

# HUD Open Data Plan

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## **Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Dr. Debajyoti Ray, PhD.  
Chief Data Officer  
Office of the Chief Information Officer



## Purpose

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is committed to serving the American people through transparency, public accountability, and data-driven decision-making. This Open Data Plan outlines HUD's strategy to strengthen trust in government by making HUD's data more accessible, reliable, ideologically neutral in accordance with EO 14319 and OMB Memorandum M-26-04, and AI-ready. These efforts advance efficient, results-oriented governance in accordance with the OPEN Government Data Act (Title II of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018) and OMB Memorandum M-25-05.

## Strategic Vision for Open Data

HUD's vision is to create an open data ecosystem that:

- **Improves Data Accessibility and Transparency.** HUD will expand access to timely, well-documented housing and community development data to build public trust and increase transparency into federal programs.
- **Enhances Data Quality.** HUD will adopt new standards and data management lifecycle policies to ensure its data is high-quality, reliable and free from ideological bias per the Unbiased AI Principles.
- **Enables Research, Evaluation, and Evidence-Based Decision-Making.** HUD will use and make available high-quality data for policy analysis, program evaluation, research, and for the public to use to improve their lives.
- **Encourages Public Participation and Fosters Collaboration.** HUD will seek public input on its open data and collaborate with partners to adopt data-driven solutions to housing challenges.

In achieving this vision, HUD will adhere to the following core principles:

- **Openness by default.** Data will be assumed releasable unless there is a compelling legal, privacy, or security reason not to release.
- **Machine-readable, non-proprietary formats.** Published data will use standard, non-proprietary, machine-readable formats to the maximum extent practicable.
- **Comprehensive metadata.** Each dataset will be accompanied by clear, standardized metadata describing content, quality, update frequency, licensing, and usage restrictions.
- **Public access and transparency.** HUD will make datasets readily discoverable, accessible, and usable by the public, researchers, other government agencies, and developers.
- **Data quality and stewardship.** HUD commits to ensuring data is trusted, complete, timely, accurate, and consistently maintained.
- **Governance and accountability.** Data release, maintenance, and quality control responsibilities will be clearly assigned across leadership, data stewards, and technical staff.
- **Continuous improvement and innovation readiness.** HUD will regularly review, update, and expand its open data holdings and processes, including preparing for future AI-driven analysis and responsible adoption of emerging technologies consistent with EO 14319 and OMB M-26-04.
- **Monitor and evaluate impact.** HUD will establish performance metrics and conduct regular evaluations to ensure its open data provides value to the public.

## HUD's Public Data Assets

In compliance with the Federal Data Strategy, HUD published an Open Data Policy in January 2024 and publishes an inventory of HUD Open Data Assets on the HUD Open Data Portal. To support the federal data catalog, a JSON file of the HUD data inventory is also posted on the Federal Data Portal (data.gov). HUD has also published its National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) on GeoPlatform.gov. To date, HUD has made over 200 datasets publicly available.

Users can access HUD's public data assets from the following HUD sites:

- **HUD Open Data Portal** (data.hud.gov) provides access to a comprehensive collection of datasets currently maintained by HUD.
- **HUD Geospatial Data Storefront** (hudgis-hud.opendata.arcgis.com) provides data and tools for geospatial analysis.
- **HUD User Portal** (huduser.gov) offers research reports, datasets, and publications to inform decision-making and policy development.
- **HUD Exchange** (hudexchange.info) provides tools, best practices, and training materials to help grantees understand and implement HUD-funded programs.

HUD will continue to ensure published datasets are understandable and useful to the public by enhancing metadata and data documentation to provide context and facilitate interpretation; regularly updating data to ensure its relevance for decision-making and analysis; monitoring data usage to understand demand and improve offerings; and implementing data quality controls to ensure accuracy and reliability. Public inquiries, quality concerns, and recommendation may continue to be submitted to [OpenData@hud.gov](mailto:OpenData@hud.gov). Public input will also be shared with and reviewed by the HUD Data Governance Board. Users are also able to connect with HUD via its platforms, including the HUD User Portal and HUD Exchange.

