Request for Information on the Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity Webinar

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
Disability Data Interagency Working Group

Agenda

Welcome and Webinar Logistics

Opening Remarks

Overview of the Request for Information

Q & A

Closing Remarks

Webinar Logistics

- Today's session is being recorded. If you do not consent to this, you may disconnect at any time.

- Closed captioning and ASL interpreting are being provided.

- If you have a question, please use the Q & A tab.

Opening Remarks

"A first step to promoting equity in Government action is to **gather the data** necessary to inform that effort."

President Joseph R. Biden

Equitable Data...

- Allow for rigorous assessment of the extent to which **government programs and policies** yield consistently fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals

- Illuminate **opportunities for targeted actions** that will result in demonstrably improved outcomes for underserved communities

Recommendations of the Equitable Data Working Group

1. Make **disaggregated data** the norm while protecting privacy

2. Catalyze existing federal infrastructure to **leverage underused data**

3. **Build capacity** for robust equity assessment for policymaking and program implementation

4. **Galvanize diverse partnerships** across levels of government and the research community

5. **Be Accountable** to the American Public

Equitable Data Working Group Progress Report

- Provides descriptions of the progress federal agencies and EDWG subgroups are making on the 5 recommendations

- Includes relevant federal success stories and findings from public engagement so far

- Includes next steps for the work

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EQUITABLE DATA WORKING GROUP

A Report by the
Subcommittee on Equitable Data
of the
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

March 2023

Disability Data IWG (DDIWG)

From the Equitable Data Working Group Progress Report:

"The SED will begin building comparable best practices for other high-priority under-collected demographic variables, including **disability**…As the work matures, the SED will likely **create additional IWGs** and assign specific deliverables to advance equitable data for other populations under-represented in federal datasets."

DDIWG Purpose and Scope

To coordinate activities to strengthen the federal government's use of disability data to advance equity for people with disabilities

Within the broader scope of equitable data, this work will allow for rigorous assessment of the extent to which government programs and policies yield consistently fair, just, and impartial treatment of people with disabilities

DDIWG Functions

Facilitate **effective and meaningful community engagement** to identify barriers to and opportunities for using federal data to advance equity for people with disabilities

Identify existing **federal disability data resources** and support agencies in optimizing, improving, and increasing those resources

Create a **Federal Evidence Agenda** on Disability Equity

Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity

What evidence-building questions do we, as a Federal Government, need to answer in order to advance equity for people with disabilities?

What evidence gaps are there?

- **Prevalence** (i.e., are we collecting the data needed to count people?)

- **Disparities** (i.e., are we analyzing the data we have to understand where disparities exist and what they are?)

- **Effectiveness** (i.e., for areas where disparities exist, to what extent do we have evidence on effective strategies to address the disparities?)

Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity (cont'd)

- Describe disparities faced by individuals with disabilities that could be better understood through Federal statistics and data collection

- Identify Federal data collections where improved disability data collection may be important for advancing the Federal Government's ability to measure disparities facing individuals with disabilities

- Identify practices for all Federal agencies engaging in disability data collection to follow in order to safeguard privacy, security, and civil rights

Opportunities for Public Input and Feedback

Request for Information on the Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity

Listening Sessions and Subject Matter Expert Interviews with individuals, businesses, and organizations that interact with Federal agencies and federally-funded programs

Informational Webinar providing information regarding the DDIWG and RFI

Overview of the Request for Information

What is a Request for Information (RFI)?

- A mechanism that Federal agencies use to gather information from experts and interested parties. This tool is used when Federal agencies want to:

  – Inform decision-making

  – Shape policies

  – Foster collaboration

  – Ensure transparency

  – Promote public awareness and education on scientific matters

https://funding.asu.edu/articles/why-you-should-respond-requests-information-rfis

Purpose of this RFI

- Obtain input from the public to help inform the development of the Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity

    - Describe disparities faced by individuals with disabilities that could be better understood through Federal statistics and data collection

    - Identify Federal data collections where improved disability data collection may be important for advancing the Federal Government's ability to measure disparities facing individuals with disabilities

    - Identify practices for all Federal agencies engaging in disability data collection to follow in order to safeguard privacy, security, and civil rights
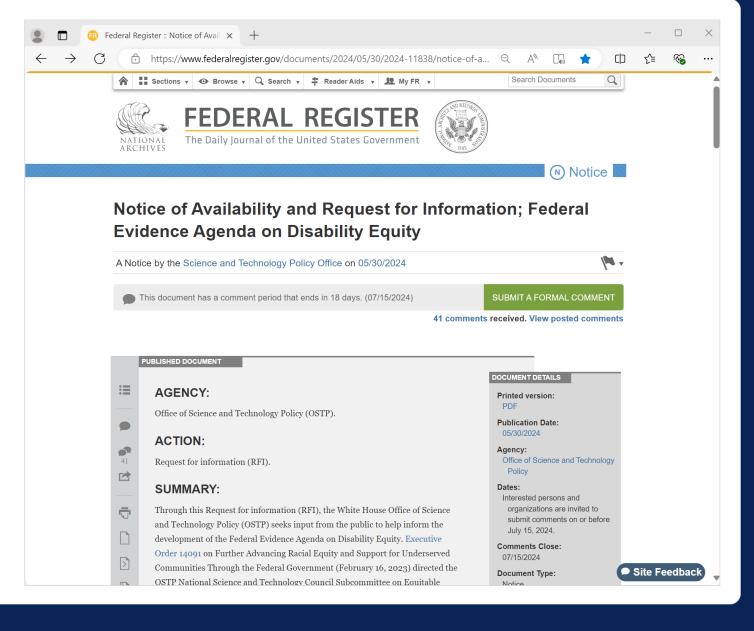
Submitting and Viewing Comments

