Delaware Open Data

▶ Executive Order #57

Strategic Plan for Statewide Integration of Open Data

9/30/16

Pictured above, from left to right: Dana Rohrbough, GIC Acting Manager; Ryan Harrington, co-founder of Open Data Delaware and the education and nonprofit coordinator at 1313 Innovation; Rick Geisenberger, Department of State Deputy Secretary; Rhonda Lehman, Dept of Technology & Information Strategic Enterprise Services Team Leader; and James Collins, Chief Information Officer; Center: Governor Jack Markell.

Executive Summary

Open data is a growing trend throughout the world. Citizens, researchers, businesses, and advocates have called for access to data that government is already collecting. The State of Delaware is currently publishing thousands of reports but the data is not always in machine readable formats and is not available in one centralized place. When Governor Markell signed Executive Order 57 in January 2016, Delaware began the effort to build a centralized place for open data. Executive Order 57 created and assigned responsibility to the Open Data Council. The Council was tasked to outline a strategic plan for implementation of open data in Delaware. The Council focused on the following areas for this strategic plan: Why Open Data, Mission and Vision, Where We Are, Goals of the Program, Working With FirstMap, Engaging the Community, Policy Development, and Expanding the Council.

Why Open Data?

Government transparency is important to engaging citizens with their government. Citizens can learn about the performance of government and hold it accountable, which encourages more responsible and efficient government. With citizen engagement, we can work together to solve community issues. Open data leads to analysis that can be a catalyst for growth and innovation, encouraging new business. Below are some of the benefits we expect to gain from open data.

- Open, accessible, and transparent government
- Government efficiency and cost savings
- Solving community issues together
- Facilitates data sharing across government agencies
- Saves time for agencies and the public
- Data is in a consumable format, available to be searched, graphed, and analyzed
- Data overlays can help uncover new patterns or new solutions
- Citizen engagement with their government
- Supports entrepreneurship and economic development
- Supports research and analytics of the data

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Mission & Vision

Wikipedia defines Open Data as data that is freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.
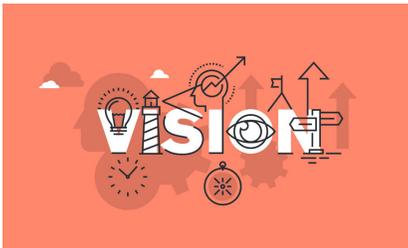
Mission

▸ Must be available and accessible
▸ Must allow re-use and redistribution
▸ Anyone can use the data for any purpose
▸ Data must be freely available at no cost to the consumer

Vision
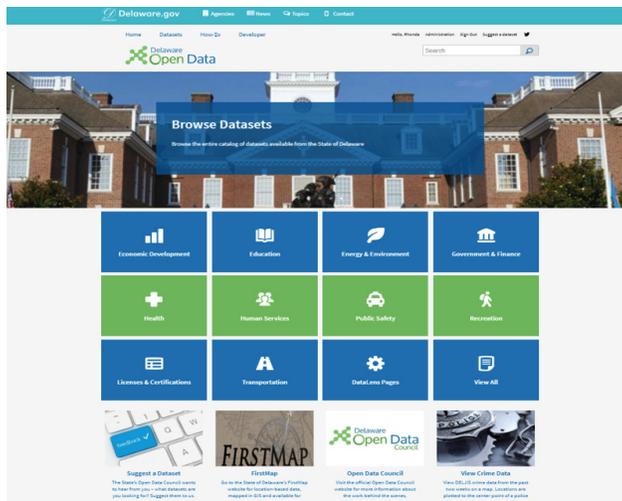
▸ Open, accessible, accountable, and transparent government
▸ Informing, involving, & empowering citizens
▸ Citizens, businesses, and governments collaborating, diagnosing, and solving problems together
▸ Fueling innovation and entrepreneurship and contributing to job creation
▸ Promoting delivery of efficient and effective services to the public

Our focus is on data that is deemed appropriate for public consumption. For some kinds of government data, security restrictions may apply and would, therefore, not be included. As we move forward, some data may be de-identified and scrubbed to exclude confidential information to make it publicly available.

Where We Are

The Governor signed Executive Order #57 on January 27, 2016, which created the Open Data Council. The Open Data Council has been working to determine data sets that might be of the most interest to citizens. Agencies participating identified an initial list of 56 data sets for inclusion in the portal.

