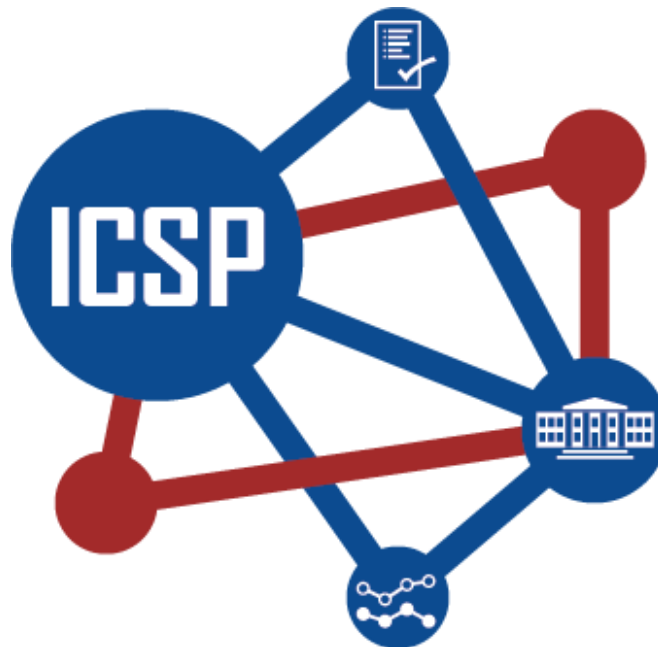


# INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON STATISTICAL POLICY

## CHARTER

JUNE 2026



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Amended: June 2026

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### **AUTHORITY**

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ([P.L. 104-13](#)) provides the authority for the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to develop, coordinate, and oversee statistical activities, along with the privacy, confidentiality, security, disclosure, and sharing of information (44 U.S.C. 3504(a)), and to appoint the U.S. Chief Statistician and establish the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) to advise and assist the Director to carry out statistical policy (44 U.S.C. 3504(e)). The Council was expanded under the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy Making Act of 2018 ([P.L. 115-435](#)) to include each Statistical Official designated under the Act.

According to the authorizing statutes, the ICSP was established to assist and advise OMB in carrying out their statutory responsibility to coordinate the Federal statistical system to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the objectivity, impartiality, utility, and confidentiality of information collected for statistical purposes. Examples of OMB responsibilities include:

- Developing, maintaining, and overseeing statistical policies, standards, and guidelines.
- Identifying and implementing priorities for improving statistical programs and methodologies.
- Assessing statistical agency, unit, and program budgets to ensure they are consistent with system-wide priorities for maintaining and improving the quality of Federal statistics.
- Coordinating the United States participation in international statistical activities, among other functions.

### **VISION (SCOPE)**

The Council is intended to help the United States Federal statistical system operate as a seamless system, working together to provide strategic vision and robust implementation in support of the Federal statistical system's critical longstanding —and expanding— role for supporting evidence-informed decision-making. For example, the ICSP sets strategic goals for modernizing the statistical system, ensuring data quality and confidentiality, and providing safe and appropriate data access, as well as enhancing coordination and collaboration across the system.

### **OBJECTIVES (GOALS)**

The Council shall perform functions that include the following:

- Develop recommendations for, and assist OMB in, drafting new guidance and carrying out their statutory responsibility to coordinate the Federal statistical system.

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- Inform/support development of government-wide priorities and monitor their implementation.
- Share lessons learned, ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches.
- Lead in the identification, development, and coordination of projects and innovative initiatives.
- Promote collaboration and community building to address shared challenges, while minimizing duplication.
- Engage in dialogue with other Councils and key groups in the Federal government on matters of concern to the Council.
- Support OMB in its role as the United States representative to international statistical bodies.

### **LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**

#### **COUNCIL LEADERSHIP**

The authorizing statutes ([P.L. 104-13](#); [P.L. 115-435](#)) define that the Council shall be chaired by the U.S. Chief Statistician.

