



**2020 Covered Agency Annual Report  
and Self-Assessment**  
*for*  
**Department of Health and Human Services**

Geospatial Data Act of 2018  
Section 759(a) Requirements

March 19, 2021



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## Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ATO	Authorization to Operate
CA	Covered Agency
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
GDA	Geospatial Data Act
NGAC	National Geospatial Advisory Committee
NGDA	National Geospatial Data Asset(s)
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
<b>Agency Acronym</b>	<b>Agency</b>
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOS	Department of State
DOT	Department of Transportation
ED	Department of Education
GSA	General Services Administration
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Treasury	Department of Treasury
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	Environmental Protection Agency
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs

*Table of Acronyms.*

## Introduction

Section 759 (b) of the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) requires each covered agency<sup>1</sup> to submit to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) “an annual report regarding the achievements of the covered agency in preparing and implementing the strategy described in subsection (a)(1) and complying with the other requirements under subsection (a).” [<https://fgdc.gov/gda/online>]

This document serves as the Department of Health and Human Services’ baseline annual report to the FGDC covering the period from October 5, 2018 – when the GDA was enacted – through Fiscal Year 2020 (September 30, 2020). The report was developed through a self-assessment template developed by the FGDC agencies. Subsequent annual reports will each span one fiscal year. The report includes a rating for each covered agency responsibility of "meets expectations," "made progress toward expectations," or "fails to meet expectations," as required by the GDA. A summary and evaluation of all of the covered agency reports will be generated by FGDC and provided to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for review and comment. The summary reports, along with the NGAC comments, will also become part of the biennial FGDC GDA report to Congress and will be published online.

This report is based on a standardized questionnaire and self-assessment score for each covered agency responsibility. The Department of Health and Human Services has maintained documentation supporting the responses provided for this assessment. This information may be reviewed as part of the biennial Inspector General (IG) audits of covered agencies.

A recommended self-assessment key has been provided for each responsibility. In some cases, optional text is provided for additional insights or to justify a self-assessment selection. Any optional responses provided are not a factor in the self-assessment. Please note that covered agencies are not expected to “meet expectations” in all areas for this first reporting cycle.

Where data or datasets are referenced,<sup>2</sup> information relates to all geospatial datasets owned or managed by the Department of Health and Human Services that are, or should be, available to the public.

To support a more comprehensive picture of agency compliance and related activities, each agency had the option to submit up to a 2-page document, using the survey, as part of the agency’s submission. If provided, the document may include highlights and examples that can supplement the FGDC report to Congress, support the feedback process with the NGAC, or provide context to Office of the Inspector General (OIG) findings.

The Department of Health and Human Services self-assessment GDA Covered Agency Annual Report was initially submitted during February 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> GDA definition of *agency*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-“covered-agency”-—means—an-executive-department-as-def>

<sup>2</sup> GDA definition of *geospatial data*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98geospatial-data%E2%80%99%E2%80%99%E2%80%94means-information-that-is-tied-to-a>

# Self-Assessment for Department of Health and Human Services

## 759(a)(1) Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and activities appropriate to the mission of the covered agency, in support of the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 1.4</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Clarifying Text:** FGDC developed and released a new national strategic plan for the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) [GDA Sec. 755(c)], which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in November 2020. Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies [GDA Sec. 759(a)(1)], which will support the goals in the NSDI strategic plan, are due to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021, per FGDC guidance. For more information, please visit <http://fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>.

### 1.1 Has your agency reviewed the draft NSDI strategic plan?

- Yes

### 1.2 Has your agency developed a plan and timeline to complete development of the Covered Agency Geospatial Strategy appropriate to the agency's mission as required by GDA Sec.759(a)(1)?

- No

### 1.3 Is your Covered Agency Geospatial Strategy on schedule to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021?

- No

### 1.4 Has your agency completed and implemented your plan?

- No

### 1.5 Is your plan is online? If yes, please provide the URL:

- No

**1.6 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(1), "Prepare and implement a strategy for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission."**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been providing geospatial products for over a decade to all of the ASPR staff of those who need it. A large percentage of the products are created for the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. This realm of products ranges from static briefing products to dynamic data displays using data streaming in from internal databases to external data services. Products are created to assist in the situational awareness for all HHS staff and partner agencies for the all-hazards approach to the planning, response and recovery of the citizens of the United States and the Health Infrastructure that the citizens depend on for treatment and care.

