

Revised June 7

DATA Act Training

Presented by the Data Foundation

June 8, 2017

The Loft at 600 F, 600 F Street NW, Washington DC 20003

Recommended Reading

[*The DATA Act: Vision & Value*](#), July 2016

by Frank Landefeld, Jamie Yachera, and Hudson Hollister

[*DATA Act 2022: Changing Technology, Changing Culture*](#), May 2017

by Dave Mader, Tasha Austin, Christina Canavan, Dean Ritz, and Matt Rumsey

Syllabus

9:30 am - 10:00 am

Registration and Coffee

10:00 am - 10:05 am

Welcome from the Senior Executives Association

Bill Valdez, President, Senior Executives Association

10:05 am - 10:30 am

Session I: Welcome and Introduction to the DATA Act

Faculty:

Hudson Hollister, Interim President, Data Foundation

Dave Mader, former Controller, White House Office of Management and Budget

Abstract: The DATA Act of 2014 is the nation's first open data law and the largest transformation for federal financial management, spending oversight, and award reporting since the CFO Act of 1990. In this lecture, Hudson Hollister, who wrote the initial version of the DATA Act as a Congressional staffer before its introduction by Rep. Darrell Issa and Sen. Mark Warner in 2011, will describe the history of the law, its original intent, and how it shapes the modernization of federal spending. Dave Mader, who served as Controller at the White House Office of Management and Budget until 2017, will put the mandate in context with the federal government's history of financial management reforms.

10:30 am - 11:00 am

Session II: Why the DATA Act Matters: New Uses for Standardized Spending Information

Faculty:

Bryce Pippert, Board of Directors, Data Foundation

Becky Sweger, Data and Software Engineer, GSA 18F

Abstract: The DATA Act's central goal is to standardize federal agencies' spending information - financial data, award data, and related reports - and create a single, unified data set covering the whole federal government. Agencies began reporting standardized spending information in April-May 2017 and developers began using the new data set. In this short session, Data Foundation board member Bryce Pippert will share the results of the first-ever DATA Act Hackathon, a public competition to develop new applications, visualizations, and analyses of federal spending. These new applications are a first taste of the ways in which the newly-standardized data can help all the users of federal spending information: agencies, inspectors general, Congress, grant and contract recipients, and the public.

11:00 am - 11:15 am

Break

11:15 am - 11:45 am

Session III: How the DATA Act Works: A Government-Wide Structure for Spending Information

Faculty:

Amy Edwards, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Aileen Burgman, Financial Management Advisor, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Karen Bourne, Data Management Solution Lead, Grant Thornton

Abstract: Applying government-wide data standards to federal spending - financial data, award data, and related information - is the central goal of the DATA Act. Following the law's mandate, the Treasury Department and the White House Office of Management and Budget created a government-wide data dictionary, or *schema*, to impose standardized fields and formats across all spending information. This session introduces the DATA Act Information Model Schema (DAIMS) to non-technical professionals. The DAIMS is at the center of how the DATA Act works: it is the structure that makes government-wide searchability and analysis possible.

11:45 am - 12:30 pm

Session IV: How to Do the DATA Act: Compliance for Financial Managers

Faculty:

Renata Maziarz, Director for Data Transparency, Department of the Treasury

Reed Waller, Assistant Director, Financial Management Initiatives Group, Department of Justice

Tim Fleming, Program Analyst, Department of Homeland Security

Sherry Weir, Board of Directors, Data Foundation (moderator)

Abstract: The DATA Act requires every federal agency to begin reporting standardized spending data, consistent with the DAIMS, starting in May 2017. Agencies use the DATA Act Broker, an open-source software program developed by the General Services Administration's 18F technology team, to report their data. This session introduces the DATA Act Broker, tells the story of the first few months of DATA Act reporting, and provides tips and advice on how federal financial managers can efficiently meet the requirement to report standardized spending data.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch and Research Presentation

Presenters:

Priya Mhatre, Managing Director, MorganFranklin
Hudson Hollister, Interim President, Data Foundation

Abstract: The Data Foundation has partnered with MorganFranklin and Deloitte to extensively research the impact of the DATA Act on the federal government and the potential of standardized spending data to transform the way the government manages its money. This lunchtime presentation will summarize the findings of the Foundation's two flagship DATA Act research projects: [The DATA Act: Vision & Value](#) and [DATA Act 2022: Changing Technology, Changing Culture](#).

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Session V: Beyond Agency Finance: How the DATA Act will Transform Grant Reporting

Faculty:

Rehana Mohammed, Policy Analyst, White House Office of Management and Budget, Office of Federal Financial Management
Chris Zeleznik, Lead, Intergovernmental Public Engagement, DATA Act Program Management Office, Department of Health and Human Services
Adam Roth, Board of Directors, Data Foundation (moderator)

Abstract: Federal contractors and grantees face complex reporting obligations, imposed by government-wide laws and regulations and by agency-specific practices. Standardized data fields could eventually be used by contractors' and grantees' software to automatically fulfill some reporting obligations. This lecture and demonstration will explore the possibilities for standardized reporting by contractors and grantees.

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm

Special Presentation: Looking Toward DATA Act Audits

Faculty:

Pauletta Battle, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Financial Management and Transparency, Department of the Treasury

Abstract: The DATA Act requires every inspector general office to audit the spending data being reported by its own agency under the DATA Act. The Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) has established a working group to establish procedures for this audit. This presentation will describe the basics of this DATA Act audit and how agencies can plan to meet the requirements.

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Break

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Session VI: Anti-Fraud Analytics

Faculty:

Mike Wood, former Executive Director, Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board

David Williams, former Inspector General, Postal Service

Abstract: As agencies standardize and publish spending data sets of higher quality, inspectors general are using them to drive anti-fraud analytics. This lecture and demonstration will introduce the analytical tools being adopted by inspectors general and explain how standardizing spending data reduces the cost and complexity of such tools.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Session VII: The Future of the DATA Act

Faculty:

Christina Ho, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Accounting Policy and Financial Transparency, Treasury Department

Mark Reger, Acting Controller, White House Office of Management and Budget, Office of Federal Financial Management

Dick Gregg, former Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

Joe Kull, Director, PwC (moderator)

Abstract: Even before the passage of the DATA Act, the government had embraced the goal of data-centric financial and award reporting. This lecture will explain how the DATA Act reinforces that goal and how - if the law is fully implemented - public-sector spending will change in future years. Current and former leaders in financial management will put the DATA Act in context and envision a future of cost savings and transformation.

3:30 pm

Adjournment