

For over 20 years, the National Information Exchange Model(NIEM) has been a foundational basis for information sharing within and across domains and communities of interest. Federal, state, and local agencies and other countries have leveraged the harmonization of the 20,000+ data elements in the model and the methodology for developing message specifications based on the NIEM naming and design rules. Now that this entire support platform is called NIEMOpen, we have reached a new milestone in its evolution. As a project operating under the auspices of OASIS, we have access to and support from the long-standing and proven OASIS methodology for establishing and supporting standards. To that end, we will be establishing the NIEMOpen platform as an OASIS standard, ultimately as an ANSI standard, or possibly an ISO standard.

Achieving this advanced level of credibility as a standard will benefit your constituency even more than in the past. With this level of official standing, NIEMOpen can promulgate not only individual message exchange standards but also APIs that form the foundation of data structures, vastly increasing the potential for improving information sharing within organizations and beyond to all connected partners. Several new developments along these lines were recently described in the latest release of NIEMOpen during [this webinar](#).

The NIEMOpen data model, methodology, and toolsets have become vital assets in improving information sharing among and between domains for our entire nation and beyond. Sustaining this important asset by keeping it current with user needs and expanding its use to new domains and users requires continued investment in maintaining and expanding these components of the NIEMOpen framework. Now that NIEMOpen is no longer dominated by any particular federal agency and has truly become a community project, the users and organizations that benefit from its existence will need to be responsible for this important maintenance and enhancement expense. By sharing the modest cost of operations and technical support, we can sustain this platform indefinitely.

To protect your interests in this platform and to support its continued update and expansion, we ask you to consider becoming a sponsor of NIEMOpen. With the financial support from the NIEMOpen community and supporting partners, we can fund the ongoing operations to keep NIEMOpen relevant and useful. The benefits and options for sponsorship are available at <https://niemopen.org/join-us/>. Becoming a sponsor gives you a voting seat on the Project Governing Board, which determines the future of NIEMOpen and the ways it will meet your needs and objectives.

We are certainly available to discuss this with you at your convenience or through email. I would appreciate your response to this request so we can determine the level of support for this new structure and make plans for the next major release of NIEMOpen. Thank you for your consideration.