



DATA ACT DIGEST

USDA DATA ACT NEWS AND UPDATES

Data Quality Plans & New OIG Audit

November 2020

WELCOME TO USDA DATA ACT DIGEST

The USDA DATA Act Digest will be released several times each year to provide important news for your immediate awareness, such as audits and new/upcoming requirements, guidance, or legislation which impact DATA Act reporting. The Digest will also provide data quality tips and suggestions to facilitate timely, accurate and complete data reporting. On the right side, links to significant websites and resources are provided along with OCFO points of contact. The top link on the right opens the OCFO DATA Act Resources web page which provides a plethora of information, including Federal resources and USDA reporting instructions.

AGENCY DATA ACT DATA QUALITY PLANS

OMB Memo 18-16 "Appendix A to OMB Circular A-123" requires that all agencies and staff offices establish a DATA Act Data Quality Plan (DQP). USDA agencies must submit a DATA Act DQP to OCFO by FY21 Q3. Agencies are encouraged to establish internal controls over quality of financial data as well as award details corresponding to the type of work performed for each agency/staff office.

To assist agencies in this effort, OCFO has prepared an outline, [Data Quality Framework \(DQF\)](#). This document addresses specific areas which need attention and communicates internal controls and other items to consider.

OCFO encourages agencies to focus on Key Data Elements outlined in 1) the DQF and 2) [OMB Data Standards](#). In particular, consider review and improvement for File D2 data elements: Award Descriptions, physical locations of recipients and places where work is to be performed. *Questions related to the DQPs should be directed to [LaShawn Lover](#).

NEW OIG AUDIT OPENS OCTOBER 2020

OCFO has received notice of OIG Audit 11601-0002-12 "DATA Act Compliance Efforts". This audit will focus on completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of USDA's FY20 Quarter 4 data submitted to USAspending and USDA's implementation and use of Government-wide data standards. Auditors plan to interview program officials and review pertinent records related to the audit scope.

Best Practices

Best Practices are provided in this section to help agencies avoid reporting issues and compliance risk.

Disaster and Emergency Funds

Ensure proper recording of financial data for Disaster and Emergency Funds within FMMI and agency financial systems

Recording Award Identifiers

Ensure FAINs and PIIDs are recorded within financial and award management systems

Financial Assistance Awards

- Ensure new Assistance Listing programs are *published* on [beta.sam.gov](#) **before** awards are signed. For emergency funding, please notify TARD to assist with expediting the process.
- Ensure all awards are reported to USAspending within 2 weeks. Prime recipient subaward reporting (2CFR Part 170) is dependent upon timely reporting of the prime award.
- Ensure that recipients meet 2CFR Part 170 Subaward Reporting requirements. TARD provides a quarterly report to assist agencies monitor subaward reporting.

Clarity and Transparency

- Ensure full and understandable award information is reported to USAspending.gov. Provide public with a clear understanding of the purpose of each award, location of the recipient, and where taxpayer funds will benefit the country.
- Ensure characters within reported data will be accepted by systems. Foreign characters and certain types of apostrophes can cause records to be rejected.

QUICK LINKS

- [DATA Act Resources on Web](#)
- [Federal DAIMS Requirements](#)
- [USDA A-C Reporting Schedule](#)
- [USDA D2 Reporting Schedule](#)
- [Federal GTAS and DATA Act](#)
- [FFAC: Corona Virus Initiatives](#)

USDA CFO DATA ACT TEAM

- [Tyson Whitney](#) -Director and Policy
- [Lisa Smith](#) -Policy and Files A, B, C
- [Adal Santana](#) -Files A, B, C & FMMI
- [Fransi Dunagan](#) -Policy & File D2
- [Daniel Herche](#) -Data Quality & File D2
- [LaShawn Lover](#) -Quality Assurance
- [James McStay](#) -Assistance Listings