#### ***LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES***

The Council Chair shall:

- Promote ICSP activities and status within the Federal government and with other stakeholders and collaborators, as appropriate.
- Convene the ICSP on a regular basis and preside over Council meetings.
- Serve as an advocate and elevate issues to the appropriate levels on behalf of the Federal statistical system community.
- Lead cross-agency collaboration and foster shared solutions, both within the statistical community and the broader data and evidence ecosystem.
- Convene ad hoc or special meetings (e.g., coffee hours meetings) outside of regularly scheduled meetings at their discretion.
- Designate a second who can lead meetings in their stead and can be delegated other responsibilities, as appropriate.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

According to the authorizing statutes ([P.L. 104-13](#); [P.L. 115-435](#)), the ICSP shall consist of the 24 designated Statistical Officials at each [Chief Financial Officers \(CFO\) Act](#) agency, as well as all heads of the OMB-recognized statistical agencies and units. Pursuant to the Evidence Act, each

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CFO Act agency has designated a senior staff person in the agency to be the Statistical Official with the authority and responsibility to advise on statistical policy, techniques, and procedures, and to champion statistical data quality and confidentiality. At the 11 CFO Act agencies that contain a recognized statistical agency or unit, the head of a recognized statistical agency or unit must be designated as the Statistical Official, as required by the Evidence Act. In total, there are 30 unique members of the ICSP, including the U.S. Chief Statistician.

ICSP membership currently stands as follows:

- Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Division of Research and Statistics, Microeconomic Surveys Unit<sup>^</sup>
- Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service<sup>^</sup>
- Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Animal Health Monitoring System <sup>^</sup>
- Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis<sup>^\*\*</sup>
- Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census<sup>^\*\*</sup>
- Department of War<sup>\*</sup>
- Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality<sup>^</sup>
- Department of Homeland Security<sup>\*</sup>
- Department of Housing and Urban Development<sup>\*</sup>
- Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of State<sup>\*</sup>
- Department of the Interior<sup>\*</sup>
- Department of the Treasury, Statistics of Income<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics<sup>^\*</sup>
- Department of Veterans Affairs

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- Environmental Protection Agency\*
- General Services Administration\*
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration\*
- National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics^\*
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission\*
- Office of Management and Budget\*\*\*
- Office of Personnel Management\*
- Small Business Administration\*
- Social Security Administration, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics^\*
- U.S. Agency for International Development\*

^Denotes a Recognized Statistical Agency or Unit; \*Denotes a Statistical Official; \*\*Denotes rotating Statistical Official; \*\*\*Denotes the Chairperson of the Council

### ***COUNCIL MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES***

Members of the Council shall:

- Attend the regularly scheduled meetings called by the Chair.
- Review and consider initiatives presented at the Council meetings and be an active participant in the discussions.
- Provide recommendations regarding the presented initiatives and participate in prioritization of presented initiatives.
- Bring to the Council's attention initiatives and issues that might have an impact on the overall Federal statistical policy community.
- Participate, as resources permit, in implementation of Council initiatives or projects (and encourage participation of agency staff), to include subcommittees and/or working groups.
- Participate as a leader of the Federal statistical system to help foster cross-agency collaboration and shared solutions, both within the statistical community and the broader data and evidence ecosystem.
- Designate a second who can attend meetings and as appropriate, serve as a voting member in their stead.
- All ICSP members are welcome to attend any meeting, of which they are not a member, in an ex officio capacity, including subcommittee, working group, or other ICSP related meetings.

### **REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER COUNCILS OR GROUPS**

The ICSP may invite representatives from other councils or groups to participate in the meetings or activities of the Council, to include relevant subcommittees/working groups. These representatives will be designated by that Council, following an invitation of participation from the ICSP, through consultation with the ICSP Chair. These representatives are not members of the ICSP.

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNCILS OR GROUPS**

The ICSP may nominate members to serve on related councils and other governmental policy and standards bodies, for example the Chief Data Officer Council (CDOC), the Evaluation Officer Council (EOC), the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM), and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). Any nominations must be approved by a vote of the ICSP (see Voting).

The Council may exchange information and perspectives with these Councils and other governmental policy and standards bodies.

In particular, the ICSP maintains a close relationship with the [FCSM](#) to advance policy priorities and statistical methodologies for the Federal statistical system. The FCSM is an interagency committee founded by OMB to assist in carrying out OMB's role in setting and coordinating statistical policy. Among other mission responsibilities, the FCSM informs and advises OMB and the ICSP on methodological and statistical issues that affect the accuracy, objectivity, relevance, and confidentiality of Federal statistical data. The ICSP provides input to the FCSM on policy priorities to inform FCSM focus areas; and in turn, the FCSM serves as a resource to OMB and the ICSP to inform decision-making on matters of statistical policy and to provide technical assistance and guidance on statistical and methodological issues.

### **STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES**

#### ***COUNCIL BODY STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES***

The ICSP consists of the full council and may have one or more subcommittees or working groups, communities of practice, and other permanent or temporary bodies. A listing of these bodies is maintained separate from the charter, since the formation and dissolution of such groups is at the recommendation and a vote of the ICSP.

