

Connecticut State Data Plan 2025–2026 Summary

Vision and Direction

Connecticut is advancing toward a **modernized, data-driven future** with a focus on **transparency, collaboration, and efficiency**. The *State Data Plan* provides a framework for executive branch agencies to enhance the **management, integration, and use of data** for improved decision-making and public services.

The Plan connects **people, processes, and technology** to ensure data is managed securely, ethically, and effectively. By enabling open and responsible data use, Connecticut aims to deliver better outcomes for residents and improve **policy, budgeting, and program performance**.

Strategic Goals for 2025–2026

The Plan sets **six key goals** to drive progress over the next two years:

1. **Increase Accessibility, Visibility and Transparency of Data Resources:**
 - Expand access to existing tools, software, and training materials.
 - Address barriers that make data difficult to find and use.
2. **Improve Metadata and Documentation:**
 - Enhance metadata to improve data discoverability and linkage.
 - Provide better documentation on data collection methods and limitations.
3. **Identify Training and Resource Needs for Agency Staff:**
 - Conduct a needs assessment to strengthen data literacy, visualization, automation, and analytical skills.
 - Address gaps in onboarding, resources, and professional development.
4. **Review Job Classifications for Data and Analytics Roles:**
 - Update job specifications to align with current trends and needs.
 - Attract and retain skilled data professionals through modernized roles and competitive compensation.
5. **Develop an Enterprise Data Sharing Approach:**
 - Establish clear guidelines for secure, standardized data sharing across agencies.
 - Build on successful frameworks like P20 WIN to enhance cross-agency collaboration.
6. **Support Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):**
 - Develop policies for responsible and ethical AI use, focusing on transparency and accountability.
 - Launch training and resources for agencies to explore AI-driven solutions and utilize these tools effectively

Progress to Date

Connecticut has already achieved significant milestones:

- **Open Data Access:** Celebrated **10 years** of the Open Data Portal, improving access to public datasets.
- **Workforce Enablement:** Workshops on **data storytelling, visualization, and analytics** trained over 100 agency staff.
- **AI Governance:** Developed the **Responsible AI Framework** to guide ethical use of AI.
- **Policy Insights:** Cross-agency research informed policies on **youth services, housing outcomes, and workforce readiness**.

These successes reflect the state's commitment to **data-driven innovation and accountability**.

Challenges and Recommendations

Key Challenges:

- **Resource Constraints:** Limited resources impact system upgrades and staff capacity.
- **Data Quality and Access:** Agencies face fragmented systems and inconsistent standards.
- **Workforce Gaps:** Difficulty in hiring skilled data professionals.
- **Legal Requirements:** Complex regulations must be understood and navigated for effective data sharing.

Recommendations for Moving Forward:

1. **Centralize Access:** Create a unified infrastructure for tools, resources, and training.
2. **Build Workforce Skills:** Conduct trainings to strengthen data literacy, analytic and computational capabilities, and AI understanding.
3. **Streamline Data Sharing:** Implement standardized processes to improve and expand inter-agency collaboration.
4. **Adopt AI Ethically:** Develop policies and training to ensure secure, transparent AI use.

The Road Ahead

Connecticut's *2025–2026 State Data Plan* outlines a clear direction to leverage **data as a strategic asset**. By enhancing access, building capacity, and embracing AI responsibly, the state will achieve measurable improvements in **public services, policy outcomes, and transparency**.

This plan positions Connecticut as a **leader in responsible, data-driven governance**, fostering trust and improving the lives of its residents.

This content was drafted with the assistance of a large language model, ChatGPT. The content has been reviewed and verified to be accurate and complete, and represents the intent of the Office of Policy and Management.