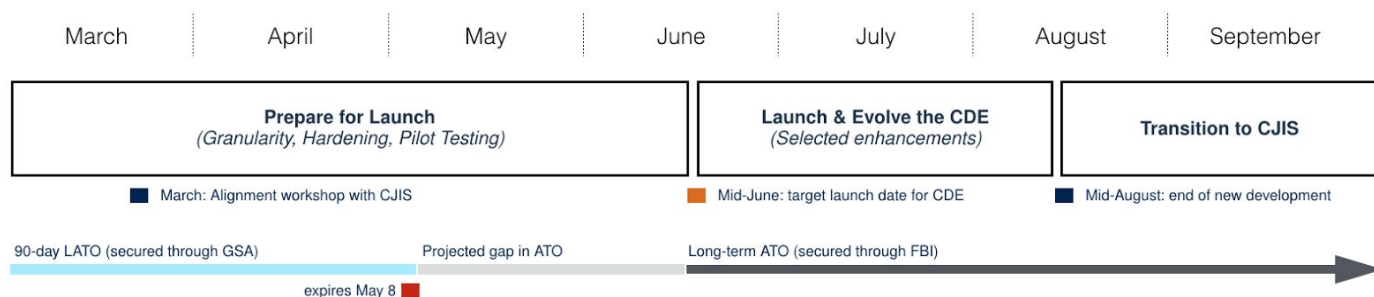**FBI Crime Data Explorer**

Status Report (4/20)

18F

Project plan

The next several months will consist of the following phases: 1) preparing the CDE for a public launch, 2) evolving the CDE based on post-launch feedback and the product roadmap, and 3) transitioning ownership of the CDE to CJIS personnel. Below is a high-level overview of the project approach and it's key milestones:

March	April	May	June	July	August	September

Prepare for Launch
(Granularity, Hardening, Pilot Testing)

Launch & Evolve the CDE
(Selected enhancements)

Transition to CJIS

■ March: Alignment workshop with CJIS   ■ Mid-June: target launch date for CDE   ■ Mid-August: end of new development

90-day LATO (secured through GSA)   Projected gap in ATO   Long-term ATO (secured through FBI)
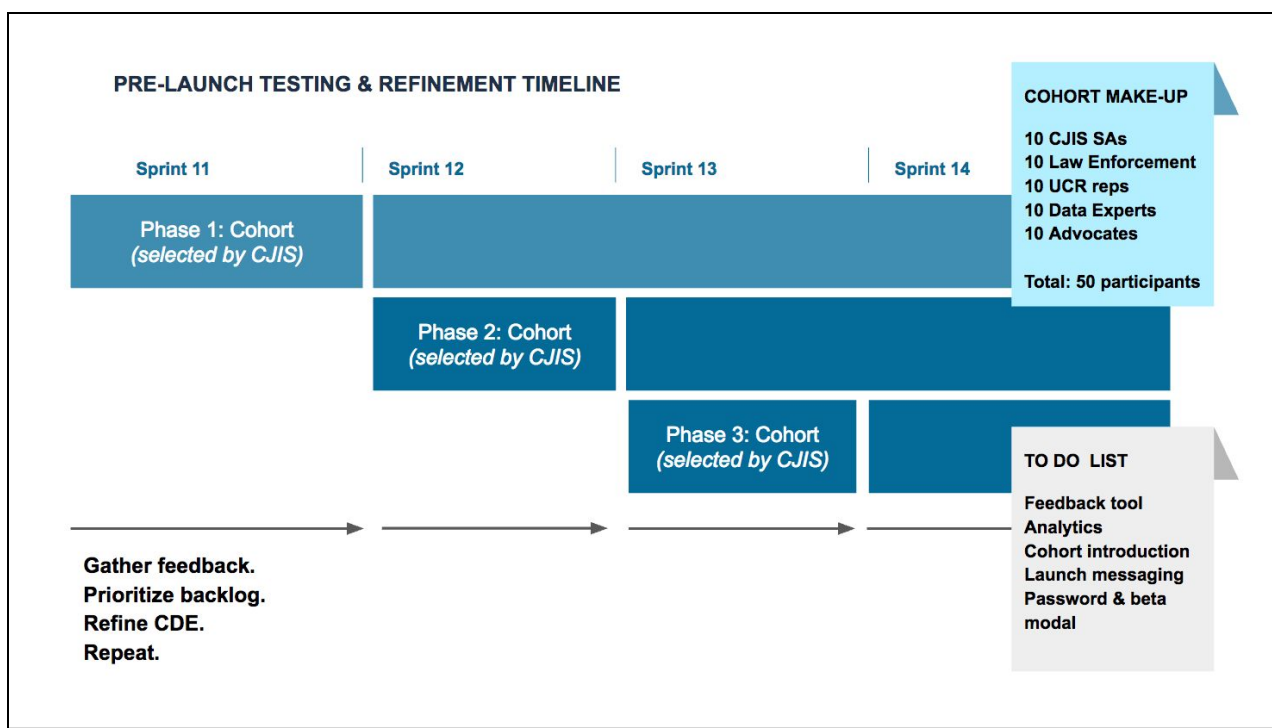
expires May 8 ■

Important notes:

- The timeframes listed here are approximate and meant for directional purposes only. Project status will be communicated via these status reports, weekly check-ins with CJIS staff, and scheduled checkpoints.
- While the plan outlines the key activities for the next several months, 18F's current funding is projected to run out by May 20, 2017. CJIS and 18F staff are working to modify the current agreement to ensure that the project remains funded past May.
- 18F recently learned that the FBI requires its own authority to operate (ATO) in order to release the CDE. Once all of the paperwork is submitted, this process can take 90 days to complete, which would likely push the release timeline for the CDE back to July, 2017. In the meanwhile, 18F plans to extend the current ATO secured through GSA to July in order to ensure that development and testing continues uninterrupted.

