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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 U.S. 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].

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# **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. |

## **TOPx Roles**

**Government:** [Insert agency name] facilitates a technology development sprint that addresses specific challenges at the heart of its missions. While the TOPx project team within each agency facilitates the 12-week sprint, policy experts and data stewards from the agency provide feedback to the participating teams and assistance working with federal open data. Government agencies:

* Develop problem statement(s) and identify relevant open datasets
* Recruit sprint participants
* Facilitate a 12 week technology development sprint
  + Organize and facilitate milestone calls (User Research, Data Discovery, Alpha Demo, Final Demo)
  + Provide insight related to the agency’s policy and operational areas
  + Answer questions about finding and using the agency’s public data
  + Provide feedback on the products being developed
* Host an (optional) in-person event during which products are launched and showcased

## **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.

**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.

## **Benefits for Agencies**

## *Leverage TOPx to advance your mission and activate your data.*

1. **Meet federal requirements to increase reuse of your data**  
   TOPx enables agencies to meet requirements from the Federal Data Strategy, President’s Management Agency, and Evidence Act to collaborate with industry to increase the reuse and dissemination of federal open data. TOPx engages industry to create products that use open data to provide value to Americans and the economy.
2. **Develop lightweight and cost-effective solutions**  
   TOPx is designed to make cross-sector collaboration easy and cost-effective. Through rapid sprints, agencies can catalyze a greater volume, diversity, and quality of products than they could on their own or through traditional mechanisms.
3. **Catalyze innovation within your agency**  
   Through TOPx, agency staff learn new strategies for lightweight collaboration with external stakeholders, human-centered design and agile methodology - which can also advance goals like IT modernization and improved customer experience.
4. **Engage with data consumers and improve data quality**  
   Improve data quality by engaging directly with data consumers as they work with federal data. By participating in a sprint, agencies develop or deepen relationships with key industry stakeholders and data users, helping to better understand their target audiences and collect real time feedback on data access and quality.

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