

How the U.S. Statistical System is Expanding Secure Access for Evidence Building

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The U.S. Federal Statistical System: Why We're Here, What We Do, Who We Are, and Career Opportunities

We're seeking your input, experience, talent, and data needs for the Federal Data Ecosystem

- Find and apply for the confidential data you need: *Standard Application Process (and Portal)*
- Contribute to refining and building a government-wide data linkage and data access infrastructure: *The National Secure Data Service Demonstration Project*



Improving Access to Federal Data Assets and Strengthening Data Infrastructure



Standard Application Process



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



Bureau of Justice Statistics



SAP Establishment: Evidence Act

The [Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 \(§ 3583\)](#) requires that OMB establish a process through which agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, researchers, and individuals may apply to access confidential federal data



Standardized process across statistical agencies



Common application form



Standard review criteria for access determination



Timeframes for prompt determinations

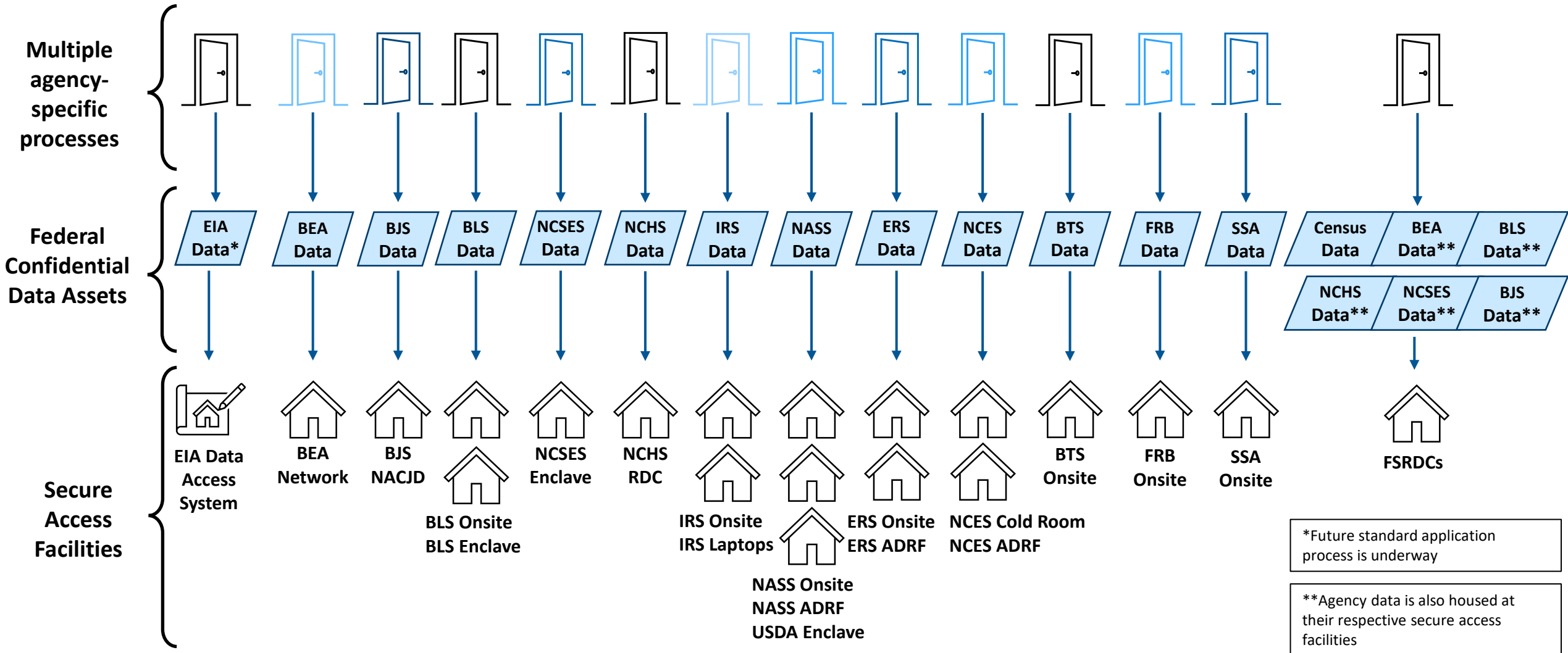


Standards for transparency

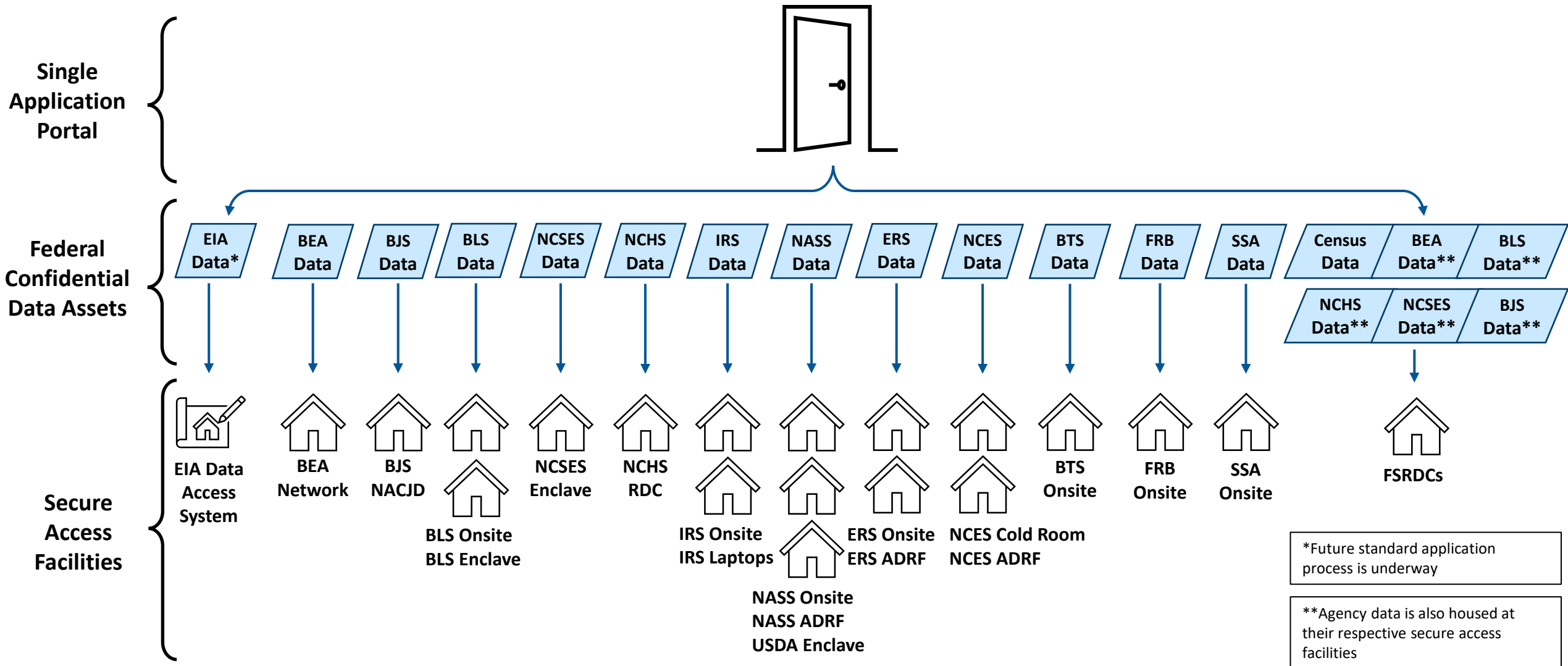


An appeals process for adverse decisions

The Past – Decentralized Application Process



Current – Standard Application Process



Making decisions faster...



58 days

When requesting data from a single agency.

SAP policy time limit is 84 days.

109 days

When requesting data from **two** or more authorizing agencies.

SAP policy time limit is 168 days.

148 days

Where data require approval from outside the SAP.

Exempt from SAP policy time limits.

