Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

Office of the Chief Statistician of the United States

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Karin Orvis, Chief Statistician of the United States

2023 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research and Policy Conference

Oct 24, 2023

Welcome to the 2023 FCSM Conference!

Program Committee

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- Jeffrey Gonzalez, BLS
- Jessica Graber, NCHS
- Jessica Holzberg, Census Bureau
- David Kashihara, AHRQ
- Darius Singpurwalla, NCSES
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- Tamara Lee, VA
- Richard Levy, Census Bureau
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- Jennifer Rhorer, NASS
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- Valerie Testa, SOI
- Julie Weeks, NCHS
- Doug Williams, BLS

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2023 FCSM Conference Theme:

Building Toward the Future: Strengthening and Expanding the Capacity of the Federal Statistical Ecosystem

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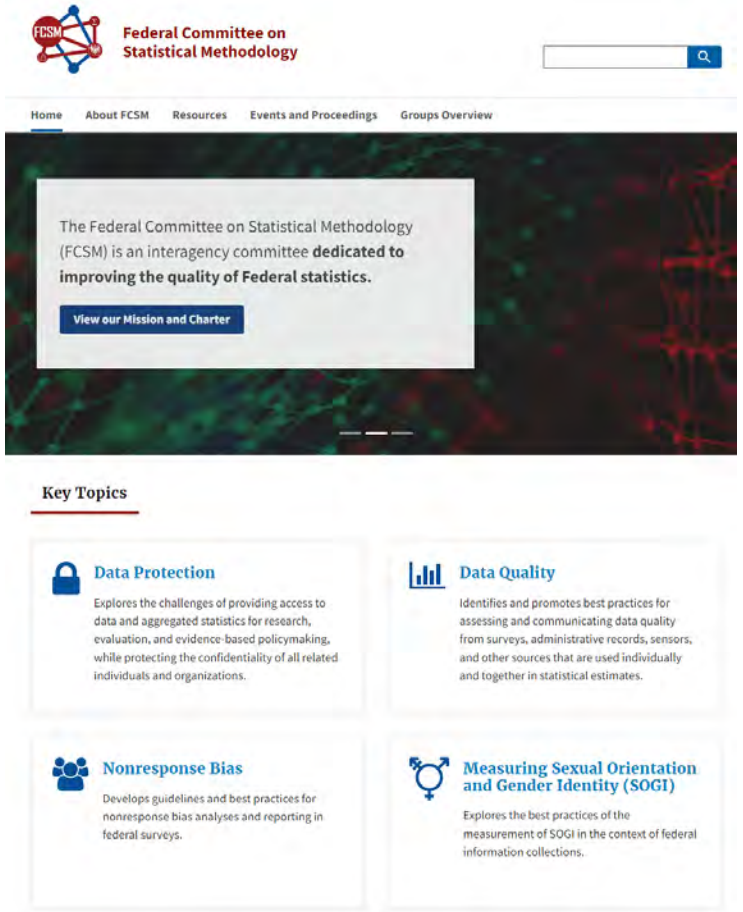
FCSM.gov