**759(a)(2) Support Data Sharing**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users.
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for <b>all</b> agency appropriate parties for Question 2.1 and Yes to Questions 2.2 and 2.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for <b>some</b> appropriate parties for Question 2.1, <b>or</b> Question 2.2 and 2.3 have a mix of answers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Clarifying text:**

- This section does not include efforts related to partners, which are covered under Question 7, Section 756(a)(7).
- Review the [GDA definition of geospatial data](#) to consider the questions in this section.
- Remember, your answers should include information about all geospatial datasets owned or managed by your agency that are, or should be, available to the public, not just National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets.
- Sharing standards-based data on the Internet using standard protocols and formats makes it part of the NSDI.
- Additional detail on the definition of geospatial data may be provided by OMB Circular A-16 when finalized.
- Data that will not or cannot be distributed to the public does not need to be considered for GDA-related responses.

**2.1 Does your agency ensure that all eligible geospatial data is managed so it can be shared and is it provided in standard formats, as appropriate? (This will include agency open government and transparency guidelines.)**

The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>1</sup>

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with federal partners.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with non-federal users.

**2.2 Does your agency disseminate eligible geospatial data in a way that can be readily shared in open formats (for example using machine readable formats or searchable metadata)?**

- Yes, eligible geospatial data and metadata are shared in open formats.

**2.3 Are maintenance processes in place to ensure other Federal agencies and non-federal users have access to the most recent data in addition to data and metadata updates and corrections?**

- Yes, agency policies exist to ensure all programs implement data maintenance processes.

**2.4 Optional Question: Use the following section to document up to 5 key examples of ongoing or planned activities that ensure eligible geospatial data and associated metadata can be easily shared, understood, and re-used by others, now and in the future.**

Title	Description
<p><b>Geospatial Health Systems</b></p>	<p>We are in the process of moving the whole geospatial system for HHS to the cloud. In doing so, we will be establishing the ability to share and collect more health-related data within HHS and outside the agency with little to no downtime. Currently, the system is available with a hybrid system housed on premises allowing outside partners access to restricted data as well as some data on the same system (GeoHEALTH) being made available to the public.</p>

**2.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(2), "collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other Federal agencies and non-Federal users."**

Data on the HHS geospatial system is collected, maintained, disseminated, and preserved through the use of the geospatial health system. This system allows HHS to provide the best of breed data to all Federal, State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Health Departments as well as partners before, during, and after an event. The data is collected by several methods, curated and cleaned to ensure data integrity, and then stored within the HHS geospatial database. Data is made available via services and download, if applicable.

759(a)(3) Promote Data Integration

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partial to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 3.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**3.1 Has your agency taken action to promote integration of data from multiple sources?**

- Yes. The agency has taken appropriate action to promote data integration.

**3.1.a If yes or partial to Question 3.1, in what ways does your agency promote data integration from multiple sources?**

The following items were selected from a picklist:"

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Develops a data integration toolkit or APIs to promote integration of agency data in external applications.

**3.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(3), "promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources."**

We have been consuming data sources from many sources (federal and non-governmental organizations (NGO)) in order to layer the complexities of the healthcare infrastructure and be able to display this to our staff in the field as well as leadership in the office. This has been accomplished with data sharing agreements and use of publicly available data. By doing this, we are able to establish our data with the data collected in the field as a benchmark for all to use in decision making. HHS has been doing this for several years now and has been able to locate facilities that may have been in need of assistance prior to the event and worked with the state and locals to avoid any catastrophes or unmitigated loss of life.



759(a)(4) Ensure Records Retention Schedule for Geospatial Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 4.1 and 4.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Partial to Questions 4.1 and 4.2 or</li> <li>○ No to either 4.1 or 4.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 4.1 and 4.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**4.1 To ensure approved National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) schedules are in place, does the appraisal process for your agency to determine which data is archived include geospatial data?**

- Yes. The agency program's archiving appraisal process is inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

**4.2 Are geospatial data assets included on agency record schedules?**

- Yes. Agency record schedules are inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

**4.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(4), "ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration."**

All of our data is stored in a database that is backed up to the HHS network and, as needed, archived. This process allows us to stay in compliance with all archival requirements. In the future, we are planning to create time-enabled data that will all be stored in the cloud and be able to be recalled as needed for historical purposes.

