Data Steward

ROLE OVERVIEW

Data stewards are integral to making sure the right federal, state, or local open data is used, and help to answer technical questions participants may have.

Learn more about The Opportunity Project sprint process and participant roles at: opportunity.census.gov/sprint-process

How TOP Works

01 — Identify Challenges

Federal agencies identify high-priority challenges facing the public.

02 — Team Up

Tech teams from industry and universities sign on to create data-driven, digital products in collaboration with end users, data, and policy experts.

03 — Build

During virtual product development sprints, agencies and stakeholders collaborate with tech teams and other sprint participants to create new digital products such as mapping tools, apps, websites, games, AI algorithms, network visualizations, and more. Sprints typically include user research, data exploration, and product development.

04 — Launch

Products are launched at a public-facing showcase event.

05 — Reach End Users

After the sprint, participants work to ensure products reach end users and move the needle on national challenges. Certain years, teams have the option to apply for a financial prize to continue their work.
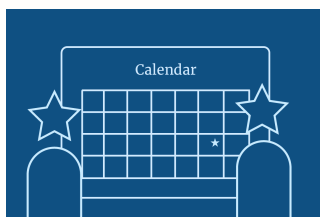
Your Role

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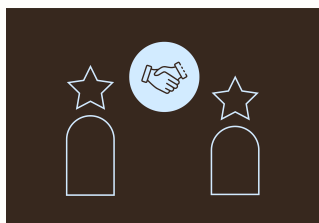
A data steward:

→ Answers questions from 3-6 technology teams about a federal dataset as they arise.

→ Connects with tech teams to ensure the use of data in their solutions, tools, projects.

→ Joins 2-3 remote sessions over a 12-16 week sprint period to provide feedback to tech teams building solutions.

Other Roles

Sprint Leaders

Sprint leaders are a group of colleagues within a federal agency or non-profit organization that frame the problem statement, manage the TOP sprint, and work on day-to-day operations such as leading milestone sessions and coordinating with tech teams.

Product Advisors

Product advisors are technology product experts (i.e. designers, consultants, product managers) from outside of government who consult tech teams on how to develop viable solutions (digital or analog) that can be maintained and implemented after the sprint.

Tech Teams

Tech teams are the companies, universities, non-profits, and students who build digital products in the sprints. They design, develop, and launch the solutions they build, and typically own and maintain the products and associated IP after the sprints.

User Advocates

User advocates are community leaders, advocates, and people with direct lived experience in the target challenges (e.g. state and local government, non-profits, service providers, or individual experts). Their role is to guide tech teams in designing solutions that are realistic and useful for the target end users.