Great resources like Data Protection Toolkit and Framework for Data Quality



Link to Register for Free Virtual Training: Visit FCSM.gov

Chief Statistician of the United States

The Federal Statistical System

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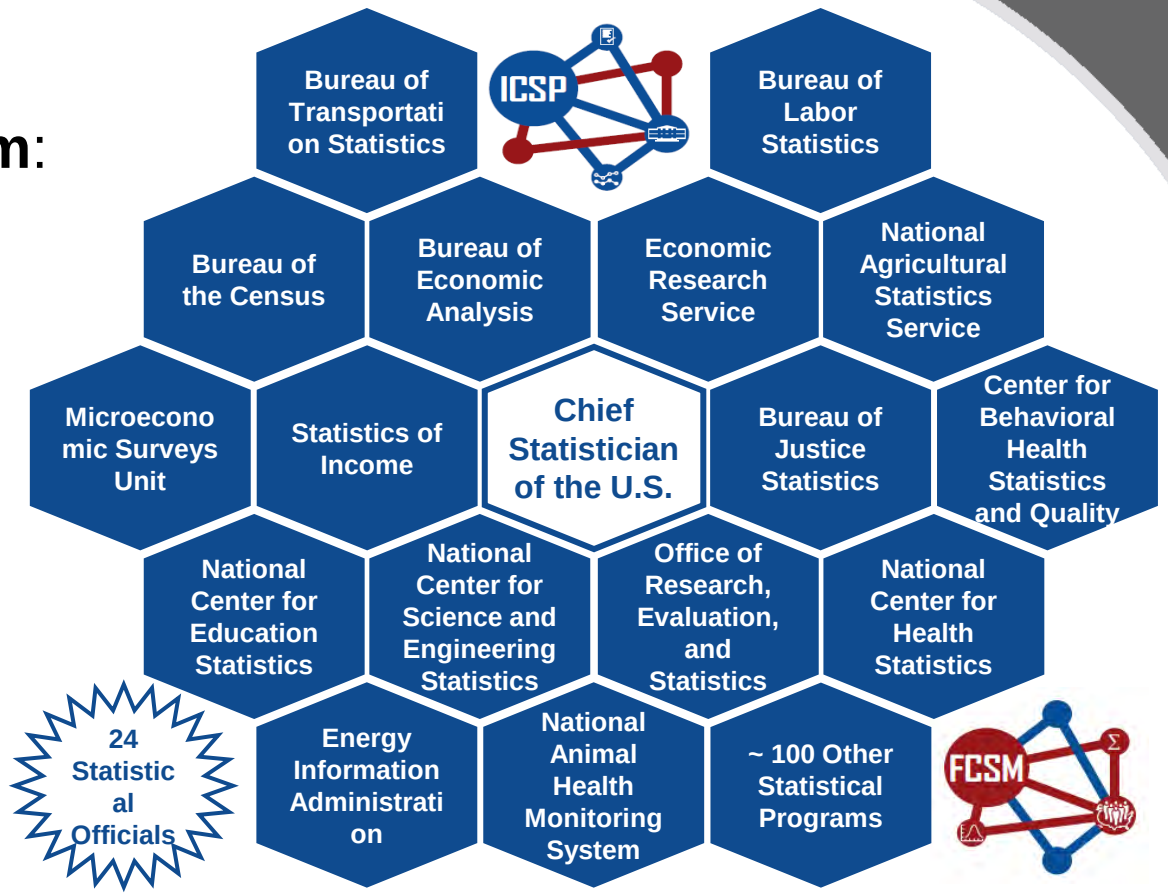
U.S. Federal Statistical System (FSS)

Who Are We?

Decentralized, Interconnected System:

- Chief Statistician of the United States (CSOTUS)
- 16 Recognized Statistical Agencies and Units (RSAUs)
- ~ 100 Other Statistical Programs
- 24 Statistical Officials (S.O.s)
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP)
- Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM)



See: **StatsPolicy.Gov**

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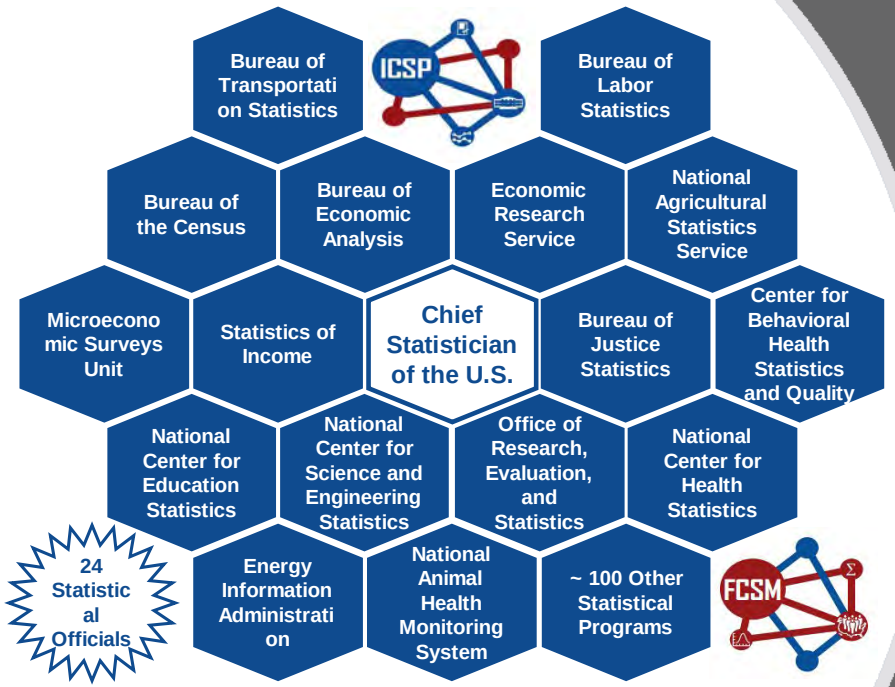
U.S. Federal Statistical System (FSS)