## 759(a)(5) Allocate Resources for Geospatial Data Management Responsibilities

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partial to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 5.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**5.1 Are adequate geospatial program resources (including full- or part-time federal employees or contractors) allocated to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee?**

**Clarifying text:** Analyses of the requirements for the GDA are ongoing and it is anticipated that agencies will answer based on currently understood or anticipated requirements. Additional details can be provided in the 5.2 Brief Summary and in your agency's 2-page PDF.

- Partial

**5.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(5), "allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee."**

As the Geospatial, Integration, Analysis and Visualization branch grows, it will be able to complete more requests and provide more guidance and training to all Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) staff. At the time of this report, we have 10 staff made up of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) and contractors. This staffing works well when we're in steady-state operations and have just the normal items to complete and data updates to work through. We are also working on improving the use of GIS within HHS and gain more users of the system. This, however, is not an appropriate number of staffing to support a long term response such as Covid or any other natural or man-made incident where additional hours and tasks continue to be required as well as the steady-state requirements. The ability to gain skilled staffing quicker would make for a more nimble branch and would allow more products and services to be available to HHS staff.

759(a)(6) Use Data Standards

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any other combination of Yes, No, and Partial to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**6.1. Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or disseminating the data being addressed?**

The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>iii</sup>

- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Partial. Some Eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.

**6.2 Does your agency maintain its metadata in an FGDC-endorsed, or ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standard format?**

**Clarifying text:** Question does not include legacy datasets that are static and no longer modified or otherwise managed. Also, see the list of endorsed FGDC-endorsed standards <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/>.

The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>iv</sup>

- Partial. Some eligible datasets have FGDC-endorsed, or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata that needs to be reviewed or refreshed.

**6.3 Is your agency geospatial metadata available through GeoPlatform.gov?**

**Clarifying Text:** For the scope of the requirement, Section 758(b)(1)(A)(iv) provides for “includ[ing] download access to all open geospatial data directly or indirectly collected by covered agencies” and Section 759(a)(6) requires that “metadata [be] available through the GeoPlatform.”

- No. Agency geospatial metadata is not available through GeoPlatform.gov.

**6.4 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(6), "use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform."**

We are able to create and maintain the data within our database. The update and maintenance of the metadata associated with the layers and creation of new layers sometimes lags behind or is only completed as time permits. We do the best we can to capture the minimum metadata but, as a response agency, creating data and products is the mission priority, and documentation seems to get left behind. If we had more staff dedicated to this effort, we may be able to satisfy this requirement more fully.

**759(a)(7) Support Coordination and Partnerships**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 7.1 and Yes or Not applicable to Question 7.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any combination of Yes, Not applicable, Partial, or No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**7.1 Are there processes in place to ensure that, when appropriate, partners and stakeholders have visibility into agency geospatial data management activities (e.g., collection, integration, maintenance, dissemination and preservation)?**

- Yes. There are processes in place, but some mission areas do not have requirements for geospatial data management partnerships.

**7.1.a If yes or partial to Question 7.1, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in data management activities?**

**Clarifying text:** The selection list provided was taken from the GDA Section 754(b)(C).

- Other federal agencies
- States
- Local governments
- Regional governments
- Tribal governments
- Private sector entities
- Geospatial information user industries
- Professional associations
- Nonprofit organizations

**7.1.b If yes or partial to Question 7.1, what processes are in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved?**

**Clarifying text:** When answering this question think about activities such as using surveys, listening sessions, Request for Information, booths at stakeholder conferences.

- Partnership outreach activities
- Expert consultations
- Advisory committee(s)
- Working group(s) and sub-committee(s)
- Steering committees
- Engage with trade groups
- Feedback opportunities (e.g., contact email/phone, call center)
- Memoranda of Understanding

**7.2 Does your agency build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?**

- Yes. Agency builds upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible.

