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

Stephen Larrick
Open Data Project Lead
slarrick@sunlightfoundation.com

What Is Open Data?

Open Data (**oh**-p*un* **dey**-t*uh*, **oh**-p*un* **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

SUNLIGHT FOUNDATION   http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/documents/ten-open-data-principles/

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!

SUNLIGHT FOUNDATION   http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/tag/why-open-data/

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

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

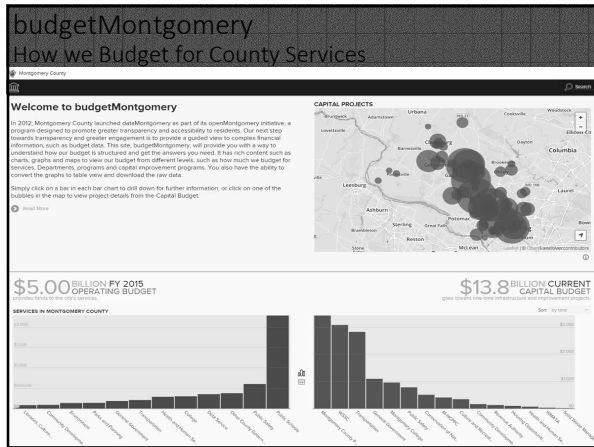
budgetMontgomery
How we Budget for County Services

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
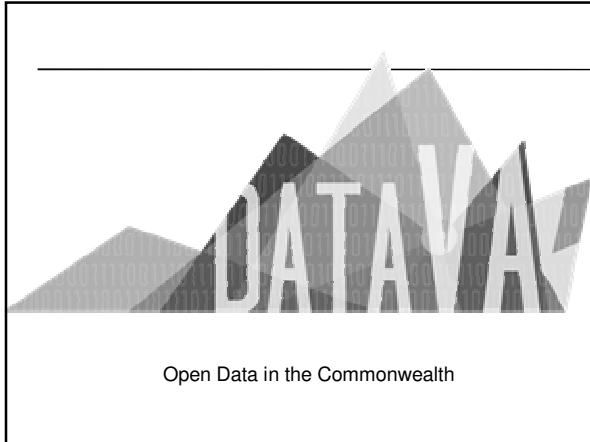   - Reviewing and Approving Data for Publishing

Open Data in the Commonwealth

Datathon: neXT STEPS

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

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