

Geospatial Data Strategy Addendum

December 2021

As a covered agency under the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2018, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or Department) is required to “prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and activities appropriate to the mission of the covered agency, in support of the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).”¹ This Geospatial Data Strategy supplements the overall DHS Evidence-Based Data Strategy; supports the Department’s overall information sharing and enterprise data management efforts; and aligns responsibilities from the GDA to the Data Strategy in order to maximize DHS geospatial investments, systems, and data assets.

Covered Agency GDA Responsibilities

In accordance with the requirements of the GDA, this Strategy will ensure the Department advances the use of geographic information and related geospatial data and activities in support of the NSDI Strategic Plan.² For 2021 to 2024, the goals of the NSDI Strategic Plan are:

1. Implement the National Geospatial Policy and Governance Framework
2. Advance the Maturity of, Accelerate the Acquisition of, and Expand the Sources of National Geospatial Data Assets
3. Ensure Open Standards-Based Interoperability to Enable Geospatial Shared Services
4. Enable and Promote Collaborative Governance and Partnerships

Alignment to the DHS Evidence-Based Data Strategy

DHS Geospatial Data Strategy aligns with the following goals in the DHS Evidence-Based Data Strategy:

- Goal 4.1** Make Data Visible
- Goal 4.2** Make Data Accessible
- Goal 4.3** Make Data Understandable
- Goal 4.4** Make Data Linked
- Goal 4.5** Make Data Trustworthy
- Goal 4.6** Make Data Interoperable
- Goal 4.7** Make Data Secure

DHS will ensure consideration of geospatial data as well as the requirements of the GDA and NSDI Strategic Plan within implementation efforts of the Evidence-Based Data Strategy where possible. Detailed information on specific actions, measures, and objectives are reflected within the DHS Evidence-Based Data Strategy.

Geospatial Strategy Implementation Responsibilities

In alignment with the DHS Chief Data Officer Directorate (CDOD), the Information Sharing and Safeguarding Governance Board (ISSGB), and other DHS Data and Standards Governance bodies, and in accordance with DHS Management Directives on Geospatial Data, the Department’s Geospatial Center of Excellence (GCOE), led by the DHS Geospatial Management Office (GMO), will oversee implementation of the Geospatial Data Strategy. The GCOE provides governance and oversight for the DHS Geospatial Information and Technology Program. The GCOE will provide technical input to issues dealing with Geospatial Data Assets, Technology Programs, and Geospatial Investments. It will coordinate its efforts on implementation of these responsibilities with working groups of the DHS Chief Data Officer Council, the ISSGB, the DHS Chief Information Officer Council, and other critical Department stakeholders. The GCOE will assess the Department’s progress toward meeting GDA and NSDI Strategic Plan objectives and will provide updates, as necessary, to the DHS Evidence-Based Data Strategy.



Department of Homeland Security
Office of the Chief Information Officer

¹ Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Section 759(a)(1)

² <https://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdi-strategic-plan-2021-2024.pdf>

For questions on this addendum, please contact the DHS Geospatial Management Office: gmo@hq.dhs.gov