- Comments may be submitted via **FederalRegister.gov** or **Regulations.gov**

- Comments are due by **11:59pm Eastern Time on July 15th**

- After being processed, comments will be posted to Regulations.gov for public view

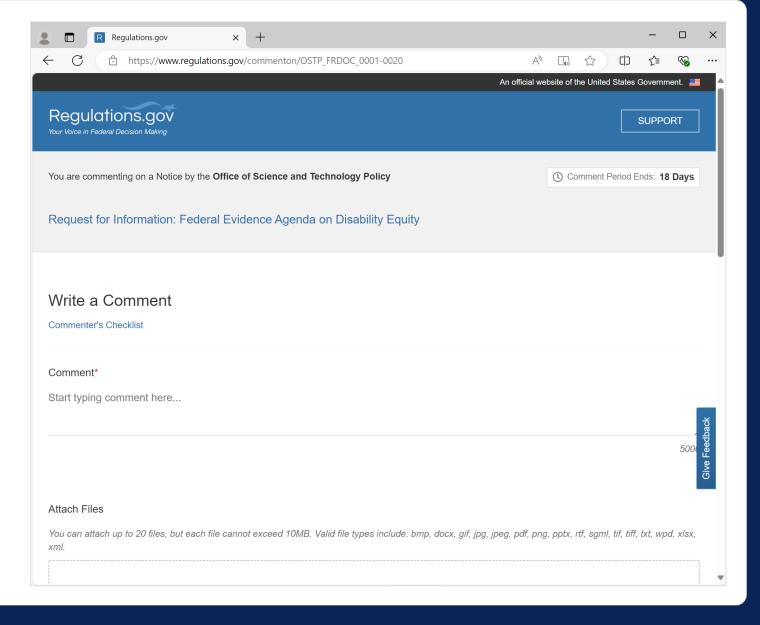- Questions regarding submitting comments can be sent to **disabilitydata@ostp.eop.gov**

FederalRegister.gov

Regulations.gov

RFI Commenter's Checklist

- **Available at Regulations.gov**

- **Provides important background information and tips for submitting effective comments**

  – Many in the public mistakenly believe that their submitted form letter constitutes a "vote" regarding the issues concerning them. Although public support or opposition may help guide important public policies, agencies make determinations for a proposed action based on sound reasoning and scientific evidence rather than a majority of votes. A single, well-supported comment may carry more weight than a thousand form letters.

Important Instructions and Considerations

- In your submission, do not include any copyrighted material; information of a confidential nature, such as personal or proprietary information; or any information you would not like to be made publicly available. By submitting a comment, you agree to the terms of participation and privacy notice.

- OSTP will not respond to individual submissions. A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives.

Important Instructions and Considerations (continued)

- Responses containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies of or electronic links to the referenced materials. Responses from minors, or responses containing profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language or content will not be considered.

- Comments submitted to the RFI are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

RFI Topics and Questions

- **Describing Disparities**

- **Informing Data Collections and Public Access**

- **Privacy, Security, and Civil Rights**

Describing Disparities

- What disparities faced by individuals with disabilities are not well-understood through existing Federal statistics and data collection?

- What types of community-based or non-Federal statistics or data collections could help inform the creation of the Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity?

- Individuals with disabilities experience disparities in a broad range of areas. What factors or criteria should the DDIWG consider when considering policy research priorities?

Informing Data Collections and Public Access

- Disability can be defined and measured in multiple ways. What frameworks for defining and measuring disability or specific considerations should the DDIWG be aware of?

- What barriers may individuals with disabilities face when it comes to participating in surveys or filling out administrative forms?

- Which practices employed by Federal agencies facilitate access to and use of Federal survey and administrative data? Are there additional practices that would be beneficial?

Privacy, Security, and Civil Rights

- What privacy, confidentiality, and civil rights considerations should the Federal government take into account when expanding its collection, use, and sharing of disaggregated disability data?

- What considerations are unique to the disability community or are experienced differently by individuals with disabilities?

Summary

- We seek **your input** to help inform the development of the Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity

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Q & A

Q & A Logistics

- If you have a question, please submit it via the Q & A tab.

- Your question will be read aloud and a member of the webinar team will provide an answer.

- We will attempt to read and answer all questions submitted, but due to time constraints we may summarize questions with similar themes.

- If your question is not read aloud during the session, it will be recorded by the webinar team and you will receive a follow-up via email.

Closing Remarks

Next Steps

<u>Request for Information on the Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity</u> – comments due July 15, 2024

Subject Matter Expert Interviews with individuals, businesses, and organizations that interact with Federal agencies and federally-funded programs

Federal Evidence Agenda on Disability Equity – to be released in late fall 2024

Contact Email

disabilitydata@ostp.eop.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WH.GOV