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##

## **TOPx: Facilitated by [Agency]**

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[Insert theme-relevant photo]

**The Opportunity Project (TOP)** brings together technologists, government, and communities to rapidly prototype digital products—powered by federal open data—that solve real-world problems for people across the country.

TOPx is a program through which federal agencies employ the model developed by the TOP team at the US Census Bureau to **facilitate virtual technology development sprints** that address challenges at the heart of their missions. This year, [agency] is facilitating a TOPx sprint focused on challenges related to [sprint topics].

# **How TOPx Works**

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|  |  | 1 | **Identify challenges**[Agency name] identifies high-priority challenges facing the public.  |
| **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.  | 2 |  |  |
|  |  | 3 | **Build**Tech teams build products during a 12 week virtual tech development sprint that includes user research, data exploration, and product development. Past products include mapping tools, apps, websites, games, AI algorithms, network visualizations, and more.  |
| **Launch**Products are launched and showcased at an in-person Demo Day event.  | 4 |  |  |
|  |  | 5 | **Reach end users**After the sprint, participants work to ensure products reach end users and move the needle on national challenges.  |

## **Tech teams:** The companies, universities, non-profits, and students who build digital products in the sprints. They design, develop, and launch the products they build, and typically own and maintain the products after the sprints. The role of tech team includes:

* Design and build a digital product that uses federal open data
* Collaborate with other sprint participants including government data experts to explore and use available data sets, as well as user advocates to understand user needs
* Conduct user research to ensure products are solving for real user needs
* Join virtual “milestone” calls during the sprint to share progress, ask questions and provide feedback to other teams
* Attend in-person event to present final products
* Own and maintain the product after the sprint, or develop a strategy for handoff

**User Advocates:** 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.

**Government:** [Insert agency name] defines major challenges facing the public within our mission areas. The agency facilitates a 12-week sprint, during which policy experts and data stewards from the agency provide feedback to the participating teams and assistance working with federal open data.

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## **FAQs**

**What is the time commitment?**

The amount of time you dedicate to this process is up to you! Participation in the sprint is **part time** and can be done completely **remotely**. We ask that you generally keep up with the pace of our weekly milestones, but otherwise you can determine how your team works.

**Who should be involved from my company/organization?**

The team is up to you, but we find that teams usually include 3-5 main participants who are engineers, data scientists, designers, and often a project manager or product owner. We encourage teams to continue to develop and refine their products after the sprint, but each team should have capacity to complete a functioning MVP by the end of the week sprint.

**What am I committing to do if I join the sprint?**

Your main commitment in the sprint is to build a digital product that uses federal open data (in addition to any state, local, and private data you have access to), and to join virtual sprint milestones during the sprint including a user research session, data Q&A, an alpha demo, and a final MVP demo.

**What do I build?**

That’s up to you! The only requirements are to build a digital solution that addresses one or more problem statements and uses federal open data. Products can be new, or built within existing tech or platforms, e.g. a new feature or use case, or incorporating new data sets.

**What happens after the sprint?**

* Teams maintain products: Post-sprint strategy varies for each team, and can include open sourcing, incorporating into existing business channels, or handing off the product. We encourage you to make your product as widely accessible to the public as possible.
* Track impact: We ask teams to share periodic updates on reach, effectiveness, and utilization so that we can communicate about your impact on end users.