underlying Federal policies and data infrastructure
- Creates a new paradigm for agencies to rethink how they build and use data and evidence
- Focuses on leadership with creation of three new senior officials responsible for meeting Act's requirements
- Emphasizes collaboration and coordination across functions within agencies
- Calls on agencies to strategically and methodically build evidence vs. ad hoc efforts
- Elevates program evaluation as a key agency function

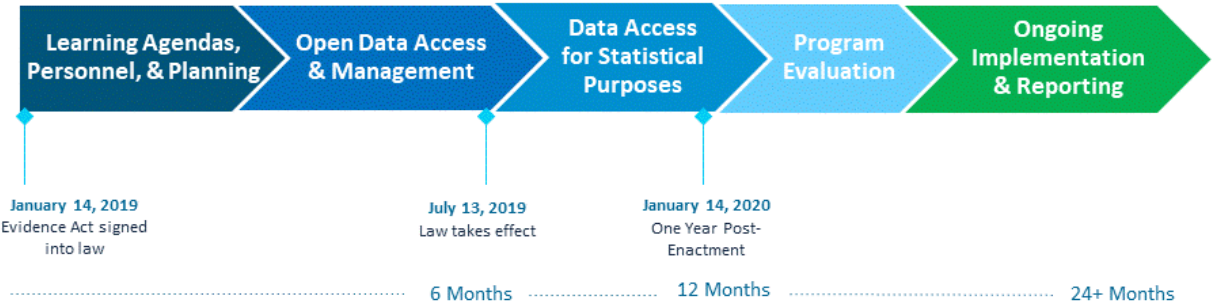
Complementary Federal Efforts

- Accelerates, expands, or reinforces the implementation of other activities underway, including:
 - Federal Data Strategy
 - Government-wide reorganization proposals to strengthen Federal evaluation and reorganize the Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Bureau of Economic Analysis to improve economic statistical data
 - New monitoring and evaluation guidelines for agencies that administer foreign assistance
 - Ongoing open data policy related to open data laws like the DATA Act and Geospatial Data Act
- OMB working actively to ensure these efforts are complementary and aligned

Phased Implementation Approach

Figure 1: Evidence Act Guidance

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| <p>Phase 1:
Learning Agendas,
Personnel, & Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learning Agendas ○ Chief Data Officers ○ Evaluation Officers ○ Statistical Officials ○ Agency Data Governance Boards ○ Chief Data Officer Council ○ Evaluation Officer Council ○ Interagency Council on Statistical Policy ○ Agency Evaluation Plans ○ Capacity Assessments ○ Open Data Plans | <p>Phase 2:
Open Data Access
& Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make Data Open by Default ○ Comprehensive Data Inventory ○ Federal Data Catalogue ○ Repository of Tools and Best Practices | <p>Phase 3:
Data Access for
Statistical Purposes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make Agency Data Assets Available to Statistical Units ○ Expand Users' Secure Access to Data Assets through Statistical Units ○ Allow Recognition of New Statistical Units ○ Standardize Application Process for Accessing Data Assets ○ Codify Statistical Unit Responsibilities | <p>Phase 4: Program
Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program Evaluation Standards and Best Practices ○ Program Evaluation Skills and Competencies (with OPM) | <p>Ongoing
Implementation &
Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Budget Cycles ○ Information Resource Management Plans ○ Performance Plans ○ Strategic Plans ○ Federal Data Strategy Annual Action Plans ○ Biennial Report ○ Statistical Programs Annual Report ○ Regulatory Planning ○ Information Collection Review |
|--|--|---|--|---|



Implementation Approach (cont...)

- Collaborative and coordinated implementation from OMB reflecting the Act's intention for agencies to work in this way
- Flexible approach that provides a framework for agencies wherever possible, while offering the ability to tailor the requirements to meet their specific needs (e.g., guard rails vs. a recipe)
- Approach seeks to make sure the activities are meaningful and driven by agencies (i.e., not a compliance exercise)

Key Requirements (Phase 1)

- Learning Agendas
- Personnel
 - Designation of Key Senior Officials
 - Creation/Expansion of Councils
 - Creation of Data Governance Bodies
- Planning
 - Evaluation Plans
 - Capacity Assessment
 - Open Data Plans

Looking Ahead to Phases 2, 3, and 4

- Phase 2 – Open Data Access and Management
 - Make Data Open by Default
 - Comprehensive Data Inventory
 - Federal Data Catalogue
 - Repository of Tools and Best Practices
- Phase 3 – Data Access for Statistical Purposes
 - Make Agency Data Assets Available to Statistical Units
 - Expand Users' Secure Access to Data Assets through Statistical Units
 - Allow Recognition of New Statistical Units
 - Standardize Application Process for Accessing Data Assets
 - Codify Statistical Unit Responsibilities
- Phase 4 – Program Evaluation
 - Program Evaluation Standards and Best Practices
 - Program Evaluation Skills and Competencies (with OPM)

Learning Agendas

- What:
 - Systematic plans for identifying and addressing priority questions relevant to the programs, policies, and regulations of the agency
 - Should be iterative, flexible, transparent, and tailored to meet the agency's needs
- Who:
 - Required for CFO Act agencies; strongly encouraged for others
- How:
 - Part of the Agency Strategic Plan
- Why:
 - Promote deliberate and strategic planning of evidence-building activities
 - Systematic way to identify the data agencies intend to collect, use, or acquire
 - Allow agencies to engage a range of stakeholders
 - Support great transparency and accountability for agencies' evidence-building efforts

Personnel

- Creates three new positions: Chief Data Officer (all agencies), Evaluation Officer (CFO Act Agencies), and Statistical Official (CFO Act Agencies)
 - Key Senior Officials are responsible for implementing the Act's requirements
 - Emphasis on collaboration and coordination across positions
 - Corresponding Councils for each group of officials
- Establish Data Governance Bodies in each agency
 - Responsible for setting and enforcing priorities for managing data as a strategic asset
- OMB emphasizing the importance of these new roles through orientation and other opportunities

Planning

- Annual Evaluation Plans
 - Connected to Annual Performance Plan
 - Relate to Learning Agenda; focus on “significant” evaluations
 - Must be updated annually
- Capacity Assessments
 - Part of Agency Strategic Plans
 - Open-ended; Agencies can conduct in way that meets their needs
 - Important baseline to look at capacity across Federal Government
- Open Data Plans
 - Future Guidance

Next Steps for Implementation

- Key Upcoming Deadlines
 - July 13, 2019 – Designation of Key Senior Officials (among others)
 - September 2019 – Updates on progress (see below), establishment of data governance body
- Updates on Progress with Budget Submission
 - Opportunity for agencies to provide updates on the status of implementation of various requirements
- Evidence Act Official Orientation
 - September 2019
 - Goal is to provide key information on responsibilities, emphasize collaboration and coordination, and support officials on path to successful implementation

Implications for Non-Federal Entities

- Transparency into Federal evidence-building and data management activities
- Opportunity to provide input as stakeholder (e.g., through learning agenda stakeholder engagement)
- Increased opportunities to access Federal data through Titles II and III
- Elevation of program evaluation likely to result in opportunities for contractors and universities
 - Agencies may seek independent evaluations
 - Agencies may flag areas of interest on learning agendas that they can't address

Questions?

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