

DATA-01

State CIO Adopted: 06/11/2026

TSB Approved: 06/11/2026

Sunset Review: 06/11/2029



Replaces:
Policy 187
09/12/2017

OPEN DATA PROGRAM

See Also:

RCW [43.105.054](#) WaTech Governance

RCW [43.105.205](#) (3) Higher Ed

RCW [43.105.020](#) (22) "State agency"

1. Funded through the [state Enterprise Data Management allocation](#), WaTech will provide the state Open Data Program, which will:

- a. Procure and maintain the state's open data portal at <https://data.wa.gov>, which:
 - i. Each agency uses at no additional cost as their own open data portal to share and access category one public data, metadata, visualizations and narratives about data.
 - ii. Supports diverse usability needs for the public, business, and other partners who reuse agencies' shared data.
 - iii. Supports agencies' diverse open data sharing needs.
 - iv. May also serve as the open data portal for small local governments, independent library districts, and tribal governments with a presence within Washington state boundaries and that do not already have an open data portal.
- b. Facilitate public and other entities' open data access and use at no additional cost to agencies, the public, or other entities.
- c. Promote the state's open data collection.
- d. Convene an Open Data Advisory Group made up of agency and community representatives, which will:
 - i. Manage and guide the development of open data policy in the state of Washington.
 - ii. Share and establish best practices for government open data.

- e. Consult with agencies at no additional cost to prioritize datasets for publication and improve open data publication practices.
- f. Include Agency Open Data Advisors on all open data communications with their respective agencies, except where otherwise agreed.
- g. Provide a collaboration and document-sharing space where all Agency Open Data Advisors can share knowledge and best practices.
- h. Provide open data news and resources via the collaboration space.
- i. Facilitate engaging and valuable Open Data Advisory Group meetings.
- j. Partner with the geospatial data community, advise that spatial open data be published on <https://geo.wa.gov> and fiscal open data be published on <https://fiscal.wa.gov>, and will work to make data on all of those sites findable on <https://data.wa.gov>.

2. Agencies, as defined in POL-01, will make all data that is already published online and that the public would reasonably expect to find on the state open data portal discoverable through the state open data portal at <https://data.wa.gov> by, at a minimum, cataloging it as external links.

- a. This policy does not require agencies to make any additional data publicly available.
- b. Agencies will use the [Public Data Discoverability Guidance](#) to identify what data must be discoverable, and for recommendations on how to meet the discoverability deadline.
- c. Agencies with already published data that is not discoverable through <https://data.wa.gov> will make progress by October 1 of each year beginning October 1, 2027, as follows:
 - i. By October 1, 2027, publish a list of all already published open data that is not discoverable at <https://data.wa.gov>, <https://geo.wa.gov>, or <https://fiscal.wa.gov>.
 - ii. By October 1 of each following year, make at least five (5) additional items on the list discoverable through <https://data.wa.gov> until all items on the list are discoverable, with a goal of achieving completion no later than October 1, 2033.

- d. Agencies may consult with the Open Data Program about what data to make discoverable on <https://data.wa.gov> and how to do so most efficiently with limited resources.

3. Agencies own and will maintain their content on <https://data.wa.gov>.

- a. Agencies will annually review their open data content for quality, such as accuracy, currency, and completeness.
- b. Agencies will follow the [Data Removal Procedure](#) for any content they remove from <https://data.wa.gov>.

4. Agencies will designate one or more employees with agency enterprise level responsibility as the agency's Open Data Advisor(s), and will:

- a. Use the [Agency Open Data Advisor Selection and Support Guidance](#) as needed.
- b. Include their agency's Open Data Advisor(s) in processes and discussions about open data.
- c. Support their agency's Open Data Advisor(s) in advancing open data publication across the agency.
- d. Make, reconfirm, or update their Agency Open Data Advisor designation annually using the annual policy compliance survey starting October 1, 2026.

5. Agency Open Data Advisors will:

- a. Participate in the Open Data Advisory Group as described in the charter.
- b. Improve and document their agency's open data publication process.
- c. Advise the Open Data Program on how to support their agency.
- d. Authorize and audit their agency's open data portal publication accounts.
- e. Serve as the Open Data Program's primary contact for questions about the agency's open data and potential open data.
- f. Inform agency staff and leadership about open data policies, standards, and guidelines.

REFERENCES

1. [Guidance: Agency Open Data Advisor Selection and Support.](#)
2. [Guidance: Public Data Discoverability.](#)
3. [Guidance: Data.wa.gov Catalog Criteria and Sample Gallery.](#)
4. [Guidance: Cataloging Your Agency's Open Data on Data.wa.gov FAQ.](#)
5. [Guidance: Metadata Guidance for Data.wa.gov Publishers.](#)
6. [Guidance: Removing Assets from Data.Wa.Gov.](#)
7. [Procedure: How to create external links on data.wa.gov.](#)
8. [Definition of Terms Used in WaTech Policies and Reports.](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For questions about this policy, please email the [WaTech Policy Mailbox](#).
- For technical assistance, please email opendata@wa.gov.