

Enhancing Public Governance: An Agenda for 2021 and Beyond

Academy Election 2020 Project

Working Group: Develop New Approaches to Public Governance and Engagement

Background

The public's trust in government has been declining for decades and the Covid-19 pandemic highlights weaknesses in our governance structure to work collaboratively across agencies, levels of government, and sectors of society. To restore public trust requires developing new, more effective governance approaches that focus on collaborative governance to address the complex problems facing our society. In this approach, the federal government takes the lead of coordinating and harmonizing the elements of an evidence-based national strategy that is flexible enough to adapt to local conditions.

Recommendations for 2021

1. Use existing opportunities, like supporting veterans who have returned to their communities or preventing and ending homelessness, that can provide a base to build new models of effective collaborative governance.
2. In the long-term, the federal government must test models for a more collaborative governance approach and design and implement customer- and client-centric approaches to selected problems.
3. OMB should direct specified agencies to commit in their strategic planning to a Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) goal to improve the delivery and effectiveness of services for individuals and families through collaboration across multiple human service areas.
4. Lead agencies or cross-agency teams for each area of opportunity should design and pilot a community care coordination delivery model that best supports flexible and agile service delivery under varied local conditions.
5. The Administration should establish a mechanism that enables state and local governments and other community experts to participate in designing and planning collaborative approaches.
6. OMB should employ portfolio budgeting, using strategic objectives as the unit of analysis, to guide resource allocation decisions and inform regulatory and administrative reforms to support the strategy.
7. OMB and other central agencies should work together to establish shared knowledge platforms and clearinghouses.
8. OMB and the White House, with state and local partners, should establish a working group to develop a national plan for federal actions to enable all levels of government to strengthen data, analytics, and evaluation capacity.
9. OMB and lead agencies for each area of opportunity should proactively pursue the use of existing program waivers to allow state and local governments to braid and blend funds to create person-centered service delivery models.

The Challenge: Develop New Approaches to Public Governance and Engagement

In the 21st Century, no significant public problem fits entirely within one government agency, or even one level of government, and our federal system presupposes that all levels of government have an important role to play in the democratic process. Effective problem solving usually requires federal, state, and local governments to work successfully together, and often with the private and nonprofit sectors.

Additional Resources

These resources provide additional information and recommendations in the line with the Election 2020 paper, *Enhancing Public Governance: An Agenda for 2021 and Beyond*.

[The Academy: Election 2020: Develop New Approaches to Public Governance and Engagement Homepage](#)

[The Academy: Roundtable on Developing Public Governance and Engagement](#)



Additional Resources (Cont.)

[OMB: Improving Customer Experience with Federal Services](#)

[U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness: Home Together: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)

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