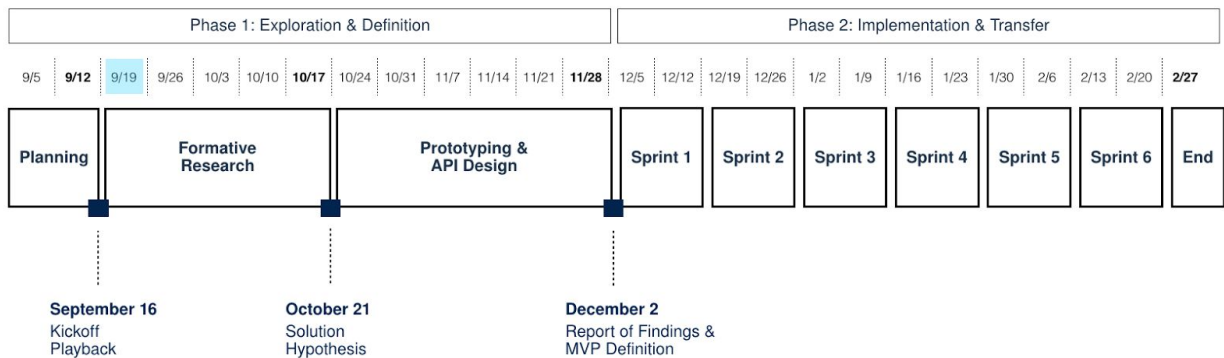**FBI Crime Data Explorer**

Status Report (9/23)

18F

Project plan

The project team has outlined a two-part approach for designing, building, and deploying the Crime Data Explorer (CDE). Part 1 will focus on defining the first iteration of the CDE, or minimum viable product (MVP), and Part 2 will focus on implementing features based on the product roadmap and ongoing user and stakeholder feedback.

Overall progress will be communicated through these status reports and weekly check-ins with the FBI core team.

Executive Summary of Activities:

Last week 18F delivered a summary of what was learned from the project kickoff held in Clarksburg, West Virginia on September 8-9. The purpose of the kickoff was to establish parameters for the project, by identifying goals and limitations for the next 6 months, and set direction, by aligning around a high-level vision for the CDE. A key outcome of these discussions was agreement that the CDE should enable broad access to uniform crime reporting data, but will be limited to the volume and quality of the data that is made available to it.

Over the next 4 weeks the team will interview a wide variety of prospective users, subject matter experts, and key stakeholders to narrow and refine the vision for the CDE. During this time, 18F will also conduct activities aimed at defining a high-level technical approach and begin developing a solution hypothesis to be tested through prototyping.

In the short-term, the team is organizing a research trip to Clarksburg next week to speak with and observe how SAs and PAs respond to data inquiries and FOIA requests. Other members of the 18F team will attend the ASUCRP conference in Anchorage, Alaska to speak with state reporting agencies. In the meanwhile, the 18F technical team will continue their investigation of

available data and begin developing a sample set to support preliminary API design and assess opportunities for data visualization.

Open Issues:

The following items require action from the FBI core team in order to help resolve:

- Identify key actions and timelines associated with securing an authority to operate (ATO) for the CDE. (Matt F.)
- Connect 18F with points of contact within the FBI that perform user research, surveys, or outreach, in support of existing UCR web services. (Sammy D.)
- Connect 18F will points of contact within the Office of Public Affairs to discuss the possibility of using social media (i.e. Twitter) to recruit research participants and to gather existing brand/style requirements for the CDE. (Sammy D.)

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 a way that may be new to the FBI and 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?