



**SUNLIGHT  
FOUNDATION**

**Empowering Citizens through Co-production:  
The Case for Open Data Policy and Practice**

Stephen Larrick  
Open Data Project Lead  
slarrick@sunlightfoundation.com

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### What Is Open Data?

Open Data (*oh-pun dey-tuh, oh-pun dat-uh*)

**noun**  
Data that is available online, in an open format, with no legal encumbrances on use or reuse, and is available for all to access and download in full without fees or a requirement of registration. "Legal encumbrance" includes federal copyright protections and other, non-statutory legal limitations on how or under what conditions a dataset may be used.



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## Open Data = *the right to information online*

Administratively	Technically
Proactively Online	Open formats
Cost-free	Machine-readable
License-free	Bulk downloads



<http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/documents/ten-open-data-principles/>

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Costs of Open Data? (you can do it on any budget)

- Open data programs can have real costs associated with them, but are typically not expensive relative to other kinds of public sector costs.
- Cost varies widely across open data programs in different cities
- Improvement performance on programs that are now able to be measured, and less staff time spent on public records requests can actually reduce costs.
- There are ways to further open data at *any* price point

....For instance, OPEN DATA POLICY!



<http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/tag/why-open-data/>

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Sunlight Local Policy Approach

- Model policy
  - Based on our research analysis of best practices
  - Crowdsourced feedback from Open Gov community and Open Data experts in the US
- Model policy creates high level policy commits to:
  - Moving city toward broad, proactive data release
  - Assigning roles and responsibilities
  - Publishing data to a central online location (portal)
  - Regular review of progress on publication goals



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PUBLISHING DATA AND ENGAGING  
RESIDENTS IN  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD



Victoria Lewis, PMP  
dataMontgomery Project Manager

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### OPEN DATA ACT

**Executive Branch Open Data Pilot 2012**

**Bill 23-12: Open Data Act – DECEMBER 2012**

- ▣ Provide a centralized site to publish County data
- ▣ Compile and publish a multi-year Open Data Implementation Plan
- ▣ Publish Maryland Public Information Act Responses

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### budgetMontgomery

How we Budget for County Services

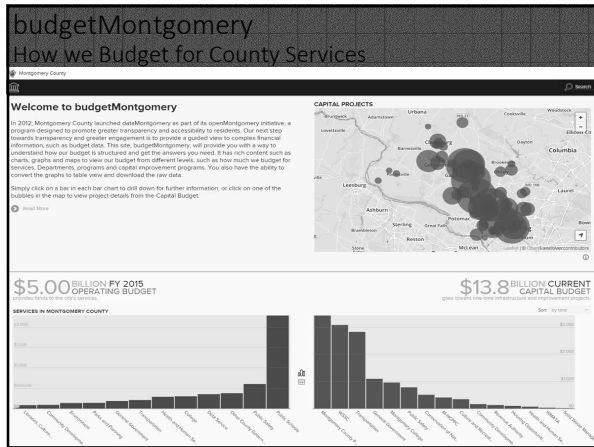
Welcome to budgetMontgomery

In 2010, Montgomery County launched dataMontgomery as part of its openMontgomery initiative, a program designed to promote greater transparency and accessibility to residents. Our next step towards transparency and greater engagement is to provide a quicker view to complex financial information, such as budget data. The site, budgetMontgomery, will provide you with a way to understand how our budget is structured and get the answers you need. It has rich content such as charts, graphs and maps to view our budget from different levels, such as how much we budget for services, departments, programs and capital improvement programs. You also have the ability to convert the graphs to table view and download the raw data.

Simply click on a bar in each bar chart to drill down for further information, or click on one of the bubbles in the map to view project details from the Capital Budget.

**\$5.00 BILLION FY 2015 OPERATING BUDGET**

**\$13.8 BILLION CURRENT CAPITAL BUDGET**



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### SUCCESS FACTORS

**Strategic:**

- ▣ Visible CEX Commitment
- ▣ Successful Department Engagement Model
- ▣ Clear Planning using a Comprehensive Dataset Inventory

**Operational:**

- ▣ Automate All Datasets When Possible
- ▣ "IT" doesn't publish data alone
- ▣ Set up a sound, repeatable structure for
  - ▣ Publishing Datasets
  - ▣ Reviewing and Approving Data for Publishing

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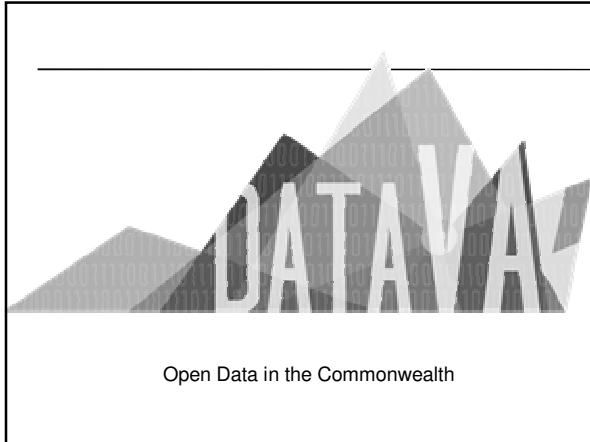
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**Datathon: neXT STEPS**

- × Regional datathons with local participation
- × Theme-based for added focus
- × More robust collection of datasets
- × Greater university & high school participation

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**Recipe for an open data program**

- × Identify specific problems that result from lack of data clarity
- × Engage civic coders and stakeholders
- × Establish policy and guidelines that ensure standardization and regular updating
- × Host regular events and programs that actively encourage the use of open data

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