- All bodies should have charters or project plans, to establish core goals and practices, especially for those in a permanent stature.
  - The charter or project plan should include: a clearly defined scope, measurable

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- goals and outcomes, and clear deadlines for deliverables, as appropriate.
- When an initiative accomplishes its objectives, then it will be dissolved, unless otherwise indicated as a permanent body.
- All are responsible to the ICSP and will keep the Council apprised of their activities and progress in accomplishing their goals, including quarterly updates (at a minimum) based on the documented project plan.
- All will be reviewed at least annually to ensure that the goal, outcomes, strategy, and progress are aligned with the Council. Those that are no longer in alignment may be adjusted or dissolved by the Council.
- All will be responsible for managing the outputs from their tasks (as applicable).
- None will publish any final document without the approval of the ICSP.

### ***SUBCOUNCIL-LEVEL BODY MEMBERSHIP***

Unless otherwise designated in the given subcommittee/working group/other body charter, membership shall be defined by the following specifications:

- Membership shall be determined by members of the ICSP, including the participation of members of their agencies.
- These will be chaired or co-chaired by an ICSP member, or led by other individuals as the ICSP may designate.
  - If a body is not chaired/co-chaired by an ICSP member, it will at minimum have an Executive Champion from the ICSP to provide ICSP strategic guidance and support.
  - If the Chair or Co-Chairs are not appointed by the Council or the ICSP Chair, once convened, the body will vote to select a Chair or Co-Chairs from among the members of the body.
- Members of the body may also suggest additional members of the ICSP, as well as other subject matter experts and staff, as appropriate. Body leadership may establish qualifying criteria for participation in the initiative. These additional members do not become members of the ICSP and will be approved by the ICSP.

### ***SUBCOMMITTEES***

Subcommittees examine, execute, and/or oversee continuing or recurring matters related to Council priorities. These subcommittees also identify issues suitable for review by the Council, gather and evaluate information, and recommend courses of action for the Council.

Subcommittees cover a wide range of subject areas and thus may need working groups to

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manage sub-efforts.

### *SUBCOUNCIL-LEVEL WORKING GROUPS*

Subcouncil-Level Working Groups are stood up by the Council to address a specific issue or related set of issues, and they recommend courses of action for the Council as well as execute actions.

### *COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE*

Communities of Practice (CoP) are informal groups with shared interests, skills, or practices that focus on or promote a priority of the Council or specific topic supported by the Council. Any member of the ICSP may propose the establishment of a new CoP, with establishment after ICSP concurrence. The primary objectives of a CoP are to:

- Facilitate and provide a forum for communication and coordination on specific topics and issues.
- Serve as a resource for a specific sub-community within the statistical system.
- Evaluate the education, training, and professional development needs of members of a specific sub-community and provide input to the Council on such matters.
- Host discussions or events with a focus on issues of interest to the CoP.
- Bring issues to the Council for consideration that are relevant to their areas of interest or expertise.

## **COUNCIL SUPPORT**

The Administrator of the General Services Administration shall provide administrative and other support for the Council, hereby noted as the Council Support Team. The staff of the Council Support Team, led by the Senior Advisor(s), delivers streamlined meeting management, communications, resources, cross-council coordination, a documentation repository for internal ICSP materials, and project and program management support, in alignment with the annual Service Level Agreement (SLA). OMB and other member agencies will also provide staff support to the Council as needed.

## **REPORTING**

Council activities, recommendations, and decisions will be shared, as appropriate with other organizations, with approval of the ICSP and its Chair.

## **VOTING**

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When votes are taken, each member of the Council will get one vote. The Chair will ensure that voting will only occur when there are sufficient and appropriate members of the Council (or their approved designated second) for the matter being voted on (i.e., at minimum 60% of the member agencies). A quorum shall be established by members present at a duly scheduled meeting with appropriate notice given to members of the Council. The outcome votes will be determined by a supermajority (i.e., a two-thirds majority vote). The Chair of the Council will only vote in the case of a tie and shall break the tie vote. Ex officio members and representatives from other Councils or groups, who are not members of the Council, are invited to contribute their skills and expertise to projects and initiatives, but do not have a vote.

### **AMENDMENTS**

This charter may be amended upon the request of Council members which is approved by a vote of the ICSP.

### **DURATION**

The ICSP is a permanent organization under the authorizing language.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

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

Originally approved April 2023

Amended June 2026

Stuart Levenbach

U.S. Chief Statistician

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy Chair