Open Data Program

Last updated: 3-6-23

Open data is provided under RCW 43.105.351 to support state and agency transparency, accountability and efficiency strategic objectives. Data.wa.gov is the official Washington state open-government tabular data portal. The program's performance metrics are under development.

Data.wa.gov is free to all agencies to publish and communicate about their public data including research, reports, performance and more. Share and access data by directly viewing and downloading datasets or use high-tech automation to create data-driven products. Data providers upload data manually or automatically. Share data stories that put data in context and communicate agency's purpose and impact. Embed content in agency websites or direct consumers to data.wa.gov. The program assists with data publication and use and facilitates discussions between users and providers. The program's consultation services promote practices and strategies for publishing reliable, high-value data.

Intended Customers

- Agency data professionals who publish datasets and use published data.
- Members of the public, businesses, educational institutions, and agency staff that use state government data.

Customer Engagement

- The program consults and conducts outreach with agencies and the public to increase the number of publishing agencies and high-value datasets, and to increase public awareness of open data.
- The Open Data Advisory Group (ODAG) is an IT Enterprise Governance subcommittee that meets quarterly to advise on Open Data Planning policy, related standards, and guidelines that enable agencies to appropriately prioritize high-value open data publication.
- Monthly Technology Management Council (TMC) and Business Management Council (BMC) meetings for agency CIOs and IT leaders to inform and sponsor enterprise strategy, policy and investments.
- Regularly scheduled meetings between customers and Business Relationship Managers (BRM) to connect, advise, address concerns and provide solutions.
- Weekly group calls for state CIOs and CISOs to provide updates on important and immediate issues and actions.
- Regular outreach to solicit feedback, provide updates and inform agencies on emerging projects, initiatives, and services.
- Requests for new consultations and modifications to existing applications.

Action plan

Current activity

- **Open data policy refresh:** Strategically increase open data program maturity by establishing policies for open data portal enterprise services, data interoperability standards, dataset change management, ODAG formalization, policy update processes, and agency strategic plans to measure and increase their open data maturity using data management, data equity, and community engagement practices.

Helpful information

Service category
Enterprise Programs
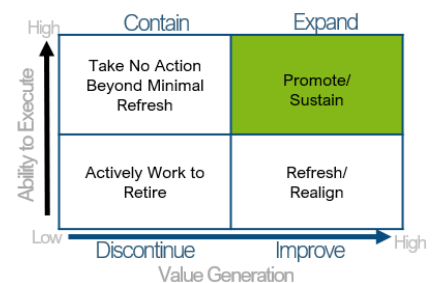
Service availability
24/7/365

Related services
- Geospatial Portal (Geoportal)

How to request service
Submit a request for service through our Customer Portal.

Service owner
Cathi Greenwood

- **User interface (UI) overhaul:** Through an Anthro-Tech-led usability study, redesign the data.wa.gov interface to increase usability with streamlined categories and additional context.
- **Performance dashboard:** In partnership with graduate students, create a dashboard that measures open data program maturity, gives data publishers confidence to invest time in publishing high-quality data and gives data users confidence that resources are current and dependable.
- **Single Sign-On (SSO) Compliance:** Move remaining agencies to SSO.
- **Formal program management planning:** Complete the open data program's business driver analysis, stakeholder engagement plan, formal communication plan, program maturity assessment, and information value chain.
- **Collection curation:** The program improves content by removing low-value assets, working with agencies to publish high-value datasets, and coaching dataset owners to increase dataset value with useful metadata.
- **Tag management:** In partnership with graduate students, the program is creating a tag management process to make datasets easier to categorize and find.
- **Open data events:** Host International Love Data Week and Open Data Day events, present at conferences and speak at community data user groups to promote data literacy and how to use data from data.wa.gov to answer questions about communities and concerns.
- **Data equity and privacy best practices:** Partner with the Office of Equity, the Poverty Reduction Work Group, the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, the Office of Privacy and Data Protection, the Department of Licensing, the Department of Labor & Industries, the Department of Health, and external entities to establish best practices for publishing aggregate data about individuals to share necessary information to progress as a pro-equity anti-racist (PEAR) state.
- **Master data management**: Partner with the Office of Financial Management to publish on data.wa.gov controlled lists of master and reference data including dates, agency names and region names that analysts use to combine datasets to create high-value information. Partner with the Geospatial Program to publish a formal procedure to validate addresses with the Washington Master Addressing Services (WAMAS). Establish a policy that agencies use relevant master and reference data values and WAMAS-validated addresses in open datasets.

