



Interagency Council on
Statistical Policy

Leaders of the United States Federal Statistical System

The Evidence Act's Standard Application Process

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- Foundations for the Standard Application Process (SAP)
- SAP Development and Implementation Progress



Foundations for the Standard Application Process (SAP)



Evidence Commission Recommendation

“The Office of Management and Budget should promulgate a **single, streamlined process for researchers** external to the government **to apply, become qualified,** and **gain approval to access government data that are not publicly available.**”

Source: [The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking](#), Rec. 2-8, p. 46



Evidence Act requires establishing SAP



Each statistical agency implements the standard process



Common application form



Standard review criteria for access determination



Timeframes for prompt determinations



Standards for transparency



An appeals process for adverse decisions



SAP Standardizes Application Processes

- For the first time, **all statistical agencies will use a standardized process** for accepting and reviewing applications for restricted use data.
- Will add value through the **streamlining of data discovery, standardization, and increased coordination.**
- Individual data providers will remain the trusted intermediary to access data.



Potential of the SAP

- The SAP is **customer-centric**, providing a **one-stop shop for applying for access to restricted use data** from statistical agencies/units.
- The **SAP is a service** being built by and within the statistical system today under the Evidence Act.
- The **SAP is a framework for future government-wide evidence-building efforts** – being built with room to grow.



SAP Development and Implementation Progress



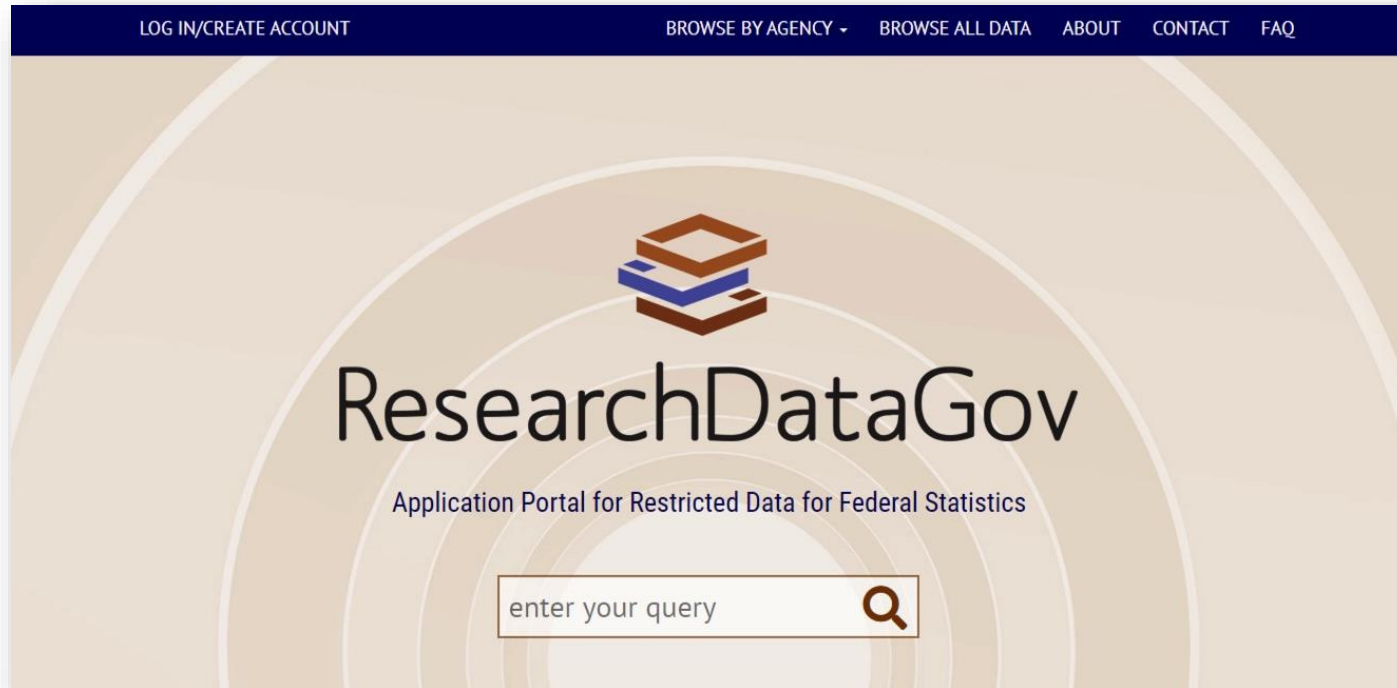
SAP Development Process

- Leveraged the experience of the statistical system, non-statistical agencies that provide access to restricted data, experiences from a phase 1 pilot, and stakeholder input.

