MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

FROM: Matt Cox, Director Management Operations

VIA: Todd Abrajano, Deputy Director (Acting)

SUBJECT: Evidence Act Implementation

DATE: September 16, 2019

Summary

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, M-19-23, released on July 10, 2019, defines management’s responsibility for phase 1 implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance. The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (“Evidence Act”), signed into law on January 14, 2019, emphasizes collaboration and coordination to advance data and evidence-based functions in the Federal Government by statutorily mandating Federal evidence-building activities, open government data, and confidential information protection and statistical efficiency. Evidence is broadly defined and includes foundational fact finding, performance measurement, policy analysis, and program evaluation. In addition, the Evidence Act mandates a systematic rethinking of government data management to better facilitate access for evidence-building activities and public consumption.

Evidence Act Implementation

Meeting the requirements of the Evidence Act will require ongoing, focused effort. OMB is committed to providing iterative and supplemental guidance in four phases:

- Phase 1: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning
- Phase 2: Open Data Access and Management
- Phase 3: Data Access for Statistical Purposes
- Phase 4: Program Evaluation

Phase 1 includes designating newly-defined positions (Chief Data Officer, Evaluation Officer, and Statistical Official), establishing a Data Governance Body inside each agency, and describing a Learning Agenda.
- Chief Data Officer – has the authority and responsibility for data governance and lifecycle data management.
- Evaluation Officer – has the authority and responsibility for providing leadership over the agency’s evaluation and learning agenda activities. *(strongly encouraged for non-CFO-Act agencies)*
- Statistical Official – has the authority and responsibility to advise on statistical policy, techniques, and procedures. *(strongly encouraged for non-CFO-Act agencies)*
- Data Governance Body – will set and enforce priorities for managing data as a strategic asset to support the agency in meeting its mission and, importantly, answering the priority questions laid out in the agency Learning Agenda.
- Learning Agendas – identify and set priorities for evidence building, in consultation with various stakeholders.

To meet the Evidence Act Implementation requirements set forth in M-19-23, USTDA designates the following key senior officials:

- **Chief Data Officer** – Matt Cox, Director Management Operations
- **Evaluation Officer** – Sarah Randolph, Director Office of Program Monitoring and Evaluation
- **Statistical Official** – this designation is not required for non-CFO-Act agencies. USTDA will review and consider the appropriateness of this position as we implement the Evidence Act requirements.

Further, USTDA charters an enterprise-wide Data Governance Board which will commence with quarterly meetings beginning in Q1 FY2020. Board members are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Data Officer</td>
<td>Matt Cox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation Officer</td>
<td>Sarah Randolph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief, Office of Acquisition Management</td>
<td>Garth Hibbert</td>
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<td>Director of Finance</td>
<td>Bedir Memmedli</td>
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<td>Chief FOIA Officer</td>
<td>Matt Cox</td>
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<td>Chief Information Officer</td>
<td>Ben Bergersen</td>
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<td>Information Security Officer</td>
<td>Angelia Vecchio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant General Counsel</td>
<td>Beth Hochberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Records Management Officer</td>
<td>Carolyn Hum</td>
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Clearances:
T. Abrajano:
M. Cox:

Approved: ____________________________
Date: 7/25/19

Cc: S. Fandell