- **What's Our Common Purpose?**
  - To provide useful, objective, high quality statistical data – and meaningfully expand access to this data for evidence building purposes
- **Our Vision**:

  *"**Operates as a seamless system**, as stewards of much of the nation's most sensitive data, enabling greater evidence building, civic engagement, and public and private sector decision-making"*

  - ***Seamless? → Example Definitions***:
    - *Smooth and continuous – with no apparent gaps or spaces between one part and next*
    - *Happening without changes, interruptions, or difficulty*
    - *Without noticeable change from one part to the next*



See: **StatsPolicy.Gov**

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What does a ‘Seamless’ FSS Look Like?

- **Efficiency and effectiveness in working together** to address challenges
  - **Cross collaboration and coordination**
  - **Integrating data** across agencies and missions
  - **No unnecessary duplication of effort** within/across agencies in data life cycle
  - **Use of common frameworks, guidelines, techniques, and best practices**
  - **Shared infrastructure, services and capacities**, when feasible
- **Seamless, common "experience"** for data users
- **Shared decision-making**
- **Shared communication and messaging** – Speaking in one voice to strengthen FSS brand recognition and trust in Federal statistics broadly

Operating as a seamless system requires active engagement from all of us!

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Current Efforts and Way Forward Toward This Vision

- **Shared governance, decision-making, and communications**
  - ICSP, FCSM, agency data governance
- **System-wide regulations and policies - providing common frameworks**
  - Three Evidence Act regulations!
  - Statistical Policy Directives for Common Statistical and Classification Standards
- **Shared infrastructure, services, tools, and capacities**
  - The Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (FSRDCs)
  - The Standard Application Process (SAP)
  - A potential National Secure Data Service (NSDS)
  - FCSM Tools – Data Quality Framework, Data Protection Toolkit, etc.
- **Seamless, common "experience" for data users**
  - Many of the above!

These Are Reflective of my Priorities, and of the ICSP, for the FSS.

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Few Highlighted FSS Priorities

- Advancing the “Trust” regulation
- Presumption of Access regulation
- Expanding Secure Data Access regulation
- Standard Application Process (SAP)
- National Secure Data Service (NSDS) demonstration

