



CSOSA

GUIDANCE STATEMENT

The Foundations for Evidence-Based
Policymaking

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Richard Tischner
Director

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

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AUTHORITIES

- Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (P.L.115-435)
- *The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking: Report of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking*, September 2017, <https://www.cep.gov/report/cep-final-report.pdf>
- OMB Memorandum M-19-23, *Phase 1 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/M-19-23.pdf>

GUIDANCE DISCLAIMER

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

SUMMARY

The guidance is to provide information on Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency's (CSOSA or Agency) compliance efforts with The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.

BACKGROUND

CSOSA is committed to comply with the requirements outlined in The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 ("Evidence Act") which addresses recommendations made by the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking (CEP) and promotes the commission's vision of "a future in which rigorous evidence is created efficiently, as a routine part of government operations, and used to construct effective public policy."

The Evidence Act will improve the ability of researchers, evaluators, and statisticians both inside and outside the government to securely use data the government already collects to better inform important policy decisions.

COVERAGE

This Guidance Statement applies to CSOSA employees and contractors who perform data collection, management and warehousing; research and evaluation; and reporting functions.

COMPLIANCE

Four parts, or titles, contained in the Evidence Act are: (1) *evidence capacity*, (2) *open data* (OPEN Data Government Act), (3) *data confidentiality* (the reauthorization of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act), and (4) *general provisions*.

The Agency is complying with the Evidence Act by:

- Identifying priority questions requiring an evidence base to be included in a multi-year Learning Agenda;
- Submitting annually to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress a systematic plan for identifying and addressing those prioritized questions;
- Designating a senior employee as Evaluation Officer (EO) to coordinate evidence-building activities;
- Conducting an assessment of the coverage, quality, methods, effectiveness, and independence of the Agency's statistics, evaluation, research, and analysis efforts to address the Agency's capacity to perform evidence-building activities;
- Designating a senior employee as Chief Data Officer (CDO) to spearhead formalized data governance;
- Establishing a Data Governance Body (DGB) to support the CDO in setting and enforcing priorities for managing and using data as a strategic asset;
- Identifying priority data assets to confirm with OPEN data and develop and OPEN data plan; and
- Protecting the trust of information providers by ensuring the confidentiality and exclusive statistical use of data.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE) is designated to implement of the Evidence Act. The components of the Evidence Acts are on-going efforts, and so are the reporting requirements. The timeline and reporting requirements are outlined in OMB Memorandum M-19-23, *Phase 1 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance*.

CONTACT

CSOSA welcomes comments or questions regarding its compliance with the Evidence Act. For more information, please contact OREHelp@csosa.gov or by sending correspondence to:

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)
Attn: ORE
800 N. Capitol Street, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20002