USDA Virtual Student Federal Service

2023-2024 Data Cohort

Introductions

- Name
- Location
- University and Graduation Date
- What you hope to get out of this internship

Our Priorities

Advancing Racial Justice, Equity, and Opportunity

Addressing Climate Change

Tackling Food and Nutrition Insecurity

More, Better, and New Market Opportunities

USDA Objectives

Expand the utility and reach of USDA's Open Data investment

Develop an additional talent pipeline to USDA data positions

VSFS Projects

Between 1 and 4 months in length

Project complexity should align to skillset and # of hours

Solely focused on publicly available data

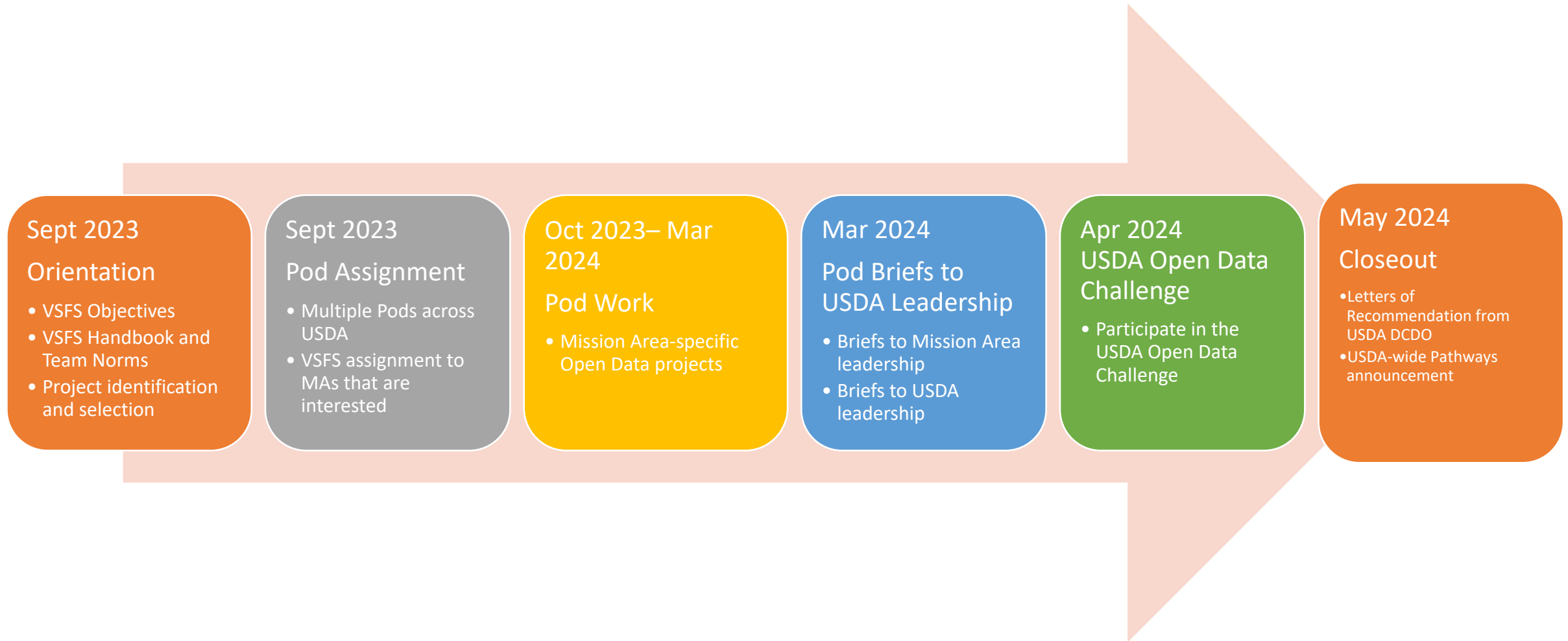Identified by Mission Area and approved by VSFS Cohort Lead

Can have multiple projects

Can assign small tasks if tied to publicly available data

VSFS Internship Framework & Timeline

Sept 2023

Orientation

- VSFS Objectives
- VSFS Handbook and Team Norms
- Project identification and selection

Sept 2023

Pod Assignment

- Multiple Pods across USDA
- VSFS assignment to MAs that are interested

Oct 2023– Mar 2024

Pod Work

- Mission Area-specific Open Data projects

Mar 2024

Pod Briefs to USDA Leadership

- Briefs to Mission Area leadership
- Briefs to USDA leadership

Apr 2024

USDA Open Data Challenge

- Participate in the USDA Open Data Challenge

May 2024

Closeout

- Letters of Recommendation from USDA DCDO
- USDA-wide Pathways announcement

Identified VSFS Projects

EDMC – 2

- USDA Data.gov Dashboard
- New USDA.gov data page
- Support USDA public data challenges
- Public geospatial products

FNS - 2

- HISP – FNS Program Participation Dashboard
- HISP – FNS Investment/Grants to Advance Customer Experience
- SNAP State Profiles
- Child Nutrition Participation & Study Overview
- Patches for Existing Public Dashboards

REE - 2

- Finding and integrating USDA-funded research datasets about pollination (plant-insect interactions)
- Finding and integrating USDA-funded research datasets about precision nutrition
- Determining trends in number of USDA-funded research projects that involve AI (including machine learning and generative AI)
- Mining text resources available at USDA NAL to track trends in agricultural research and comparing to subscription resources

FS - 2

- Strategic Planning Dashboard
- Hydrology database
- preparing datasets (wildfire crisis strategy, others) for release and migration to the searchable database framework

RD – 2

- Rural Data Gateway expansion

Inventory of USDA Tableau Public Dashboards

Participate in the USDA Open Data Challenge