



## Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018

The bipartisan Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-435), which includes the OPEN Government Data Act, sets the stage for major government-wide reforms for making data accessible and useful for decision-making. The legislation incorporates recommendations from the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, addresses priorities from the open data community, and adopts widely-accepted strategies for securely analyzing existing data.

### Promotes Data Accessibility

**Encourages Open Data as the Government Default.** Improves public access to non-sensitive government data, which will be made publicly available in usable formats by agencies when possible and when in the public interest.

**Makes Administrative Records Accessible for Producing Insights About Operations.** When certain privacy conditions are met, enables limited use of government's administrative data for use to produce evidence about programs and policies, unless prohibited by law.

**Requires Inventories of Datasets.** Provides mechanisms for the American public to more readily access what data government collects and stores though accessible, high-value inventories that summarize key characteristics.

**Accommodates Public Input and Best Practices for Data Availability.** Facilitates opportunities from the American public to request that agencies prioritize specific data for disclosure and use, and also establishes a repository for open data best practices.

**Establishes New Access Portal for Researchers.** Reduces application burden for qualified researchers seeking to apply for use of restricted or sensitive government data by creating a common system for submitting applications to access and use certain data for authorized projects.

**Plans for Modernizing Data Infrastructure.** Creates a committee to explore implementation options for a National Secure Data Service with state-of-the-art capabilities to deploy privacy-preserving technologies.

### Enables Responsible Data Use

**Prioritizes Leadership on Data Quality and Use.** Ensures motivated leaders are appointed as chief data officers to prioritize how to structure data, focus on data quality, and to facilitate data governance processes.

**Directs Agencies to Develop Learning Agendas.** Promotes activities in agencies to prioritize the identification of data gaps and the use of data to address priority policy questions.

**Institutionalizes Program Evaluation Activities.** Prioritizes leadership, policies, and planning to support the development and use of data for program evaluations across agencies, including establishing evaluation officers.

**Mandates Assessment of Data Capacity.** Directs agencies to study and document capacity to engage in data management and analysis activities to provide insights about future resource needs.

**Builds Public Trust in Government Data.** Strengthens public trust in data by requiring some agencies to maintain objectivity, independence, and confidentiality.

**Reauthorizes and Extends a Key Privacy Law.** Reauthorizes the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA), to provide strong privacy safeguards for the American public including legal protections for appropriate data uses.

**Establishes Process to Manage Data Risks.** Expands efforts to protect confidentiality by requiring risk assessments for certain publicly-released information.