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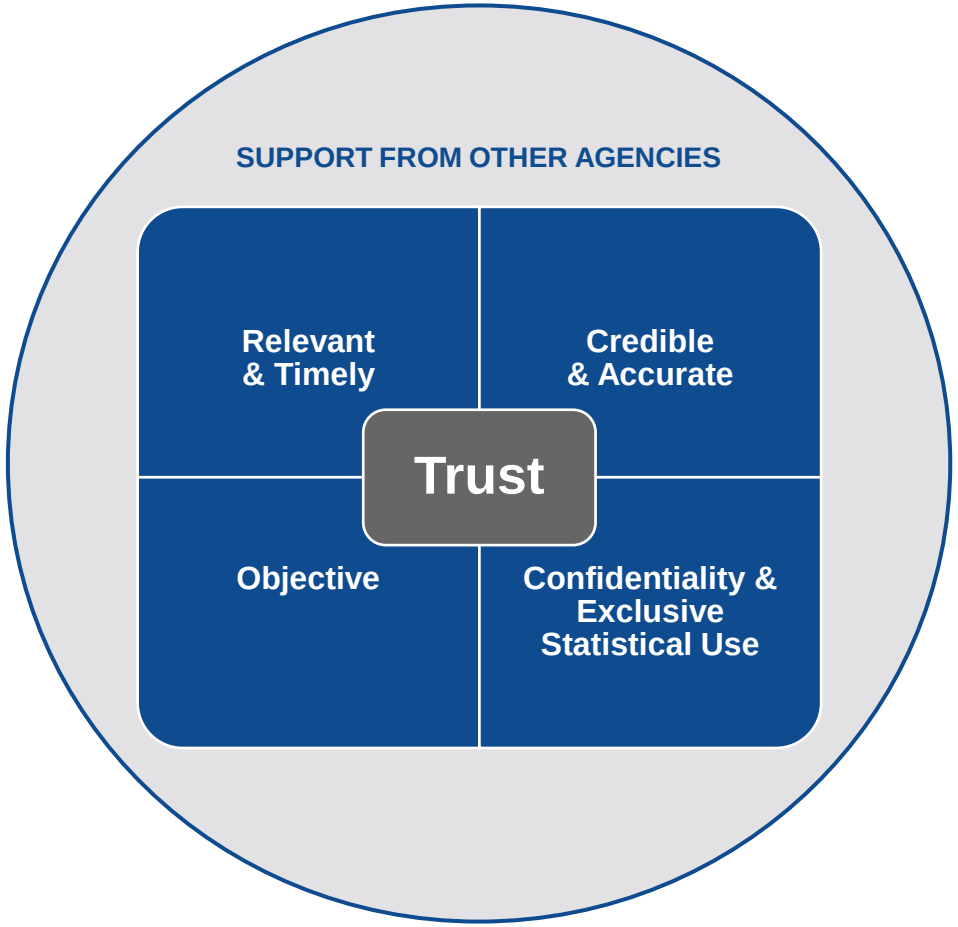
U.S. – Trust Regulation

The Four Responsibilities / Principles of Statistical Agencies (and their Staff)



See also, strong alignment with the United Nations' Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) – Celebrating 30 years of the FPOS!

See: https://unece.org/FPOS30

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Few Highlighted FSS Priorities

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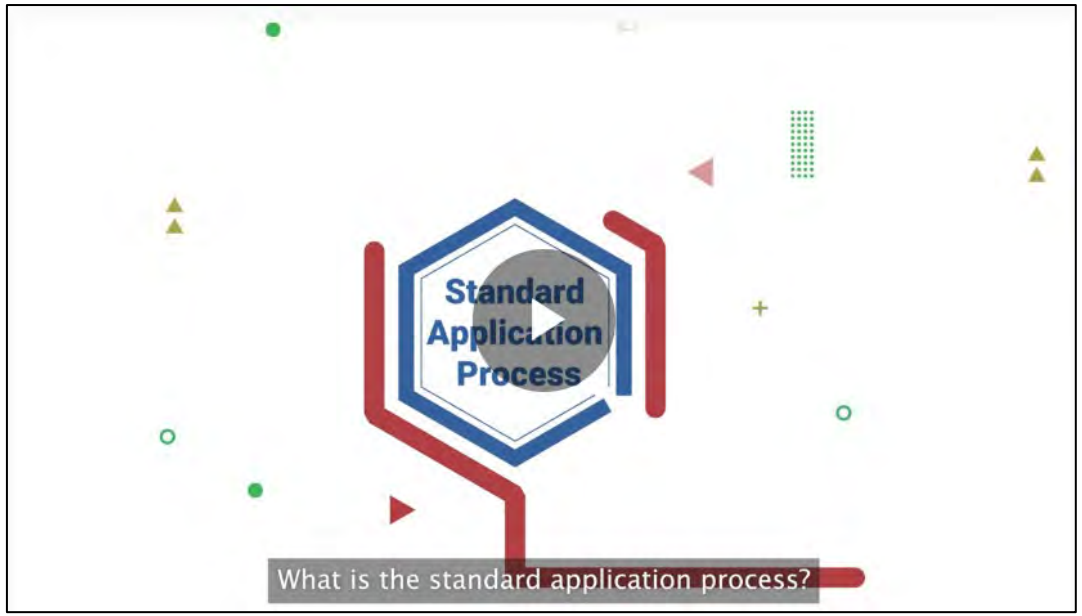
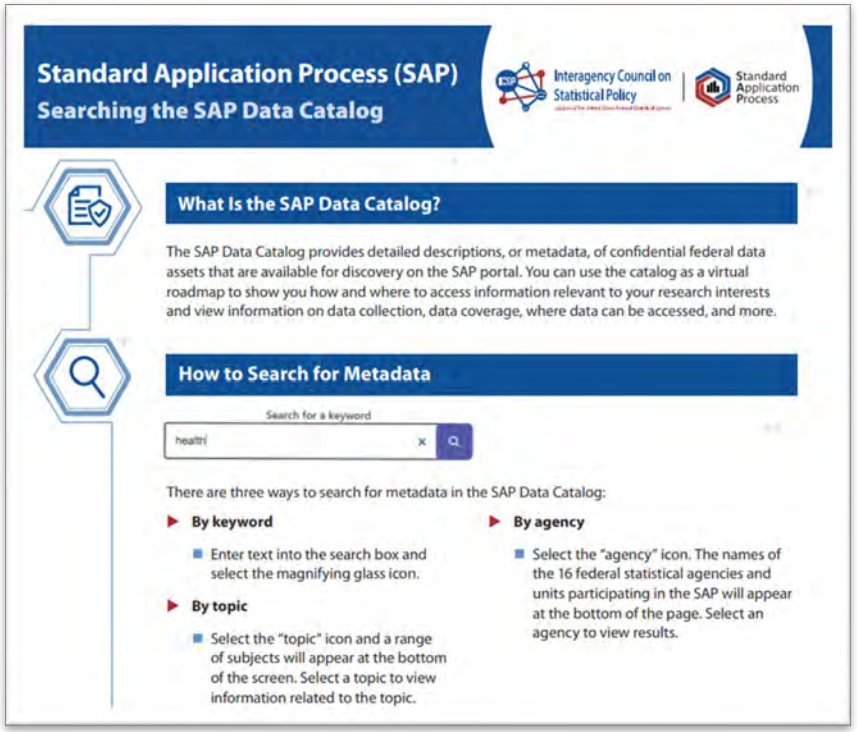
Standard Application Process (SAP)

