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Analysis of Federal Grants for Minority Business Enterprises	
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<b>Organization</b>	Office of Congressman Joe Kennedy III
<b>Organization Description</b>	Joe Kennedy III represents Massachusetts' fourth district in the US House of Representatives. This district includes Attleboro, Berkley, Dighton, Easton, Freetown, Mansfield, North Attleborough, Norton, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Taunton, Hopkinton, Newton, Brookline, Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Plainville, Sharon, Wellesley, Wrentham, Lakeville, Hopedale, Milford, and precincts in Fall River, Bellingham, and Raynham.
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>Joe Kennedy's office wants to examine the share of federal contracts awarded to Massachusetts Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs). The Congressman's office believes that Black and LatinX owned businesses are not getting a fair share of federal grants. The key question we hope BU students will be able to answer are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of federal grants awarded from top granting agency over 10 years. These federal grants can come from a variety of sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT)</li> <li>○ Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)</li> <li>○ US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</li> <li>○ US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</li> <li>○ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</li> <li>○ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</li> <li>○ National Science Foundation (NSF)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Out of the number of grants awarded over 10 years, how many grants went to <u>minority owned business (specifically Black and LatinX owned)</u>?</li> </ul> <p>This project will consist of 4 phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the first phase, students will scrape the <u>various federal agencies' grant datasets</u> for federal grants awarded to Massachusetts businesses</li> <li>2. In phase 2, students will clean the data and consolidate data from the various federal grant agencies into a single dataset of MA businesses with some of the following attributes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Unique identifier</li> <li>b. Company Name</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Grant title (if specified)</li> <li>d. Agency (grant source)</li> <li>e. Award amount</li> <li>f. Date of grant (or year if full date isn't specified)</li> <li>g. Recipient type (state, non-profit, municipal, small business, corporation, institute for higher learning)</li> <li>h. Recipient industry</li> </ul> <p>3. In phase 3, students will compare the businesses awarded these grants from the federal datasets to minority owned business data source from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Small Business Association (SBA)</li> <li>o US Black Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul> <p>4. In phase 4, students will work on a final deliverable for the project, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The dataset from phase 2 with additional attributes specifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Executive name</li> <li>ii. Executive ethnicity</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. A final report including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The number and percentage of Massachusetts businesses receiving federal grant money that are Black/LatinX owned</li> <li>ii. An outline of the steps taken to complete this project and the biggest obstacles faced in the project</li> <li>iii. Any unusual/unexpected or additional findings</li> <li>iv. A list of all data sources used to complete final table</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Analysis Techniques</b>	Data scraping, data cleaning, overlaying data, pattern recognition, student's discretion
<b>Other Strategic Questions to be Answered</b>	<p>This research will inform policy related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Background context: What are the requirements for MBEs to get awarded federal grants? e.g. what sectors, what types of work, etc.</li> <li>2. What do the federal contracts look like?</li> <li>3. Do these contracts favor larger corporations (which are less likely to be minority owned), or also apply to partnerships and sole proprietorships?</li> <li>4. Are Black and LatinX not receiving a fair amount in federal grants? Are the federal contracts exclusionary?</li> <li>5. What percentage of the total grants awarded to Massachusetts businesses are awarded to MBEs?</li> <li>6. How are the federal grants being used in Boston?</li> </ol>

<b>Links to the Datasets</b>	<p>All the data for federal grants is available here: <a href="https://files.usaspending.gov/database_download/">https://files.usaspending.gov/database_download/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- API might be a better option (<a href="https://api.usaspending.gov">https://api.usaspending.gov</a>)</li></ul> <p>and here: <a href="https://www.usaspending.gov/#/download_center/award_data_archive">https://www.usaspending.gov/#/download_center/award_data_archive</a></p> <p>These are filterable by agency (e.g. DOT) and date range, so minimal preprocessing is needed.</p> <p>List of minority owned businesses: MBE information (specific to Mass) can be found here: <a href="https://www.sdo.osd.state.ma.us/BusinessDirectory/BusinessDirectory.aspx">https://www.sdo.osd.state.ma.us/BusinessDirectory/BusinessDirectory.aspx</a></p>
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