To generate official federal statistics, HUD collaborates with 13 federal statistical agencies and actively participates in government-wide data initiatives. HUD specifically supports initiatives that help individuals access and learn useful data about their communities and available housing services.

Finally, to foster usability and efficiency, HUD offers tools and visualizations that simplify data access. For example, HUD uses Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, multimedia channels, and open data formats to make data more accessible on its various public-facing data platforms. The HUD Geospatial Data Storefront feature applications such as the Housing Resource Locator (HRL) and Community Assessment Reporting Tool (CART). These platforms promote collaboration and provide the public with valuable resources while ensuring privacy and security.

## Privacy, Security & Sensitive Data

HUD prioritizes the secure handling of sensitive information by adhering to the Fair Information Practice Principles (FIPPs) and complying with key federal mandates such as the Privacy Act, Paperwork Reduction Act, E-Government Act of 2002, and the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA). Data will only be released when it can be appropriately anonymized and approved through HUD's data governance and risk review processes, ensuring transparency while safeguarding individuals, organizations, and mission-critical information.

## Next Steps: Governance & Modernization

To enable long-term success, HUD is investing in modern technical infrastructure alongside a new data governance framework, workforce training, and stewardship capacity. These investments align with HUD's AI Strategy published in September 2025.

As HUD develops its new enterprise data platform, it will incorporate enhanced workflows and technical capabilities to support open data requirements. Specifically, the enterprise platform will:

- Maintain a comprehensive catalog of HUD data assets, enabling more efficient identification and management of the full range of HUD's public data assets;
- Support data export in open, machine-readable formats and compatible with APIs and other mechanisms to facilitate public access and reuse;
- Provide complete and accurate metadata – compliant with the DCAT-US 3.0 schema – for each data asset to promote trust and transparency; and
- Improve the reliability of publicly released data by reporting standard data quality metrics for HUD leadership and data stewards to monitor and by applying the Unbiased AI Principles from OMB M-26-04;
- Deliver a scalable foundation for emerging technologies and advanced analytics, built on reusable components, common architecture, and similar principles, enabling new and innovative ways of supporting HUD's mission and strengthening decision-making.

This modern enterprise platform will support the following streamlined, two-tier enterprise data governance framework led by the Chief Data Officer (CDO).

1. At the highest level, the **Data Governance Board (DGB)** brings together senior executives from across HUD program areas to set strategic priorities, adopt data policies and standards, influence investment decisions and resolve escalations.
2. Supporting the DGB is the **Senior Data Council (SDC)** composed of program-level data owners and subject matter experts. The SDC operationalizes governance by recommending data standards, reviewing data quality, and advocating for best practices within their domains.

This structure will promote shared responsibility and continuous improvement for data management while focused on driving tangible results. The CDO is responsible for implementing and sustaining this governance model, with the DGB regularly assessing open data practices and recommending updates to policies, processes, and data holdings to improve the timeliness, completeness, consistency, accuracy, usefulness, and ideological neutrality of HUD's public data assets.

## Compliance

HUD's Open Data Plan complies with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act) and associated mandates, including OMB M-25-05.

## Commitment Statement

HUD will continue to strengthen how it collects, manages, and shares data to improve program performance, support research and evaluation, enhance transparency, and enable effective housing and community development outcomes. HUD will emphasize strong data governance, targeted modernization, and practical use of emerging technologies to improve decision-making and customer service. These efforts support the Administration's focus on evidence-based policymaking, responsible use of data and artificial intelligence, elimination of ideological bias per EO 14319 and OMB M-26-04, and reduction of unnecessary burden while increasing public access to high-quality information. HUD will publish updates to its Open Data Plan annually to ensure continued alignment with federal requirements and Administration priorities.

## References

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