



Interagency Council on  
Statistical Policy

Leaders of the United States Federal Statistical System

# The Evidence Act's Standard Application Process

January 21, 2022



**The Standard Application Process (SAP)**

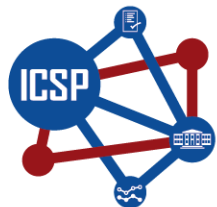


**The Evolving Federal Data Ecosystem**



**Development of the SAP as a  
Front Door to Requesting Data**





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# 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 potential of the SAP

- 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.





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# The Evolving Federal Data Ecosystem







## The Federal statistical system and the data revolution



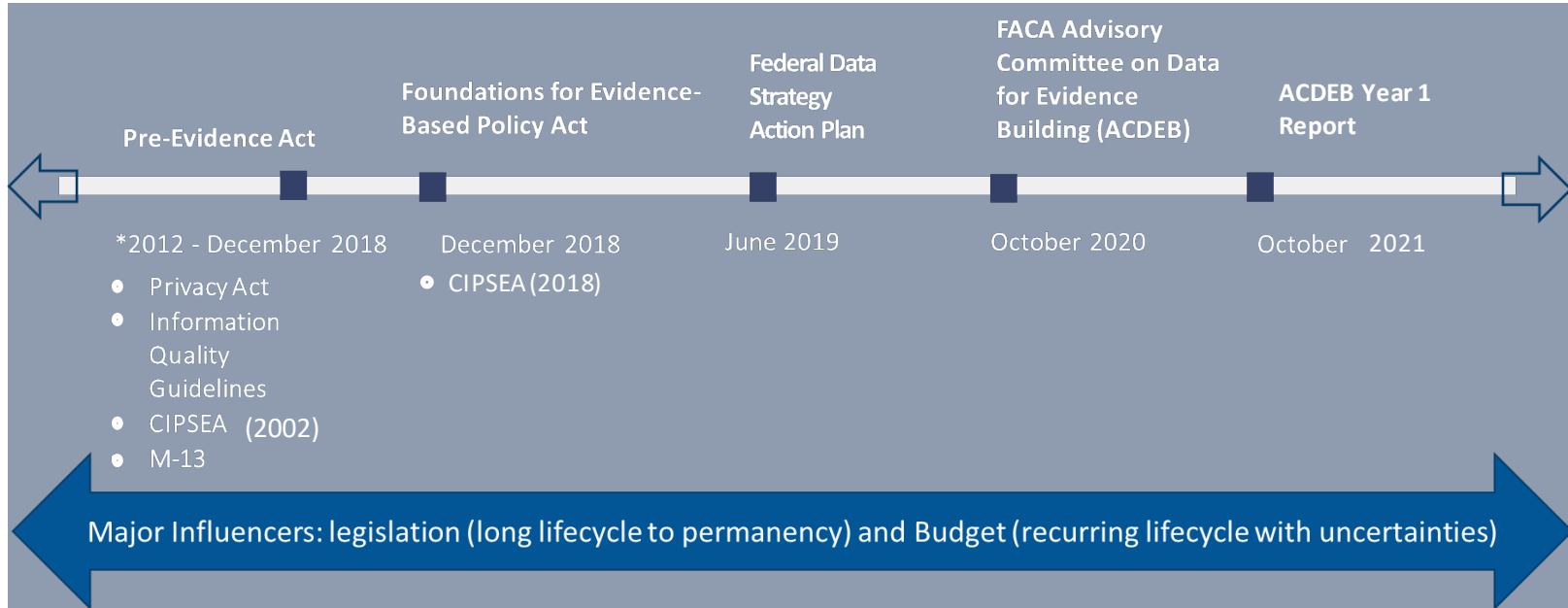
This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#).

- 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 path to evidence-based policymaking





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# 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

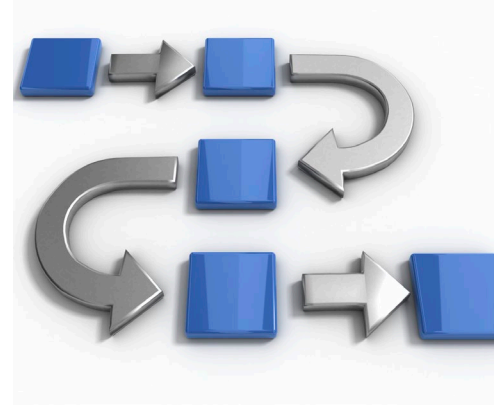




## The ACDEB Year 1 report on the SAP connection with the NSDS

“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



**FEDERAL REGISTER**  
The Daily Journal of the United States Government



Notice

### The Interagency Council on Statistical Policy's Recommendation for a Standard Application Process (SAP) for Requesting Access to Certain Confidential Data Assets

A Notice by the Management and Budget Office on 01/14/2022

Comments on this document are being accepted at Regulations.gov.

**SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT**

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT	
<b>AGENCY:</b>	<b>DOCUMENT DETAILS</b>
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.	<b>Printed version:</b> PDF
<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>Publication Date:</b> 01/14/2022
Notice of solicitation of comments.	<b>Agency:</b> Office of Management and Budget
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<b>Dates:</b> To ensure consideration of comments on this Notice, comments must be provided in
As part of the implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based	

- OMB published the SAP policy proposal on January 14, 2022
  - [federalregister.gov/d/2022-00620](https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-00620)
- 60-day public comment period
  - [regulations.gov](https://www.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.





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# Thank You

Questions? Contact us at  
[icspsupport@gsa.gov](mailto:icspsupport@gsa.gov)

