

Policy DATA-01- Open Data Program - Coversheet

New, Update or Sunset Review? Sunset Review.

What due diligence was conducted to determine the content of this policy/standard? If this is an update or sunset review, provide information as to what changes were made, if any, as well as reasons behind the policy/standard content.

This policy replaces a mandate for agency Open Data Plans with a multi-year effort to create a one-stop catalog of regular state statistics and data publications on data.wa.gov. The old policy generated paperwork that did not clearly lead to more open data. The new policy supports open data maturity and agency governance, while providing immediate practical benefit to the public. The new policy reflects input from 18 agencies of various sizes, hundreds of consultations with publishers, and review of best practices and data.wa.gov use.

What is the business case for the policy/standard?

The policy ensures agencies take advantage of a pooled resource they are already paying for, in a manner that immediately improves customer service for all Washingtonians. It gives the public, agencies themselves, and the Open Data Program a clearer view of the data agencies have already published, which promotes agencies' work and helps prioritize improvements within capacity.

What are the key objectives of the policy/standard?

Help the public find the data that agencies have already taken time to curate and publish. Help agencies get value for their investment in the Open Data Program.

How does policy/standard promote or support alignment with strategies?

In easing the public's ability to find the data that agencies have already made public - and allowing the benefits of public data to take hold -- this policy aligns with [RCW 43.105.351](#), Executive order 25-06, WaTech's strategic plan, the Enterprise Data Strategy, as well as best practices of data governance. Using the cooperatively funded open data platform aligns with [RCW 43.105.355](#).

What are the implementation considerations?

The Open Data Program must communicate that [cataloging is limited in scope](#), carried out over years and subject to consultation with Program staff. It doesn't require agencies to publish new data or conduct an inventory of all data.

How will we know if the policy is successful?

We can track outputs such as agency participation, number of consultations with agencies, new participation and variety of agencies participating (by size, capacity, areas of service). Outcomes signalling success would be more catalog items that reflect more government services and public interest topics, more use of open data, more and richer questions from users, and positive interactions between agencies and the public they serve.