**7.2.a If yes or partial to Question 7.2, what ways do you build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?**

- Procurement/acquisition/grant
- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing
- Mission assignments or Interagency Agreements
- MOAs/data sharing agreements

**7.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(7), "coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-Federal geospatial data to the extent possible."**

HHS and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response are constantly sharing data with other federal partners such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), US Census Bureau, and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to aid in the visualization of the health and welfare of the citizens of the US. We are also big consumers of federal data from the US Secret Service (USSS), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), US Geological Survey (USGS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to assist us in the preparedness and planning for all-hazards. In doing so, we use the best federal datasets to inform our leadership of the on the ground environment and status of the teams in the field.

**759(a)(8) Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Use geospatial information to— (A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; (B) enhance operations; (C) support decision making; and (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Made Progress Towards Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Any combination of Yes, Partial and No to Questions 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**759(a)(8)(A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;**

**8.1 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public?**

- Yes

## 759(a)(8) (B) enhance operations;759(a)(8) (C) support decision making

### 8.2 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to improve operations and decision-making?

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information in operations improvements or decision-making.

## 759(a)(8) (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress

### 8.3 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting to the public or to Congress?

- Partial. Agency leverages some geospatial information to enhance either public or Congressional reporting.

#### 8.3.a If yes or partial, for which of these audiences does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting?

- Public reports (e.g., fact sheets, data briefs, Annual reports, other published Agency reports).
- Internal Agency and leadership plans, reports and communications.

#### 8.4 Optional Question: You may provide up to 5 key examples and links that demonstrate how geospatial data assets are used, internally and externally, to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; enhance operations; support decision making; and/or enhance reporting to the public and to Congress.

- Not applicable.

#### 8.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(8), "use geospatial information to—

- (A) make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;
- (B) enhance operations;
- (C) support decision making; and
- (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;"

Our geospatial datasets are available to the public as well as government agencies. To make the data available to the public, we have partnered with other agencies within HHS (Office of the Chief Information Officer) as well as creating a website to allow access by the public.

Both the Protect Public (<https://protect-public.hhs.gov/>) site and the GeoHEALTH site (<https://geohealth.hhs.gov/arcgis/home/index.html>) allow users to explore the data in different ways and, in some instances, to get data feeds for use in their own systems or download the data for other needs.

759(a)(9) Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Questions 9.1 and 9.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Partial to Questions 9.1 or 9.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Questions 9.1 or 9.2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**9.1 Are agency Privacy Threshold Assessment or Privacy Impact Assessment (PTA/PIA) processes inclusive of your geospatial data?**

**Clarifying Text:** The Privacy Threshold Assessment/Analysis would be the mechanism that agencies use to determine if PII is, or is not collected, and whether a Privacy Impact Assessment needs to be done for an information system.

- Yes. The agency's PTA/PIA processes are inclusive of all agency data.

**9.2 Are the IT systems and applications that maintain and support your geospatial data covered by a current Authorization to Operate (ATO)?**

- Yes. All agency geospatial data is housed in a system covered by a current ATO and is appropriately protected in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**9.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(9), "protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law."**

Not all of the data housed within the geospatial health system is PII. All of the identifiable data related to an individual is removed prior to loading it into the system unless it is data related to their work/office which is not considered PII since it is publicly available.



759(a)(10) Declassified Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes or Not applicable to Question 10.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 10.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**10.1 If your Agency handles classified geospatial datasets, does it have a process to review declassified datasets for inclusion in the NSDI?**

**Clarifying text:** Sharing standards-based data on the Internet using standard protocols and formats makes it part of the NSDI.

- Not applicable: The agency does not handle classified data.

**10.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(10), "participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure."**

We have no declassified data on our system. All of the data that could be of this type is pulled directly from NGA via a service and is authorized via secure token for internal use only.

759(a)(11) Non-Duplication of Data

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 11.1 <b>or</b></li> <li>○ Yes to Questions 11.1 and 11.2 and all agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 11.1 and Partial or No to Question 11.2 and agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 11.1 and No to Question 11.2 and <i>No additional assessments are done</i> selected for Question 11.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**11.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection for the reporting period?**

**Clarifying text:** “Expended funds” may include grant distribution, agency collection, or procurement of data.

- Yes

**11.2 As per [OMB Circular A-11 Guidance](#) (Section 25, Page 3), has your agency searched the [GeoPlatform Marketplace](#) prior to making planned geospatial data investments to determine if an existing source for that data is available and meets mission requirements?**

- Yes. Agency has searched GeoPlatform Marketplace prior to all geospatial data investments.

