

Charter of the Interagency Council of Statistical Policy Subcommittee on the National Secure Data Service

1. Official Designation

The Subcommittee for the National Secure Data Service (S-NSDS) is hereby chartered by action of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).

2. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the S-NSDS is to provide **strategic vision** for the future National Secure Data Service (NSDS) that addresses the needs of stakeholders in the broad evidence-building ecosystem; and, in doing so, strengthens the Federal statistical system (FSS). The S-NSDS will accomplish this work through activities such as, but not limited to, **determining and evaluating the scope of the NSDS**, including the scope of an NSDS 1.0, with the aid of the implementation of project activities to test functions and identify barriers and opportunities; developing the NSDS **governance and operating model**, including funding mechanisms and strategic communications; and considering and incorporating, as appropriate, NSDS-related findings and recommendations (e.g., the Evidence Commission Reports, the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building (ACDEB) reports). In accomplishing this, the S-NSDS will coordinate with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) to ensure that S-NSDS activities align with NCSES's NSDS demonstration project activities conducted under Section 10375 of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022.

3. Membership

The S-NSDS is comprised of volunteer ICSP members (or a designated senior staff member) representing a variety of federal stakeholder perspectives, to include both recognized statistical agencies and units (RSAUs) and Federal agencies without an RSAU. The represented agencies should include both large and small RSAUs, as well as large and small Federal agencies without an RSAU. The S-NSDS is co-chaired by the Chief Statistician of the United States and the Director of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (given the close tie with the NSDS Demonstration requirement in the statute), as well as a third Co-Chair selected by the CSOTUS, if desired.

4. Responsibilities and Functions

The S-NSDS is the ICSP's primary deliberative body tasked with developing the strategic vision and a NSDS 1.0 within the FSS. The responsibilities of the S-NSDS include recommending how the NSDS should be organized, funded, and resourced to execute selected functions, which may be informed through the project activities, NSDS Demonstration, and other means. The S-NSDS is responsible for the following:

- 1) Developing a vision and creating a strategic action plan for the NSDS;
- 2) Developing the priority goals, focus areas, and objectives for each fiscal year and ensuring those form the basis for investigating the initial functions of the NSDS and remaining areas for exploration;

- 3) Considering relevant recommendations from studies and reports by entities such as the Evidence Commission, ACDEB, and the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) to inform recommendations for the scope of the NSDS;
- 4) Presenting its findings to the ICSP and recommending actions for the full ICSP to implement, as appropriate;
- 5) Coordinate with other stakeholders on matters related to its work on the NSDS.

The S-NSDS will also solicit, evaluate, and approve or reject proposed project activities, in coordination with NCSES. The S-NSDS will ensure that any proposed project activity explores the priority goals and focus areas designated for the fiscal year. It may also support NCSES in evaluating whether the proposed project aligns with statutory NSDS Demonstration requirements, as appropriate.¹ Before the projects move forward to funding and implementation, the full ICSP will also be offered a review of approved project activities. As projects progress, the S-NSDS will gather information to assess whether particular functions are feasible for the future NSDS and other considerations at play. Using this information, the S-NSDS will identify the challenges, gaps in knowledge which remain, and opportunities, and it will use that information to inform recommendations for priority goals and focus areas going forward.

5. Operating Procedures

Meetings. The S-NSDS Co-Chairs will establish a monthly meeting schedule for the S-NSDS. Members may meet more or less frequently depending on work needs. The Co-Chairs may invite select experts, project leaders, and other stakeholders to individual meetings. The S-NSDS may also hold special topic meetings to share progress and solicit stakeholder input. The S-NSDS will update the full ICSP at least semi-annually and upon request by the Chair of the ICSP.

Decision-Making. The S-NSDS Co-Chairs will strive to reach a clear majority of present members, including the Co-Chairs, when making decisions on behalf of the subcommittee. The Co-Chairs reserve the right to use other decision-making methods when a majority opinion is not feasible or not warranted.

Agenda and Minutes. The Co-Chairs will designate staff to provide administrative support, including note-taking, agenda setting, communications, facilitation of key stakeholder conversations, document drafting, and scheduling.

Working Groups. The S-NSDS may, in the conduct of its work, establish working groups and associated statements of work.

¹ Under the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, NCSES is responsible for aligning with recommendations from ACDEB; engaging with federal and state agencies in support of evidence building; using processes, systems, and technologies to protect restricted data, statistical products, privacy, and confidentiality under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018; and ensuring transparency to the American public. NCSES is also responsible for funding execution so retains the authority to move forward as required to meet budgetary and statutory requirements.

6. Amendments and Revisions

This charter will be periodically reviewed and updated as needed to reflect changes in the activities of the S-NSDS. Amendments and revisions to this charter must be approved by the S-NSDS and the ICSP.

Amendment and Revision History

Date approved	Description of amendment or revision
Feb. 14, 2024	Initial release

This charter is effective as of the date approved in the ICSP full council meeting and remains in effect until modified or rescinded.

Approved February 14, 2024:

Karin A. Orvis, Ph.D.

Chief Statistician of the United States

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy Chair