823

Applications
Submitted

Engaging your communities

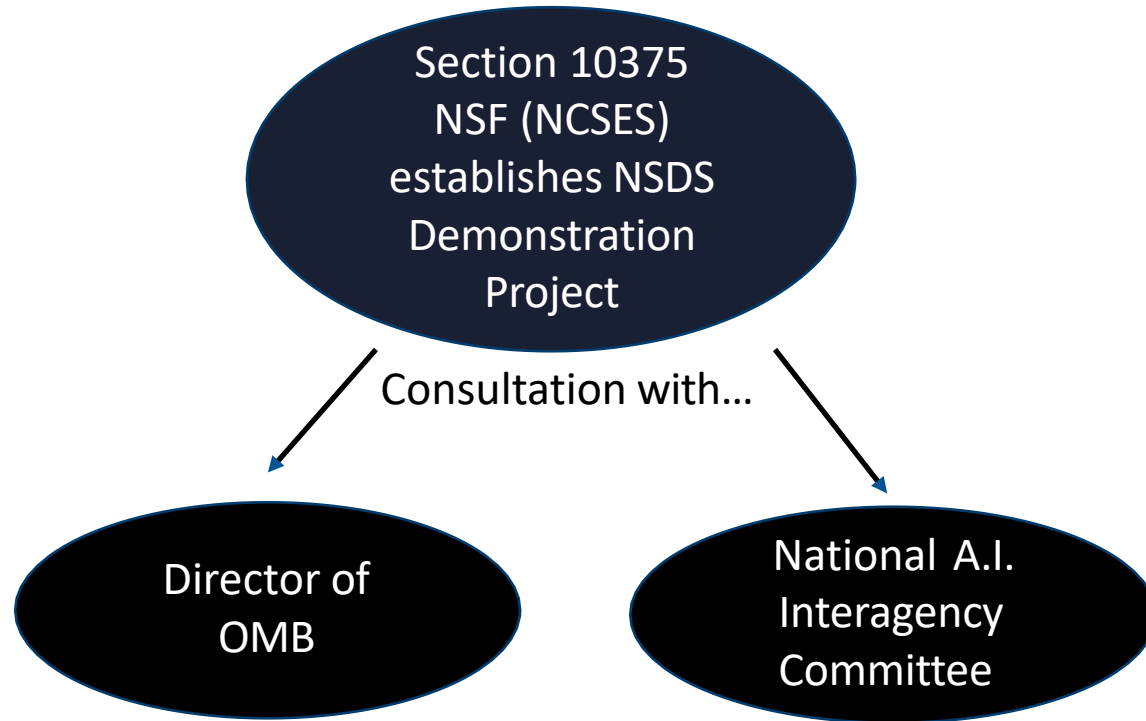
- Public webinars such as “The Standard Application Process (SAP): How it Works and What to Expect”
- The SAP newsletter, which has over 3,000 subscribers
 - Sign up at the [SAP website](#) to receive the newsletter
- Upcoming series of SAP listening sessions
 - These include virtual and in-person listening sessions focused on engaging input and feedback from SAP users
- [Learning resources](#): Applicant Checklist, Reviewer Checklist, and Who to Contact with Questions, and more

Seeking your input and involvement

- Do shared federal statistical services help you meet your data and research needs?
- How can the SAP Portal better meet your needs?
- What are your suggestions and recommendations as we consider the future of the SAP Portal?

National Secure Data Service Demonstration part of H.R. 4346, CHIPS and Science Act of 2022