One- to two-year goals

- **Enterprise Service Designation:** Establish data.wa.gov as a Statewide Enterprise IT Service where 197 government entities publish and maintain open data.
- **Decision Package:** Move the budget from the Office of Privacy & Data Protection to the State Technology Office, increase the budget to fund May 2022's change from 0.5 to 1.0 FTE program manager, and fund increasing State Library open data librarian support to meet service demands of making the open data portal an enterprise service.
- **Master open data sharing agreement:** Create an umbrella data sharing agreement for all open data to formalize each dataset as a government service with community engagement and change management practices.
- **Advance the state's data strategy**: Partner with the Poverty Reduction Work Group and the enterprise data management program to strategically mature the open data program in support of the state's data strategy.

Three- to five-year goals

- Ensure that data.wa.gov is the best architectural and most economical choice throughout the life of the Tyler open-data platform contract that ends in 2025.
- Data.wa.gov will fully represent the Washington state government with at least one high-quality, high-value dataset for each service at each agency.
- Other states will model their open data programs after Washington's.
- State partnerships will provide uniform and comparable datasets to support important interstate conversations about how states manage resources and provide services.
- The platform will integrate with the state's data management architecture providing a continuous and reliable flow of high-value, usable data to improve the lives of Washingtonians.
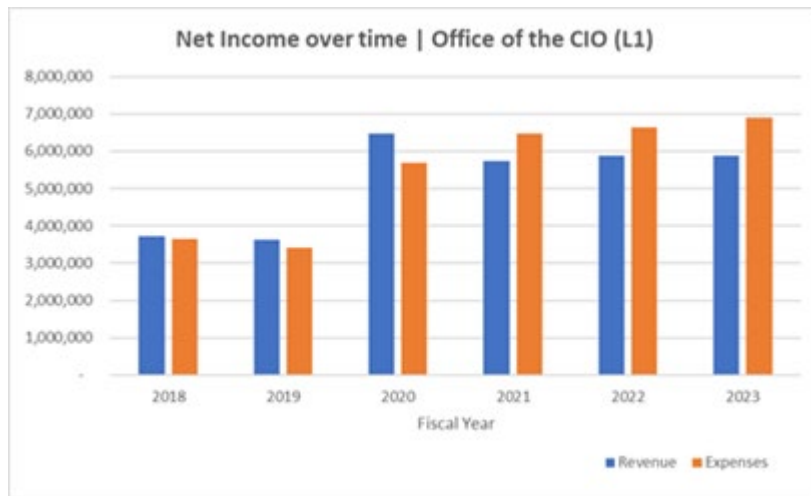
2022	Dec Jan	2023	Dec Jan	2024	Dec

- Present at ODI conference NOV 2022 ▼
- Love Data Week FEB 2023 ▼
- Open Data Day MAR 2023 ▼
- GovInno Conf JUN 2023 ▼
- DP to increase Open Data Program budget SEPT 2023 ▼
- Open data policy revision
- Competitive process to prepare for contract end in 2025
- Budget Request for open data platform contract - SEPT 2024 ▼
- Formal program management planning
- New UW graduate capstone mentorship projects
- Performance dashboard development
- Master data management
- UI overhaul
- Master open data sharing agreement
- Open data policy next growth steps
- Tag management
- Data equity and privacy best practices development
- Implement SSO for all agencies

Finance

Revenue Source

The service is bundled and funded using revenue from the OCIO central service model.

Funding for the OCIO central service model is based on actual agency IT FTEs. OFM provides a count of actual IT FTEs. For higher education institutions (four-year institutions and the community and technical college system), only IT FTEs that support administrative functions of the institutions are counted. Instructional staff, hospital staff and other non-administrative portions of the agencies are exempted from the FTE counts. OFM maintains the source data for budgeted FTEs.

Net Income over time [1]

[1] *Figures for FY 2018 through FY 2022 represent actuals.   FY 2023 is based on projections.*

Decision Packages
None to date
Anticipated:
- September 2023 to increase the program budget and move it to the State Technology Office.
- September 2024 to fund a new contract for the state open data portal platform starting in August 2025.

Unfinanced Requirements
Submitted on February 8, 2024: Anthro-Tech usability study of data.wa.gov.