

THE OPPORTUNITY PROJECT



Data Steward

ROLE OVERVIEW

TOP is a sprint-based innovation program that 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. More than **200 digital products** have been created through TOP to address problems like disaster response, youth and veteran homelessness, reducing ocean plastics, COVID-19, rural economic development and more.

→ Read this document to learn more about how it works and the role of the **data steward**.

See past products from TOP at opportunity.census.gov

How It 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 tech development sprints, agencies 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 showcased at Census Open Innovation Summit, which is an open press event.

05 – REACH END USERS

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

→ Your Role

Data Steward

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. In particular, data stewards:

- Answer questions from 3-6 technology teams about a federal dataset as they arise.
- Connect with product teams to ensure the use of data in their solutions, tools, projects.
- Join 2-3 remote sessions over a 12-16 week sprint period to provide feedback to tech teams building solutions.

Other Roles

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 product teams in designing solutions that are realistic and useful for the target end users..

PRODUCT ADVISORS

Product advisors are technology product experts from outside of government who consult product teams on how to develop viable products that can be maintained and implemented after the sprint.

PRODUCT/ SOLUTIONS 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.