



*Where analytics meets governance!*

# Co-founders & E-board

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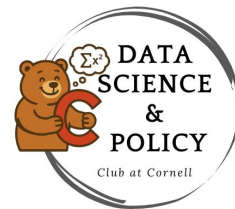
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# Why do we need this club?

1. Existing data science clubs at Cornell are solely focused on Machine Learning and analytics
2. Existing policy clubs are solely focused on theory and law
3. Few clubs connect data science and analytics back to policy decisions with real-world partners.

*That is the gap we seek to fill*

# Preamble



DSPC delivers **decision-oriented analytics** for **public-interest partners** (government and nonprofit), producing policy policy briefs, stakeholder-ready decks, repeatable analysis files, and embedded privacy/ethics safeguards.

## Mission & Vision

### Mission

Equip Cornell graduate students to help public-interest partners make better decisions by delivering ethical, reproducible analyses (repo + policy briefs + stakeholder deck) grounded in public data and plain-English communication.

### Vision

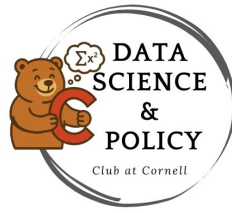
A Cornell community where graduate students build and demonstrate analytics skills to become evidence-driven public leaders serving government and nonprofit stakeholders.

# Core Activities

1. **Applied Labs (practice):** Guided exercises using public data (e.g. Census/FCC) to make simple maps/charts. Attendees leave with a ready-to-reuse file and a short “how to update” guide.
2. **Client Projects (real-world delivery):** Work with a public/nonprofit partner on their question (e.g. Dryden Fiber). Deliverables may include a policy brief, slides, and a handoff plan.
3. **Hackathons (timed challenge):** 1 day/1 weekend sprint – define a problem, analyze quickly, share a rough policy brief.
4. **Speaker Series (learn from pros):** Talk + Q&A with practitioners sharing how they used data in government/nonprofits.
5. **Training Workshops:** Short classes on a specific tool or skill (e.g. Excel/Python/QGIS, surveys, basic causal methods). Possibility of awarding certifications based on attendance.

# Spotlight: Training Workshops

- **Data Visualization for Policy:** How to tell a story with charts/maps/dashboards designed for decision-makers.
  - *Example:* Using Flowmap Blue for SIPRI legal weapons-transfer data to teach flows, scale, and caveats.
- **Excel for Policy:** Cleaning, analysis, charts/maps, quick dashboards (useful when working for organizations with low budgets).
- **Geospatial for Decisions:** QGIS/GeoPandas; choropleths; service gaps
- **Survey & Field Methods:** Sampling, instrument design, pilots, bias mitigation.
- **Causal Inference (lite):** DiD & threats to validity – practice-focused.
- **Version Control & Repo:** Git/GitHub; notebooks to reports; data documentation.
- **Micro-certificate program:** Python Basics, Jupyter Reporting, GIS for Policy, Excel Analytics awarded to workshop attendees.



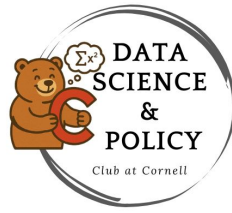
# Spotlight: Client Projects (+ Collaborations)

## *Prospective clients*

- **City of Ithaca:** Define practical questions (what's working, where gaps are) and deliver easy-to-read charts/maps.
- **Dryden Fiber (Town of Dryden):** Identify 544 un/underserved homes, estimate typical household savings, and design/pilot a short customer survey to better convey economic value of city-run broadband.
- **Tompkins County:** Support Justice50 and other county programs with simple tracking of who is served and outcomes (via Tanya/Johanna contacts).

## *Proposed collaborations*

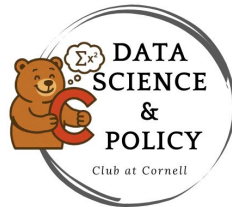
- **Cornell Policy Review:** Turn project results into short “Data Insights” articles for a general audience.



# Spotlight: Client Projects – Proposed Deliverables

- **Analysis package:** All files (e.g. Excel, Python) + a brief “how to use” guide so staff can repeat or update the work.
- **Policy briefs:** The question, key findings, options, and next steps in plain language.
- **Public comms toolkit:** Plain-language FAQ, “myths vs. facts” (satellite/fixed wireless vs. fiber), cost-comparison one-pager.
- **Stakeholder slides + handoff:** A short deck leaders can present, plus a simple plan for who maintains it and how often.
- **Customer/resident survey packages:** Baseline & follow-up surveys, consent language, sampling plan; analysis of adoption barriers and messages that convert.





# Project Pipeline & Safeguards

1. **Scoping:** goals, metrics, data access, risks, roles
2. **Data Architecture:** sources (ACS/FCC Form 477/first-party), schema, documentation
3. **Ethics & Privacy:** consent, de-identification, retention policy; approvals as needed
4. **Execution:** analysis sprints, QA, interim share-outs
5. **Delivery:** reproducible repo; brief; stakeholder deck; handoff & maintenance plan