

U.S. AbilityOne Commission

Open Data Plan



July 15, 2025

1. Purpose

This Open Data Plan fulfills the requirements outlined in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-25-05 regarding the dissemination of public data assets by Federal agencies.¹

In accordance with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (hereafter, “the Evidence Act”)², the U.S. AbilityOne Commission (Commission) is committed to increasing the availability, transparency, and reusability of AbilityOne Program data to ensure public access to high-quality, machine-readable datasets that support oversight, innovation, and accountability.

This plan outlines the Commission’s vision, goals, processes, and strategies to align with OMB mandates and enhance public access to relevant data assets through standardized formats and open license practices.

2. Background

Title II of the Evidence Act, known as the OPEN Government Data Act³, requires Federal agencies to publish public datasets in machine-readable formats and catalog them on Data.gov. OMB Memorandum M-25-05 outlines additional guidance on governance, prioritization, and metadata standards to support accessibility, transparency, and interoperability of Federal data.

The U.S. AbilityOne Commission is the independent Federal agency that oversees the AbilityOne Program, which creates private sector jobs for people who are blind or have significant disabilities, while providing quality products and services to Federal customers at a fair market price. The U.S. AbilityOne Commission is the operating name for the agency, whose statutory name is the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The Commission administers the AbilityOne Program in accordance with the Javits-Wagner-O’Day (JWOD) Act⁴.

¹ OMB M-25-05 provided guidance on the contents of agency Open Data Plans. See Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, OMB M-25-05 [Phase 2 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Open Government Data Access and Management Guidance](#) (2025).

² Public Law No. 115-435 (2019), *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018*, also referred to as the *Evidence Act*.

³ Title II of the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* is also referred to as the *Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act* or the *OPEN Government Data Act*.

⁴ 41 U.S.C. §§ 8501-8506, *Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled*.

Currently, the Commission relies on a decentralized framework for data management, with key data assets including:

- The Procurement List Information Management System (PLIMS), which tracks mandatory-source products and services.
- Annual reporting forms for AbilityOne-participating Nonprofit Agencies (NPAs) – e.g., the Disability Qualification Determination (DQD) form, Participating Employee Information (PEI) form, and Annual Representations and Certifications (ARC) form.
- NPA Regulatory Qualification Assessments by the Central Nonprofit Agencies (CNAs) and submitted to the Commission.
- Contract performance and sales data, managed in collaboration with CNAs.

To meet statutory and OMB requirements, the Commission is enhancing its enterprise data inventory, improving cross-system data validation procedures, and implementing a structured data governance framework. This Open Data Plan reflects those efforts and charts the agency's path toward greater openness, reliability, and public value in how its data assets are published and used.

3. AbilityOne Open Data Goals

Our vision is to build a transparent, reliable, and accessible data ecosystem that supports AbilityOne Program integrity, enables stakeholder insight, and empowers the public to understand the Program's impact.

All activities in this plan align with that vision and support the following goals:

1. Improve Data Discovery and Accessibility (Technology)

- Modernize internal and external data systems to support machine-readable, standardized formats.
- Inventory high-value programmatic and operational datasets for publication on Data.gov.
- Improve metadata tagging and searchability across systems and platforms.

2. Enable Reuse, Insight, and Oversight (Process)

- Establish clear procedures for data collection, validation, and publication across CNAs and internal systems.
- Use structured governance processes to prioritize datasets based on value, demand, and compliance significance.
- Embed open data protocols into the annual reporting and monitoring cycles of the AbilityOne Program.

3. Foster Transparency, Trust, and Collaboration (People)

- Engage with Federal customers, nonprofits, and the public to understand data needs and priorities.
- Strengthen public confidence in the accuracy and integrity of Commission-managed data assets.

