

Evidence Act: Phase 1 Overview

What are the key requirements for implementation of Phase 1?

The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Public Law No: 115-435), or Evidence Act, was signed into law in January of 2019. The Evidence Act addresses many of the recommendations of the bipartisan Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking to promote the use of evidence to inform decision-making at federal agencies.

The Evidence Act requires Chief Financial Officers Act agencies to name an Evaluation Officer (EO) and Statistical Official (SO). It also mandates that all executive agencies appoint a Chief Data Officer (CDO). The EO is responsible for conducting an agency-wide capacity assessment and developing the learning agenda and Annual Evaluation Plan. In July 2019, the Office of Management and Budget released guidance on Phase 1 implementation (OMB M-19-23).



Complete these steps to ensure that your agency meets the key requirements of Phase 1 of the Evidence Act.

- ◆ Name designated officials (EO, CDO, SO)
- ◆ Establish a Data Governance Body
- ◆ *Every four years:* Publish a capacity assessment
- ◆ *Every four years:* Publish a learning agenda
- ◆ *Annually:* Revisit and update the learning agenda as needed
- ◆ *Annually:* Publish an Annual Evaluation Plan

Visit the links below to access additional resources on the Evidence Act:

- ▶ [General Services Administration Office of Evaluation Sciences \(OES\) Evidence Act Toolkits](#)
- ▶ [Phase 1 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance](#)
- ▶ [Public Law No 115-435 – Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018](#)
- ▶ [Building and Using Evidence to Improve Government Effectiveness](#)
- ▶ [Urban Institute: Building Evidence Culture and Capacity in Federal Agencies](#)