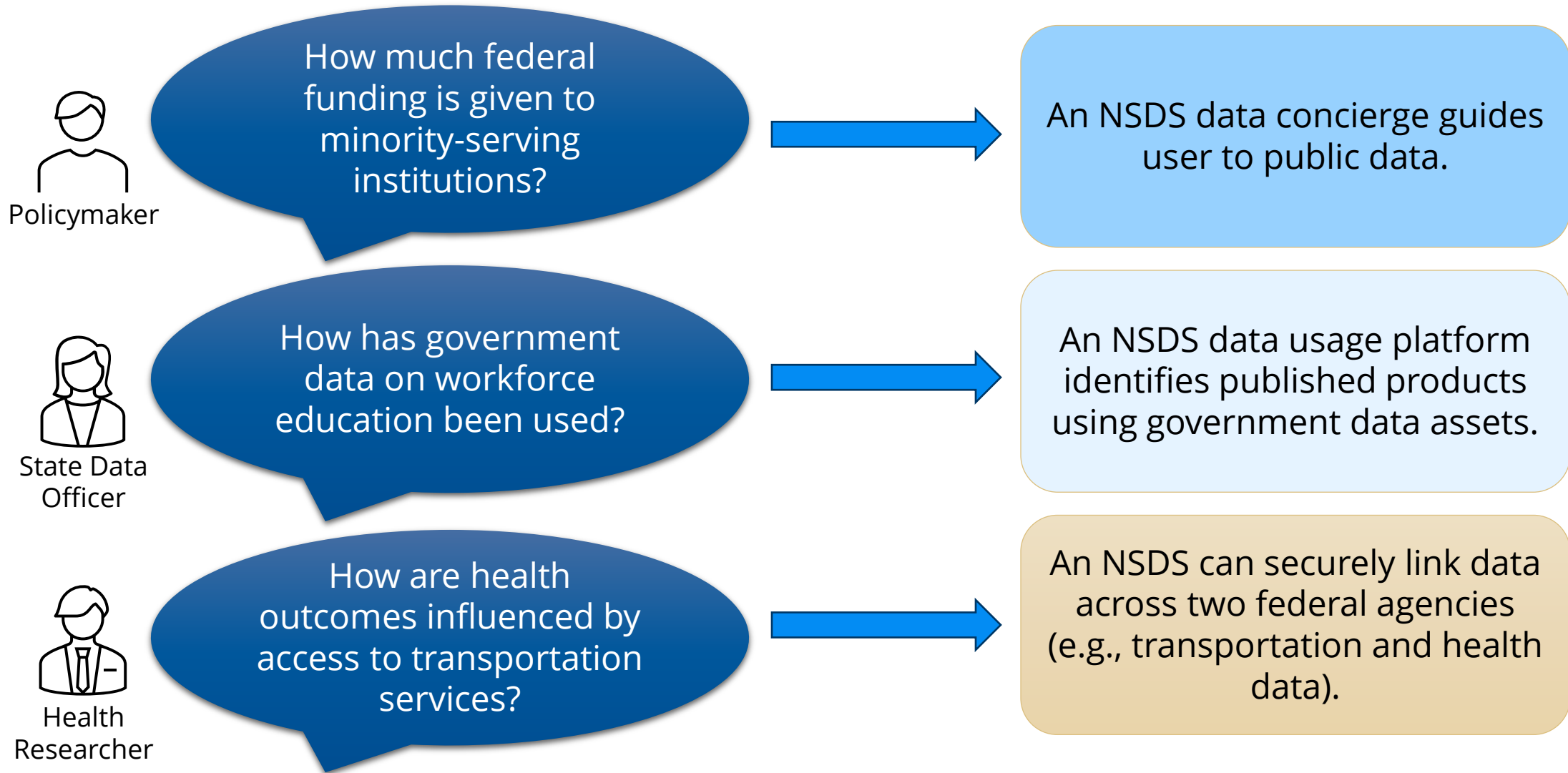
(a) In general...



Shall...

Establish a demonstration project to develop, refine, and test models to inform the full implementation for a government-wide data linkage and data access infrastructure for statistical activities conducted for statistical purposes, as defined in chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.

Questions an NSDS can help answer



National Secure Data Service Demonstration



Pilot potential shared services, technologies, and techniques that might be used within a potential National Secure Data Service



Focus on novel **capacity building, data sharing and access**, research collaborations, **user needs and experiences, data linkage** methodologies, and **privacy preserving technologies and techniques.**



Explore innovation



Can not be a data warehouse.

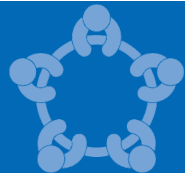
Data will not be collected and housed under the demonstration project.

NSDS Demonstration Project: Envisioned capabilities



Expanded Access & Collaboration

- ✓ Recruit “nontraditional” innovators, including underrepresented and underserved communities.
- ✓ Expand outreach into state governments.
- ✓ Host collaboration events to build a common understanding of challenges and potential solutions and facilitate teambuilding.