- SAP development involves three equally critical activities:
 1. Creation of a policy defining the SAP
 2. Implementation of the SAP Portal
 3. Stakeholder outreach and engagement








Phase 1 Pilot Provided Many Lessons





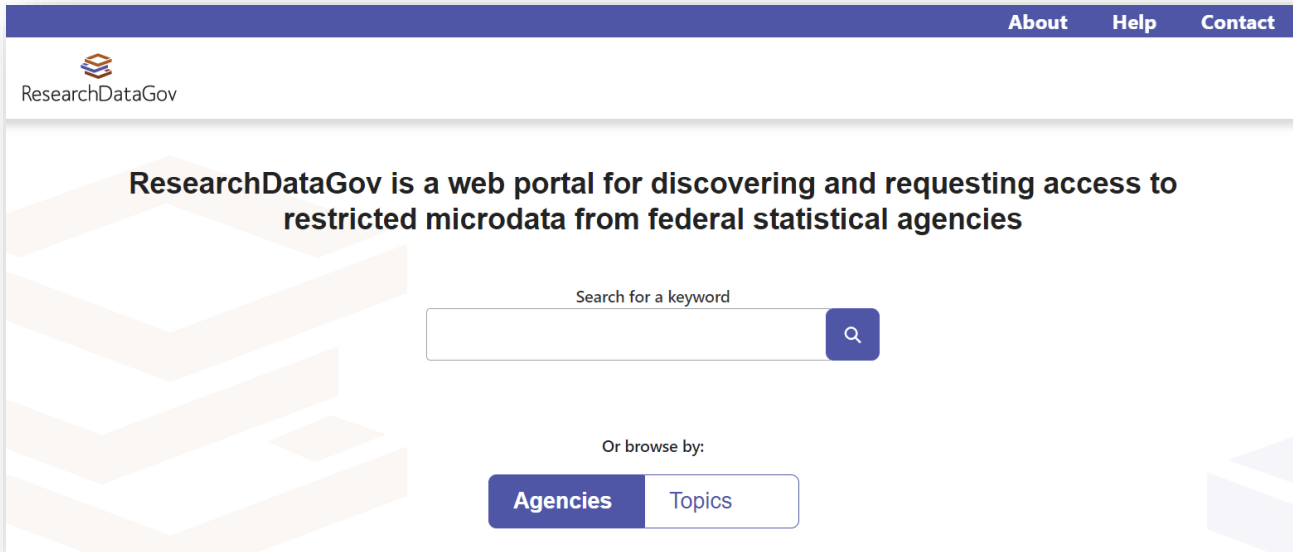
Phase 2 Will Expand Capabilities

-  Full single application
-  Enhanced data catalogue
-  Participation from all statistical agencies
-  Use of standard review criteria for agency reviews
-  Standard timeframes for reviewing application



General Implementation Timeline

- **March 2022:**
SAP data catalogue published
- **Late 2022:**
Expanded SAP functionality





Continued Expansion of Engagement

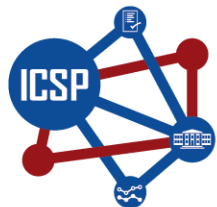


Stakeholder feedback is integral to ensuring that the SAP supports improved access to restricted-use data and expanded evidence-building capacity.



We plan to have more frequent two-way communication with an increasing number of stakeholders as the SAP develops.

- **Regular email updates to stakeholders**
- **Public website with SAP information**
- **Webinars**
- **Presentations**
- **Focus Groups**



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<https://www.researchdatagov.org/>

<https://nces.nsf.gov/about/standard-application-process>