The Open Data Portal has been designed and is ready to launch with approximately 30 data sets. Data included in the initial launch of the portal covers areas such as air quality, environmental releases, state contracts, licensed child care providers, births and deaths, cancer incidence and mortality, restaurant inspections, school profiles, student demographics, student performance, student preparation, library usage, professional licensees and disciplinary actions, traffic counts, transportation infrastructure, and state expenditures.
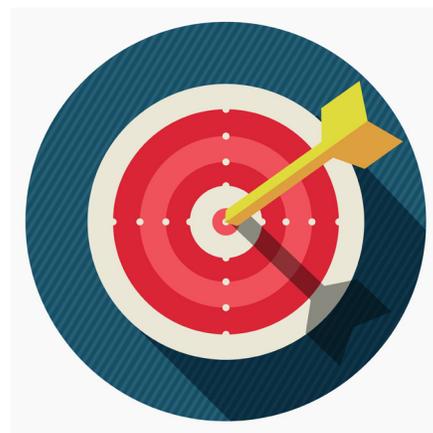
Future data sets that are in the planning stages include various types of licensed contractors, real estate inventory, boiler tanks, agricultural nursery licenses, spay and neuter program utilization, animal control and cruelty reports, animal shelter inspections, x-ray machine facilities, park visitors, deer/wildlife harvest, regulated facilities, drinking water, and state employee earnings. This list will continue to grow as more agencies are involved in this initiative and as we get feedback from the community on data they would like to see.

Goals of the Program

The portal will be launched in October 2016. After the launch, the Council's work does not stop.

Data sharing across organizations can enable more informed decision-making and improve coordination across government. The Open Data Council needs to increase visibility of the Open Data Portal and convey its benefits to state agency leaders and managers.

The Open Data Council will continue to…..

Encourage the community to use open data through API's (application programming interfaces) and other integrations to build applications, websites, or other tools to help solve community problems

Enhance agency communication with the public through the use of dynamic data in embedded visual aids in agency websites

Ensure data remains refreshed by scheduling automatic data pulls into the portal where possible

Encourage agencies to think of open data as a mind-set

Focus on high value data sets; the quantity is not as important as the quality

The Council will work iteratively to establish and refine goals. Additionally, the Council will review the current data governance policy and technology standards at DTI to determine if updates are necessary to align with open data concepts.

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Working with FirstMap

FirstMap is Delaware's enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS). We have partnered with the FirstMap team to be able to utilize the map layers that have been publicly shared. This enables the Delaware Open Data Portal to use those map layers and overlay or mash up other data to create new perspectives. The two platforms can share any data that is geographically oriented to bring more value to both sets of tools which enables the state and the citizens to have more insight into data. There are numerous FirstMap layers that will be made available in the Open Data Portal catalog covering the subject areas of boundary lines, transportation, recreation, and environmental data.

Engaging the Community

The Open Data Council will develop a marketing plan to communicate with the public about the Open Data Portal, the benefits that it offers, and encouraging citizen engagement and interaction. When the portal launches the Council will promote the Open Data Portal to the media, community organizations, and citizen advocates.

The Open Data Council has been working with the organizations listed below in planning and encouraging open data across the state and will continue to work with other organizations as appropriate.

▸ Open Data Delaware – a community of technical developers, entrepreneurs, civic activists, and representatives from government that meet regularly to explore how they can interact with data to make positive change for local Delaware communities. This group helped launch and propel the open data movement in Delaware.

▸ Zip Code Wilmington – Delaware's first coding school and one of the first non-profit coding schools in the country. Instructors assign open data projects to students to learn about application development and coding.

▸ Technology Forum of Delaware – a non-profit association that brings together businesses and the technical community to build relationships.

▸ Technical.ly Delaware – is an organization that grows local technology communities by connecting people through news, events, and services.

▸ Delaware Coalition for Open Government – a civic group that advocates for civic change and open government. Transparency in government is their key issue and their members are interested in promoting open data across the state.

Working with Open Data Delaware and Technology Forum of Delaware we are creating a pipeline of events, meetings, and networking to encourage using open data to solve community problems. We envision providing ideas for app development utilizing state open data to these organizations that will benefit the community.