Communication & Transparency

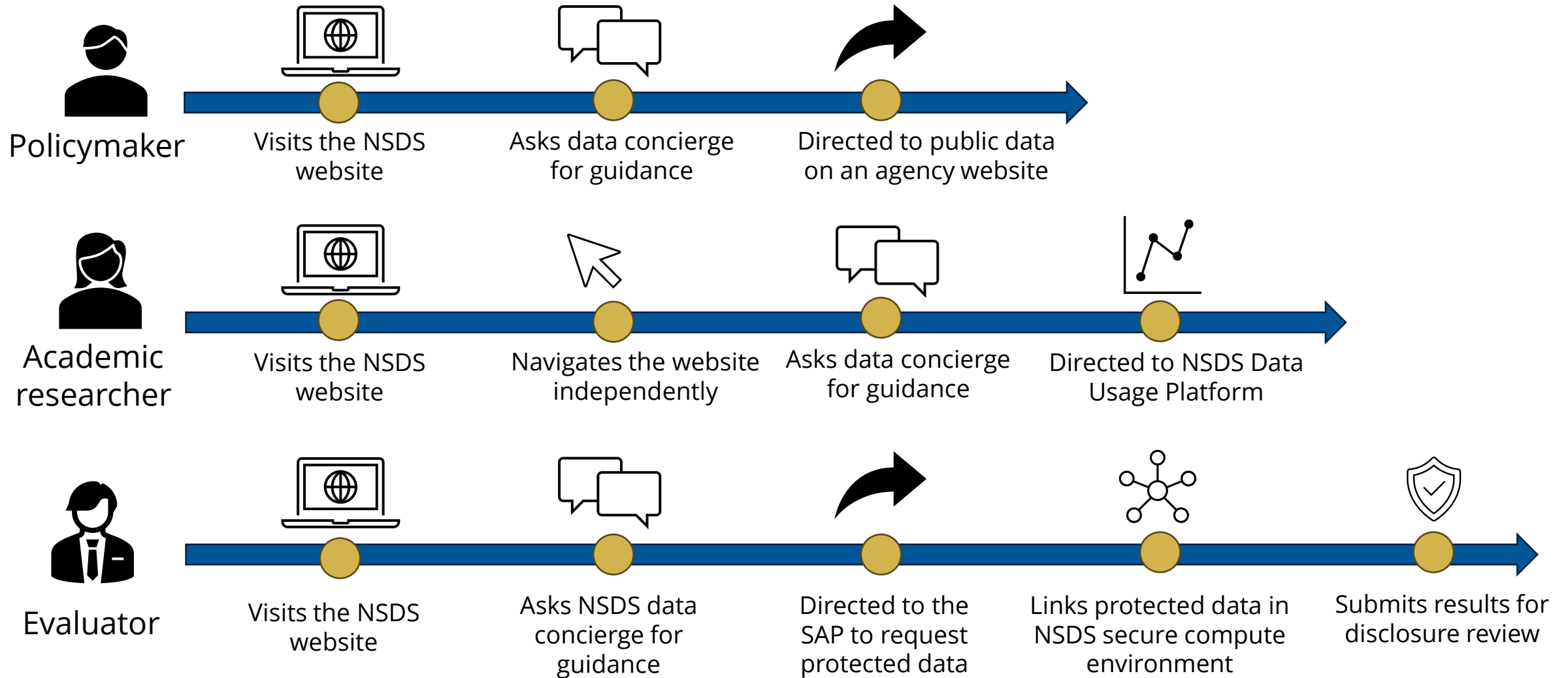
- ✓ Tailor communications aligned with comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy (speak with “one voice”).
- ✓ Build awareness and understanding of NSDS demo efforts and related initiatives (e.g., ICSP Pilots, SAP, etc.) via multiple channels (e.g., website, social media, conferences, project demos, etc.).