**11.3 Has your agency searched other sources to determine if data necessary to meet requirements already exists (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?**

The following items were selected from a picklist:’

- Market research
- Expert consultation
- Database search
- Agency follows a documented process or official policy

**11.4 Optional Question: You may provide examples of cases where the agency did find existing data that met its needs or partnered on a joint data acquisition.**

- Not applicable.

**11.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(11), "Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection."**

In any instance where there is a data need, our first attempt to obtain this data is from the GeoPlatform. The resulting data discovered is then curated and a determination is made whether they satisfy the needs. If they do, then we will determine how to get the data from the source to establish a streaming data connection. If this data is not available, we then determine the next best available option.

**759(a)(12) Ensuring High-Quality Data**

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 12.1 or</li> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <b>all</b> appropriate selections for Question 12.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Made progress toward expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <b>some</b> agency appropriate selections for Question 12.2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <i>No official documented Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data selected for Question 12.2</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**12.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection from non-federal sources during the reporting period?**

**Clarifying text:** The requirement for “a person receiving Federal funds” has been interpreted to mean non-federal organizations or corporations who are, for example, contract or grant recipients.

- Yes

**12.2 What methods does your agency employ to ensure quality in geospatial data collected from non-federal sources?**

**The following items were selected from a picklist:<sup>vi</sup>**

- Evaluate data for quality prior to any acquisition.
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- Data standards are enforced through automated processes such as database controls or script tools.

**12.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(12), "to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data."**

When we use federal funds to obtain data, we ensure that we not only receive a dataset but we are also provided a live data stream, when available, so the data displayed on our system is as up to date as possible. We also obtain a broad data use agreement when possible. For example, one that allows all of HHS and not just the ASPR to use the data. This enables many more applications and wider use of the data within the agency.

759(a)(13) Point of Contact

<b>GDA Requirement</b>	Appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency
<b>Agency Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>
<b>KEY to Self-Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes to Question 13.1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Fails to meet expectations =</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No to Question 13.1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**13.1 Has your agency appointed a POC to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the NGDA data themes used by the covered agency?**

**Clarifying text:** OMB Circular A-16 may include additional guidance on covered agency responsibilities for theme coordination.

- Yes. An agency POC has been appointed.

**13.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(13), "appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency."**

The agency has been growing its geospatial department for the last decade. The first few years were focused on making static maps from data within the confines of its own servers. Now, we are using outside services and systems to enhance the mapping abilities of the department. To coordinate this effort, a Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) position was created, and Robert Shankman, Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP), currently serves as the Chief GIO.

## Appendix A: Survey Picklists

This appendix provides the full set of choices presented in the self-assessment survey as “check all that apply” responses used to generate this covered agency report.

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### <sup>i</sup> Question 2.1 Picklist

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with federal partners.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with non-federal users.
- No data is currently shared to other federal agencies or non-federal users. (Note: For some agencies, this may be an appropriate response).

### <sup>ii</sup> Question 3.1.a. Picklist

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Develops a data integration toolkit or APIs to promote integration of agency data in external applications.
- Develops data integration processes to promote integration of non-agency data into applications.
- Provides data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages.
- Develops data sharing agreements or Memoranda Of Agreement (MOA) with public and private partners for ingest or sharing of data.
- Other (Textboxes provided)

### <sup>iii</sup> Question 6.1 Picklist

- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- No. Eligible agency geospatial datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed data standards or standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.

### <sup>iv</sup> Question 6.2 Picklist

- Yes. Eligible non-legacy datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata, that needs to be reviewed or refreshed.
- No. Agency datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standards.

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<sup>v</sup> Question 11.3 Picklist

- Market research
- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Expert consultation
- Database search
- Agency follows a documented process or official policy
- No additional assessments are done
- Other (Textboxes provided)

<sup>vi</sup> Question 12.2 Picklist

- Evaluate data for quality prior to any acquisition.
- Geospatial data quality standards are specified in contract documents.
- Independent verification and validation (IV&V).
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- Data standards are enforced through automated processes such as database controls or script tools.
- The agency acquires data from another federal agency that is responsible for QA/QC.
- No official documented QA/QC process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data.
- Other (Textboxes provided).