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy
Leaders of the United States Federal Statistical System

Standard Application Process



SAP Informational Video



Standard Application Process (SAP)
Searching the SAP Data Catalog

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy | Standard Application Process

What Is the SAP Data Catalog?

The SAP Data Catalog provides detailed descriptions, or metadata, of confidential federal data assets that are available for discovery on the SAP portal. You can use the catalog as a virtual roadmap to show you how and where to access information relevant to your research interests and view information on data collection, data coverage, where data can be accessed, and more.

How to Search for Metadata

Search for a keyword

health

There are three ways to search for metadata in the SAP Data Catalog:

- **By keyword**
  - Enter text into the search box and select the magnifying glass icon.
- **By topic**
  - Select the "topic" icon and a range of subjects will appear at the bottom of the screen. Select a topic to view information related to the topic.
- **By agency**
  - Select the "agency" icon. The names of the 16 federal statistical agencies and units participating in the SAP will appear at the bottom of the page. Select an agency to view results.

For more see: https://ncses.nsf.gov/about/standard-application-process

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National Secure Data Service (NSDS)

Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

ACDEB
Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building

The CHIPS and Science Act

We need your input and ideas!

America's Data Hub Idea Bank

Calling all ideas!

America's Data Hub Consortium (ADC) is inviting all members of the public to join us in contributing insights to our new Idea Bank. By sharing your ideas, you can directly inform future project solicitations and activities by ADC, and shape a potential NSDS.

Submit ideas here →

https://www.americasdatahub.org/idea-bank-form

For more information:

Stop by the Booth at FCSM and Sessions G-4 or G-6!