Executive Summary of Activities:

Last week 18F started sprint 10, which focuses on the following high-level priorities:

- **Advancing the agency perspective** by refining design, testing with prospective users, and laying the technical foundation for enabling this view. Much of what the team hopes to learn from this sprint is how design can mitigate the limitations of the data and how these limitations are perceived by law enforcement agencies and other project stakeholders.
- **Adding estimated data for the national and state perspectives.** CJIS has directed 18F to use raw (unestimated) data at the agency level, assuming the agency has reported 12 months worth of data for a given year.

- **Expanding access to the data via the API, starting with agencies**. This will be an ongoing effort, but will set the stage for further enhancements to the explorer view, such as new geographic perspectives (counties and cities) and new offenses, should they be prioritized by the product owner.
- **Designing a timeline and approach for building confidence in the CDE.** In order to mitigate the risks associated with a public release of the CDE, 18F strongly recommends a pilot program that solicits feedback from a cross-section of prospective users to better understand how the product is perceived and where adjustments are needed. The pilot should start with a focused group of participants (as identified by CJIS), but gradually expand to a wider audience, leading to a public release of the CDE.

In addition to these activities, 18F continues to work with the security team at CJIS to provide the necessary documentation for the FBI's ATO process. As of this writing, the bulk of the requested documentation has been submitted. 18F continues to work on the privileged and general user guides and requests the assistance of the FBI to review what has been submitted so we can complete the process in a timely manner.

Big picture considerations:

- The CDE has been associated with Director Priority Initiatives (DPIs) aimed at improving the accuracy and timeliness of uniform crime data. However, the CDE cannot affect either of these initiatives, as it is dependent on the data provided to it from the UCR system.

Are these limitations understood by the broader stakeholder community within the FBI and if so, how do these realizations affect the success criteria for the CDE?

- CJIS has directed 18F to improve the granularity of the CDE experience by providing an agency-based perspective of crime, even though this need hasn't been validated by prospective users. As we learn more about what an agency-based view of crime might look like, the project team at CJIS is recognizing that there are significant challenges with presenting data at this level. **Given its limitations, can CJIS realistically commit to providing an agency-based view of crime if it cannot guarantee the accuracy of the data at this level?**

- The CJIS/FBI team is taking a bold and important step in releasing uniform crime data to the general public - however, the UCR program is voluntary and has its growing pains, chief among them being the transition to NIBRS. As a result, the data will never be perfect. Moreover, by presenting this data in a modern and user-friendly way, more people than ever will be consuming it and questions about the data and its inaccuracies are likely to increase. **Is CJIS prepared to respond to these inquiries and champion the value of the CDE as a mechanism for improving the quality of the data through improved transparency?**

- Despite 18F's recommendations to release early and often, CJIS has maintained that the CDE should undergo a "big bang release" once CJIS executives are "comfortable with the data." Considering the aforementioned challenges associated with the UCR program, including the availability of the new UCR system itself, **what criteria will CJIS executives use for determining the readiness of the CDE, and do these criteria lend themselves to a timely release of the CDE?**

- If one of the primary concerns about releasing the CDE is how law enforcement agencies will respond to the integrity of the data and how it is presented, why should the CDE provide an agency perspective upon first release, or at all for the matter? **Wouldn't a safer, more risk-adverse approach be to first visualize data at the national and state levels, where confidence in the data is at its highest, and then add granularity once users have validated the underlying approach?**

Looking ahead:

- 18F has scheduled feedback sessions with several law enforcement agencies on Friday, April 21. All CJIS personnel are invited to observe these sessions.
- The next sprint will start on Wednesday, April 26.

Open Issues:

- Sammy to coordinate with Larry and Amber on the recruitment of the first cohort for pilot testing.
- Mike to schedule a review with CJIS executives to discuss current project status and a launch timeline for the CDE.

- Mike to coordinate with CJIS security and establish a timeline and associated milestones for securing an FBI ATO in order to mitigate the risk of security requirements delaying the launch of the CDE.
- Roberta to work with Larry & Alex on securing the next round of funding for the project.

Key Risks

- **Managing expectations:** There are many stakeholders involved in this project and different perspectives on what the CDE should do and why. Aligning around what is both feasible and of highest value to users will be key to achieving the best possible result and managing expectations going forward.

- **Limited opportunity:** The CDE is limited to *presenting* the data that's available from the FBI. It will not directly affect the volume, quality, or timeliness of the data it displays.

- **Dealing with uncertainty:** There is uncertainty around what data will be available, what it can support, and how it will be updated.

- **Agile, user-centered design, and open data:** 18F works in ways that are new to the FBI and may present organizational and cultural challenges.

- **Providing visibility around decision-making and approval:** How might shared responsibilities among the project core team, the FBI's ATO process and the Office of Public Affairs influence our ability to make decisions in a timely manner?