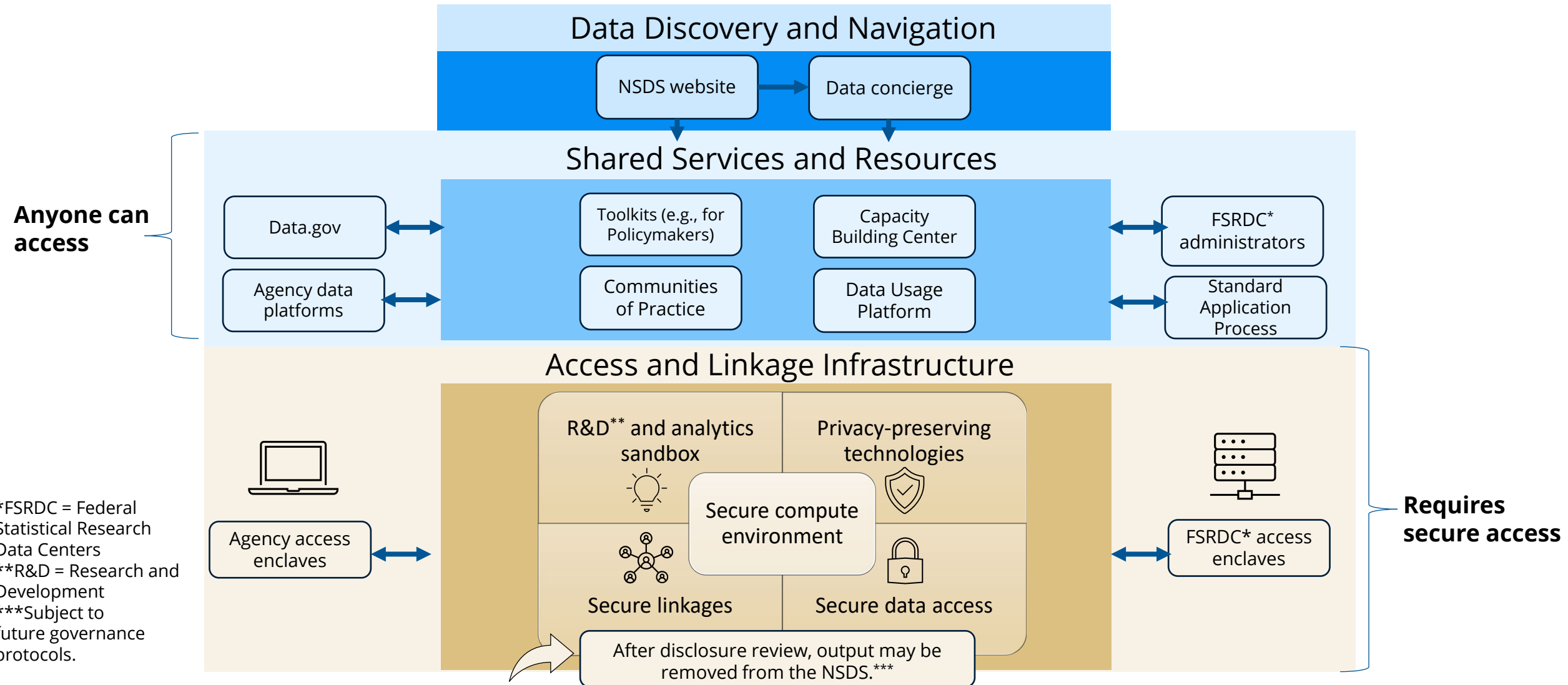
Fast, Flexible, & Seamless Execution

- ✓ Other Arrangement – streamline acquisition instrument.
- ✓ Flexible solicitation/award processes, rapid contracting support.
- ✓ Awards projects to test features/functions in a phased approach.
- ✓ Minimize barriers to data sharing (e.g., standardized agreements).

