ACDEB
Advisory Committee on Data
for Evidence Building

Government Data for Evidence Building Focus Area

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Subcommittee Members: Laila Alequresh, Richard Allen, Leonard Burman, Christine Heflin, Anna Hui, Elisabeth Kovacs, Christin Lotz, Brian Moyer, Kenneth Troske

Recommendations Summary

Focus Area Highlights

- **Recommendation 1.** OMB should explore standardizing elements of federal data collection across agencies such as harmonizing reporting timelines and data structures. States should be encouraged to adopt federal standards.

- **Recommendation 2.** The Committee recommends that one important role of the NSDS is helping coordinate evidence building efforts across federal, state, and local government agencies as well as with the research community. As part of this role, NSDS should coordinate with federal, state, and local government partners to share data on federal programs with the entities who are responsible for administering federal programs and for providing data to the federal government. These data regularly flow "up" to the federal government but do not flow back "down" to the data providers for their own evidence-based decision-making.

- **Recommendation 3.** A focus of the NSDS should be capacity building, particularly developing program expertise and data science skills among all government users. This should include data privacy expertise.

- **Recommendation 4.** A pilot program should be funded involving the transfer of state data to the federal government to validate capabilities, illuminate current challenges, and illustrate the potential value of data sharing and coordination. The pilot project could be developed around unemployment insurance data and incorporate approaches from the physical sciences perspective.

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Successes and Challenges

Focus Area Discussion

Successes

- Good set of recommendations developed through a well-functioning process

- Importance of coordination

- Emphasis on state and local partners

- Possibilities for success—great examples (SC, Midwest Collaborative)

Challenges

- Consistency—data standards, reporting requirements, best practices

- Messaging

Year 2 Roadmap

Focus Area Plans

- Identify specific areas where additional OMB guidance would be helpful without increasing unfunded burdens on state and local data collectors.

- Identify best practices and model approaches that can be published and disseminated across federal, state, and local levels.

- Identify case studies of ongoing research designed to answer questions that are important to multiple levels of government and use both federal and state data.

- Explore more fully the challenges and opportunities of sharing data sets on income, employment, education, and health across levels of government.

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