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# [YEAR] Sprints



| Data Steward  ROLE OVERVIEW |
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TOP is a sprint-based innovation program that brings together technologists, government, and communities to rapidly prototype digital products—powered by federal open data—that solve real-world problems for people across the country. More than 200 digital products have been created through TOP to address problems like disaster response, youth and veteran homelessness, reducing ocean plastics, COVID-19, rural economic development and more.

**Data Stewards** are integral to making sure the right federal, state or local open data is used, and help to answer technical questions participants may have.

See past products from TOP at [opportunity.census.gov](https://go.usa.gov/x7m4Y)

How It Works

01 – IDENTIFY CHALLENGES

Federal agencies identify high-priority challenges facing the public.

02 – TEAM UP

Tech teams sign up to create data-driven, digital products or non-digital solutions in collaboration with end users and data stewards..

03 – BUILD

During virtual tech development sprints, agencies collaborate with tech teams and other sprint participants to create new digital products such as mapping tools, apps, websites, games, AI algorithms, network visualizations, and more. Sprints typically include user research, data exploration, and product development.

04 – LAUNCH

Products are showcased at a virtual or in-person event hosted by the agency.

05 – REACH END USERS

After the sprint, participants work to ensure products reach end users and move the needle on national challenges. Teams have the option to apply for a financial prize to continue their work.

➝ Your Role

| USER ADVOCATES | | |
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| * Answer questions from 3-6 tech teams about a federal dataset as they arise. * Connect with tech teams to ensure the use of data in their solutions, tools, projects. * Join 2-3 remote sessions over a 12-16 week sprint period to provide feedback to tech teams building solutions. | | |

Why Participate?

| 01 | Build relationships and partnerships  Create strategic relationships in government and develop partnerships with tech companies and nonprofits. |
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| 02 | Shape technology available to your community  Speak on behalf of your community to have a real impact on the challenges that are tackled and the products that are created. |
| 03 | Share your insights  Contribute to knowledge sharing between tech teams, end users, and federal agencies. |
| Examples of User Advocate Contributions   * A tech team is brainstorming about what their solution might look like and shares a few ideas. As an expert on your community or stakeholders, you are best able to promote the most promising ideas. * A tech team is grappling with a tough, misunderstood issue about your community. You share expert knowledge about the problem, leading to a breakthrough and avoiding a critical misunderstanding. * A tech team wants to share their prototype with real users. You connect them with end users from your network, helping them gather direct feedback on a potential solution. * A tech team is experimenting with the language on their website. You offer guidance on which messages will resonate with your community. | |

Other Roles

| GOVERNMENT |
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| Federal agencies & local governments define major challenges facing the public within their mission areas. During the 12-week sprint, data stewards provide feedback to the participating teams and assistance working with federal open data. |

| PRODUCT ADVISORS | | |
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| Product advisors are technology product experts from outside the government who consult tech teams on how to develop viable products that can be maintained and implemented after the sprint. | | |

| TECH TEAMS | | |
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Tech teams are the companies, universities, non-profits, and students who build digital products in the sprints. They design, develop, and launch the products and typically own and maintain the products and associated IP after the sprints.

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