## The Evidence Project Portal FAQ for **Researchers**

1. ***What does the Evidence Project Portal offer?***

   The portal offers researchers opportunities to connect directly with staff at Federal government agencies looking for experts who can help provide critical evidence to inform their agencies' decision making.

   Through the Portal, researchers can:
   - Learn about specific evidence needs that Federal agencies are seeking help to address
   - Bring their expertise and skills to bear on issues and programs for which Federal agency staff need more and better evidence
   - Build ongoing collaborative relationships with Federal agencies

   The Portal is informed by successful portals operating at the State and local level. You can explore examples at North Carolina and San Antonio.

2. ***Who can find opportunities through the Evidence Project Portal?***

   The Portal is public for anyone to view and search.  Individuals with relevant expertise, including researchers in academia or other organizations, are invited to respond to opportunities on the Portal. The transparent nature of the Portal is intended to broaden the reach of Federal agencies with the external research community.

   The technical skills and domains of desired expertise vary by the specific projects. Researchers from a variety of backgrounds and with different levels of experience are encouraged to review project opportunities.

3. ***What should I do if I am interested in an open opportunity?***

   If you are interested in a project opportunity, click on the link provided on the portal to RSVP to the corresponding researcher interest meeting. The researcher interest meetings are virtual open conversations where the lead agency staff provide background on the portal project and answer questions. Most researcher interest meetings are recorded and the video is shared on the project's page in the portal.

   Agency staff will explain the next steps for those interested in working on the project during the interest meeting. For example, they may ask that you follow up with your resume or CV and a brief description of how you would approach the project. If agency staff think that a researcher is a good fit, they will follow up to explore how to formalize an agreement and launch the project.

4. *Is there funding available?*

    Funding availability is dependent on the specific project and host agency. Projects will specify whether and what funding is available. Some projects have dedicated funding, others may not have funding available at this time, and some may be open to funding from external sources. Agencies may also be able to offer other benefits such as opportunities to engage with Federal officials and/or access to relevant data.

5. *What kind of data could be available?*

    Data availability depends on the specific project. Academic collaborators will need to sign a Data Use Agreement if the project requires access to data that is not publicly available.

6. *Do I need to have prior experience working with the Federal Government?*

    No! Broadening connections between Federal agencies and researchers is an overarching goal of the Evidence Project Portal. The Portal aims to reduce the barriers that researchers outside the Federal government face to understanding what evidence Federal agencies need and to connecting with agencies officials who are in a position to apply the evidence and insights that external researchers produce.

7. *Can graduate students participate?*

    Yes, though the experience and expertise needed for each project varies based on the needs of the sponsoring agency and will be specified on the Portal. Graduate students are always welcome to express interest.