4. Agency Data Requirements

a. Data Collection Processes for Open Formats

The Commission primarily collects AbilityOne Program data through standardized digital forms and internal systems such as the Procurement List Information Management System (PLIMS). Data submitted by CNAs and NPAs are typically collected in structured formats (e.g., spreadsheets or PDFs). While some data may be received through email attachments or other non-automated channels due to the decentralized nature of the AbilityOne Program, the Commission is working to implement digital collection mechanisms by default and ensure that all new data systems support machine-readable, open formats. In the future, the Commission plans to ensure that manual or paper-based data is converted into open digital formats for inventory and publication purposes whenever feasible.

b. Data Usage Information

The Commission currently publishes data assets on its public website, including as part of public presentations and statutory reports, and will continue to track web analytics including basic data engagement metrics. Future efforts may include expanding access to open data assets, monitoring user interactions with published datasets and incorporating that information into prioritization decisions and dataset updates.

c. Collaboration with Data Users

The Commission engages with stakeholders through regular public meetings, interagency briefings, ongoing partnerships with Federal agencies, and oversight of CNAs. The Commission plans to explore opportunities to gather public input on dataset priorities through existing engagement channels. Feedback received will help inform future updates to the agency's open data inventory.

d. Open Data Point of Contact

The Commission will designate a staff member to serve as the Open Data Point of Contact (POC) responsible for coordinating open data efforts and responses to public inquiries. The POC will serve as the primary liaison to Data.gov and will help ensure that published datasets meet quality, accessibility, and metadata requirements. Contact information for the Open Data POC will be posted on the Commission's website.

e. Improvement Processes

As required by the Evidence Act and OMB M-25-05, the Commission is implementing procedures to improve the quality and consistency of its public data assets. Planned improvements include establishing roles for data stewards, creating standard templates for metadata, and integrating quality checks into existing data collection workflows. Over time, the Commission will assess data assets for completeness, accuracy, and usability, and will refine publication processes to align with open data best practices and user needs.

f. Open Data Goal Requirements

The Commission is committed to building the internal capacity and governance structures necessary to support open data practices. As part of this effort, the Commission will incorporate open data responsibilities into its Data Governance Group, ensure compliance with Data.gov reporting standards, and promote open data awareness. The Commission will facilitate greater data sharing and interoperability by aligning internal systems with open data requirements and continuing to prioritize high-value assets for publication.

g. Prioritizing Public Data Asset Review

The Commission will prioritize the review and publication of data assets based on potential public value, relevance to statutory reporting, and external requests. Initial efforts will focus on datasets related to the Procurement List, AbilityOne Program performance metrics, and CNA and NPA compliance. As part of the Commission's broader data governance efforts, it will identify and evaluate additional AbilityOne Program data assets for inclusion in the public inventory and consider stakeholder feedback to guide future prioritization.

h. Compliance Status

The Commission is working to align with all requirements of the Evidence Act and OMB M-25-05 related to the publication and management of public data assets. Commission efforts will include developing a formal internal enterprise data inventory system. In addition, efforts are underway to standardize metadata and ensure that datasets published on Data.gov meet applicable standards. The Commission's legal counsel and IT leadership will support agency compliance with privacy, accessibility, and disclosure requirements.

i. Updating the Strategic Information Resources Management (IRM) Plan

The Commission will ensure alignment between its open data priorities and broader information resource planning efforts. As part of this work, open data considerations will be integrated into ongoing modernization and governance initiatives. The Commission will ensure that strategic planning documents reflect open data principles and any evolving requirements under the Evidence Act.

5. Conclusion

The Commission is committed to driving value, efficiency, and accountability – as well as advancing integrity, performance, transparency, and data accessibility – in alignment with the Evidence Act and OMB M-25-05. This Open Data Plan outlines the agency’s current efforts and future priorities to support open government data practices. The Commission will continue to build internal capacity, engage stakeholders, and improve the quality and usability of public data assets over time. Regular reviews and updates will ensure this plan remains responsive to policy requirements, user needs, and the evolving role of data in the oversight of Federal programs.