Code for America promotes a day in June called National Day of Civic Hacking. Open Data Delaware hosted the first Delaware based National Day of Civic Hacking in June of this year. Next year the Open Data Portal will be publicly available and civic developers will have more data in machine-readable format for this event. In the future, we would like to provide ideas, concepts, prompts, prizes, and sponsorship to encourage solving community problems. Modeling after Go Code Colorado's annual event, the Delaware Secretary of State's Office is interested in providing grants or prizes for teams that develop applications to promote business in Delaware.

The Opportunity Project is a White House initiative to federate data from state and local governments related to expanding access to data that can lead to opportunities for all Americans to thrive. Public/private partnerships are utilized to analyze the data and provide useful information to citizens. After our Open Data Portal is launched, the Council will partner with the White House Opportunity Project to provide Delaware data for inclusion.

Policy Development

The Open Data Council will continue to provide structure, governance, and direction to the Open Data Portal. Over the next year, the Open Data Council will establish formal bylaws.

The cloud-based software that runs the Open Data portal is financially supported by the Government Information Center (GIC) in the Delaware Department of State. The current pricing model will support up to 150 data sets; after 150 we must pay for a higher licensing level. In the next year or two, we anticipate hitting the ceiling of 150 data sets. The Council has already started to ask the question, "When we reach that threshold, we must consider who will fund the next level, and at what price?" The Council will consider various funding models for future growth. Since our goal is to support future growth and adoption of open data, we must be ready to support it financially.

In order to use dataset licenses wisely, the Council is prioritizing datasets. The highest priority data sets are determined by the following: strategic initiatives, issue areas, public interest, FOIA, data sharing, and more (see the Data Prioritization Rubric).

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DATA PRIORITIZATION RUBRIC

	DEFINITION	RESPONSE	PRIORITIZATION
Strategic initiatives of the Governor's administration	Does this data set show progress on a strategic initiative?	Yes/No	If yes, add 10 points
Issue areas	Does this data provide insight on key issues for your agency?	Yes/No	If yes, add 10 points
Public interest	Is the data frequently requested? If quantifiable, please note.	Yes/No, Value	If yes, add 10 points. Add 10 more points if you have quantifiable requests.
FOIA	Is this data frequently requested via FOIA?	Yes/No	If yes, add 10 points
Data sharing among State Government	Can publication of the data facilitate collaboration with other state agencies?	Yes/No	If yes, add 10 points
Cost of maintaining data	Does your agency spend significant funds on maintaining data, if so, then there is a high likelihood that others would like access to it.	High/Low Spend	If high spend, add 10 points
Data set included in Open Data census	The US Open Data Census contains some of the more highly requested data sets across the country and is a good indicator for public demand https://usopendata.org/2015/11/16/census/	Yes/No	If yes, add 5 points
Data readiness / Ease of publishing	Is the data set ready or close to ready to be published? Are these data already being published, but not in a central, organized location and in open format? Is meta data readily available?	Yes/No	If yes, add 5 points
Data quality	Rate the data on: structure, completeness, consistency, and refresh rate. Structured data (i.e. in a database, spreadsheet). Complete data (are there gaps in data?) Consistent (are there inconsistent addresses, making location harder to define?) Refreshed (are there existing processes to update/publish this data?)	Structure, Completeness, Consistency, Refresh Rate	For each area, add 5 points

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Expanding the Open Data Council

The Open Data Council is currently made up of eight state agencies and two offices. After the Open Data Portal launches, additional agencies will be invited. We plan to expand incrementally, strategically inviting agencies from across all branches of government that we believe have data that would be very beneficial to the public. Eventually, all agencies will be invited to participate.

Citizens will also benefit from having data from their local municipality and county governments. Since Delaware is small, it makes sense to have all of our government data together. We will work with these government agencies to educate them about open data and the benefits it provides. Local governments will be provided the opportunity to submit data sets for inclusion where appropriate and under a process and cost to be determined by the Council.

Conclusion

The Open Data Council will revisit this strategic plan in six months so that lessons learned, user feedback, agency feedback, and changing goals and priorities of government can be incorporated. Delaware is new to open data and we have a lot to learn. To our benefit, there are many other states, counties, and cities that we are learning from every day. We will continue to learn and adapt to the changing landscape as we engage our citizens and understand what they want to see from their government. Open Data can be used to benefit everyone and help our citizens and communities thrive.

Submitted by the State of Delaware Open Data Council

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▸ Visit the Delaware Open Data Council on the web at
opendatacouncil.delaware.gov