https://ncses.nsf.gov/about/national-secure-data-service-demo

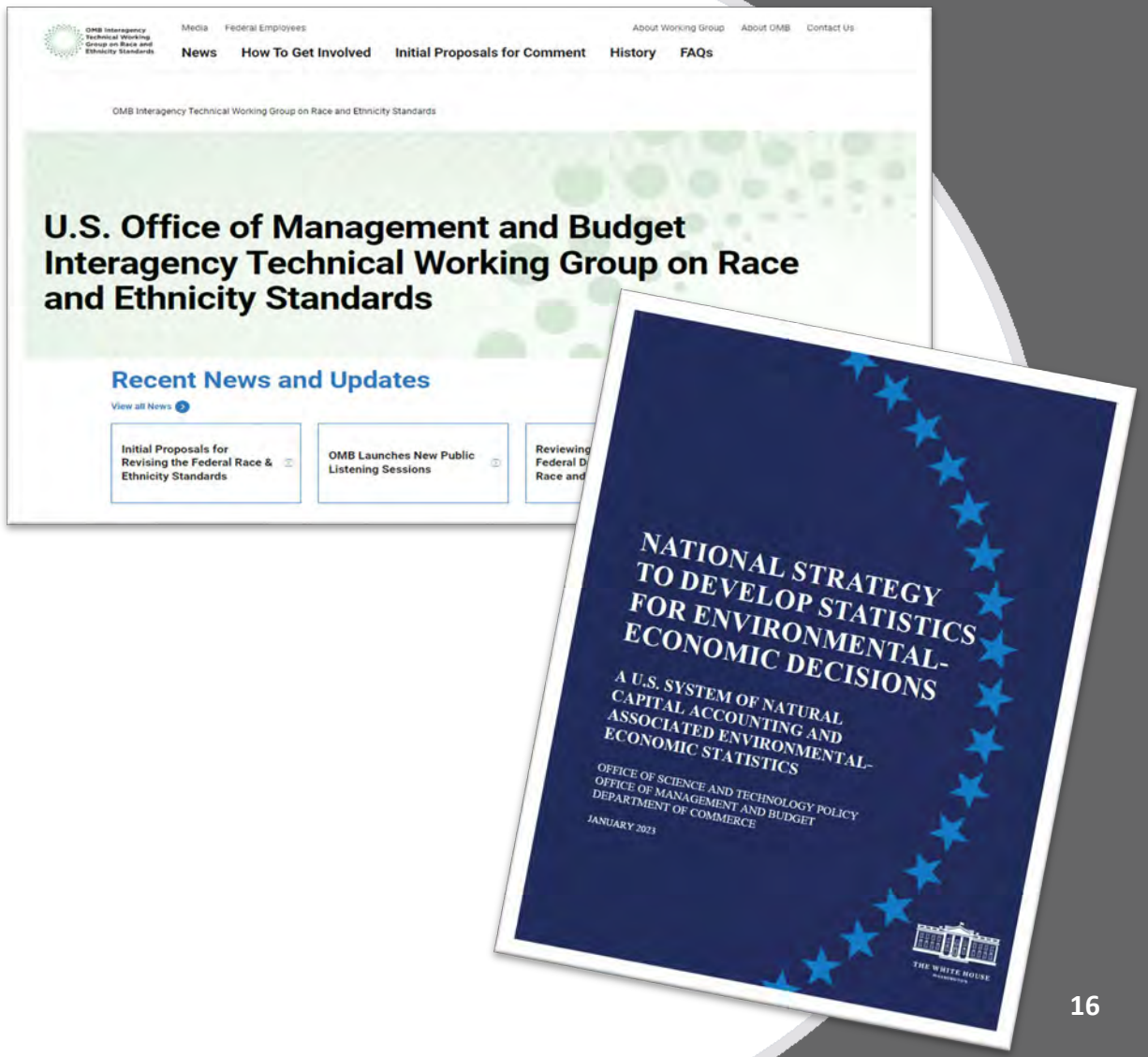
NSF | NCSES | ICSP

Other Example 'Seamless' Efforts Across FSS

- **Government-wide Statistical Standards and Classification Standards**

Examples:

- Review & revision of OMB's Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity
  - See spd15revision.gov
- Implementation of New Strategy: *National Strategy for Statistics for Environmental-Economic Decisions*
  - ITWG to develop new classification system
- Executive Order on Bioeconomy
  - ITWG on bioeconomy to produce recommendations for updating Industry and Product Classification Systems (NAICS & NAPCS)