NSDS User Journey Examples

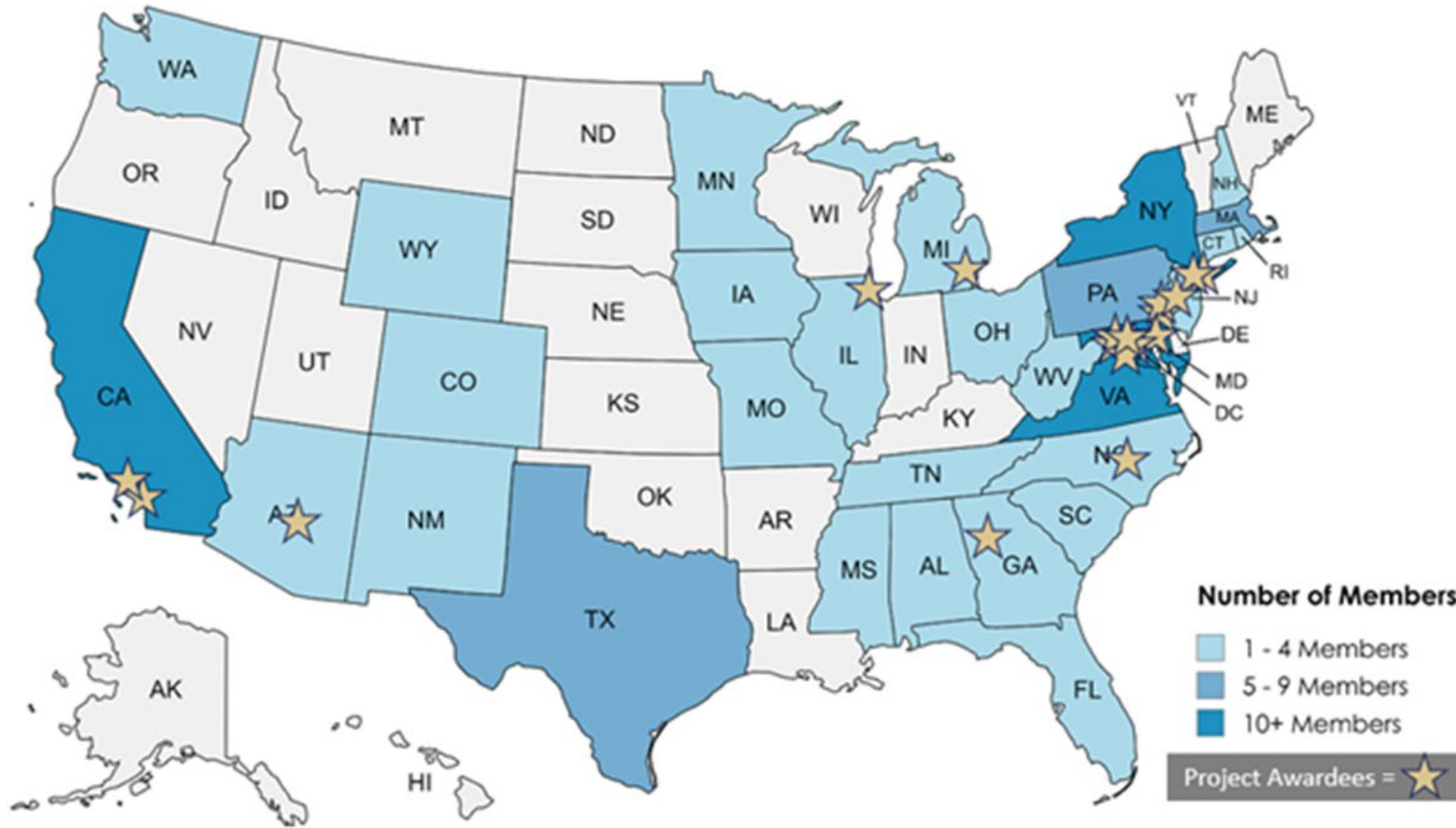


What could an NSDS look like?

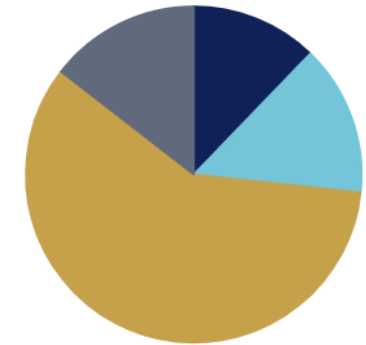


*FSRDC = Federal Statistical Research Data Centers
**R&D = Research and Development
***Subject to future governance protocols.

Access to Innovators Across the U.S.



131 Members
30 States



16 Academic

19 Large

77 Small

19 Non-profit

67% Non-traditional

33% Traditional

Seeking your input and involvement

1. What specific barriers have you encountered when trying to access and use data for research and evidence-building (e.g., access, training, cost)? How could services like the NSDS help to address some of those challenges?
2. What is one example of how a researcher in your area or discipline might use NSDS resources?