Focus Area 2:
Governance, Transparency, and Accountability

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Overview of Proposed Focus Area Scope

Governance

- Organizational Structure: External Board of Directors and Advisory Committees

- Establish value: Chartered to address emerging local, regional & national needs

- Protect data: Chartered to support the information lifecycle while being responsive to both data stewards and data users

  - Data security (Confidentiality, Integrity, & Availability);
  - Data Privacy (FIPPs);
  - Five Safes (Safe projects, Safe people, Safe settings, Safe data, Safe outputs)

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Overview of Proposed Focus Area Scope

Transparency

- Ensure openness: Conduct business openly and transparently, maintaining a searchable inventory of approved projects using confidential data (CEP, Rec. 4-3)

- Document value: Report dataset value and use by using automated tools for search and discovery (Kaggle)

- Increase awareness: Make federal data assets that could be leveraged for evidence building visible, such as information collections and systems of records (SORN Dashboard)

Overview of Proposed Focus Area Scope

Accountability

- Establish: External privacy audits/safeguard reviews

- Report: Establish reporting protocols

- Validate: Establish externally validated measures of value creation and privacy protection

- Control Quality: Ensure all work is replicable, reproducible, auditable and transferrable

Overview of Proposed Focus Area Scope

Sustainability

- Diversify: Establish funding from multiple sources to ensure responsiveness to federal, state and local needs;

- Invest: Ensure infrastructure stability by maintain line funding for core infrastructure (stage gate approach)

- Renew: Pre-empt monopoly by establishing five-year mid-term review, ten-year sunset option

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Overview of Proposed Focus Area Scope

Innovate

- Use common platform as innovation sandbox for researchers, state and local government agencies, private sector

- Protect privacy: Evaluate and test new privacy protection protocols

- Build capacity: Support and extend joint university-agency training programs for continuous learning

- Develop foundations: Develop and test common data models and measures

- Generate new ideas: Create value around common federal, state and local needs

- Develop products: Test and evaluate new approaches and policy interventions

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Initial Low-Hanging Fruit

Potential Quick Wins

- Build on initial use cases of clear value: e.g.

  - Education and workforce (DofEd and DofLabor in conjunction with state and local agencies)
  - Urban/Rural Divide (USDA and Commerce in conjunction with state and local agencies)
  - Climate change (EPA, NOAA, NSF in conjunction with state and local agencies)
  - Health – pandemics/opioids/Alzheimers (HHS, NSF, DOJ in conjunction with state and local agencies)
  - Cross cutting theme of social justice

- Establish a tiered access approach to privacy

- Establish standards for searchability and discoverability, access and use of reports (Transparency Portal)

- Establish standardized agreements to streamline and codify transparent and agreed-upon data protections for data sharing

- Establish the NSDS as an innovation sandbox/common platform for the development of new products and using those to drive common data models and measures.

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Committee Discussion

Discussion Questions

- ***Examples of successful governance structures***

- ***Additional ways to ensure accountability***

- ***Suggestions for priorities***

- ***Ideas for use cases***

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