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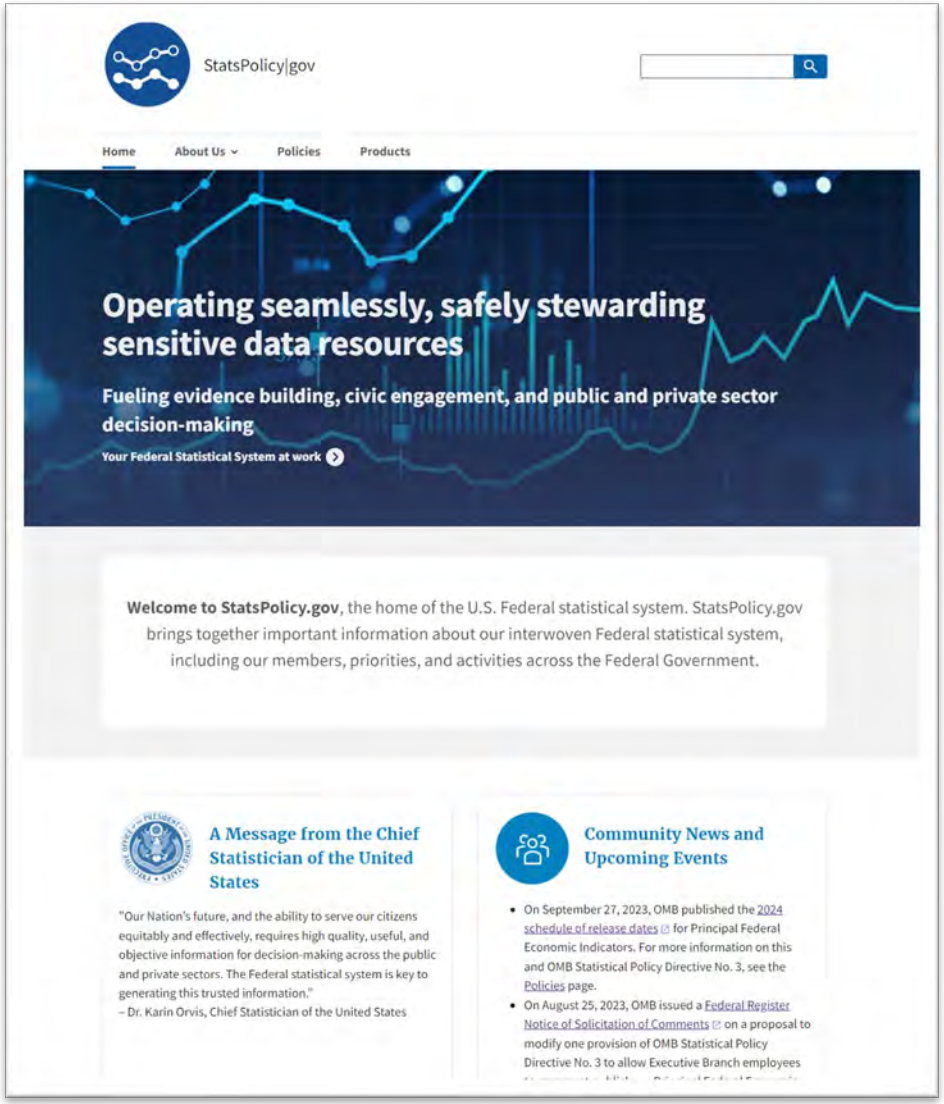
Other Example ‘Seamless’ Efforts Across FSS

StatsPolicy.gov - launched!

Includes many resources:

- Information about the U.S. FSS, including about its leadership, and top priorities and activities
- Community News and Events
- Governing Laws and Policies
- Statistical Policy Directives
- Chapters in the Analytical Perspectives volume of the President's Budget
- Reports to Congress on the Statistical Programs of the U.S. Government
- and more!



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FSS-Wide Engagement Opportunities!

Get Involved!

- FCSM Groups **FCSM.gov/groups/**

  Engage with experts on topics/ methodologies; produce products

  - Interest Groups
  - Working Groups

- ICSP Mentoring Program
  - Annual program
  - Next kickoff in early 2024
  - Structured mentor/mentee relationships for professional development

- Office of the CSOTUS
  - Come on a Detail with us!
    - Support FSS-wide priorities through leading projects, developing statistical policies, and/or supporting implementation
  - Participate in topical ITWGs
    - Engage with experts to review and analyze an FSS issue/challenge and develop recommendations to the CSOTUS

Connect with us! Statistical_Directives@omb.eop.gov

FSS Website: https://www.statspolicy.gov/

Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

New Challenges and New Opportunities for the Federal Statistical System

Dr. Katharine Abraham

Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland

Chair, Committee on National Statistics,
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine