What is the Commission?

- The Commission is the result of discussions between Congress and the Executive Branch on opportunities for improving how the government uses survey and administrative data.
  - Particular interest in the use of administrative data to produce more robust statistics and support program evaluation.

- Created by bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray, enacted March 30, 2016 (P.L. 114-140).
### Who are the Commissioners?

15-member bipartisan commission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Researchers and Administrators</th>
<th>Privacy Experts</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Katharine Abraham</td>
<td>Paul Ohm</td>
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<td><em>University of Maryland (CHAIR)</em></td>
<td><em>Georgetown University</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker of the House</td>
<td>Ron Haskins</td>
<td>Robert Hahn</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Brookings Institution (CO-CHAIR)</em></td>
<td><em>University of Oxford</em></td>
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<td>House Minority Leader</td>
<td>Hilary Hoynes</td>
<td>Latanya Sweeney</td>
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<td><em>University of California, Berkeley</em></td>
<td><em>Harvard University</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Majority Leader</td>
<td>Kenneth Troske</td>
<td>Robert Shea</td>
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<td><em>University of Kentucky</em></td>
<td><em>Grant Thornton LLP</em></td>
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<td>Senate Minority Leader</td>
<td>Jeffrey Liebman</td>
<td>Kim Wallin</td>
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<td><em>Harvard University</em></td>
<td><em>Wallin Ltd.</em></td>
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What is the Commission working on?

- Major focus on uses of data to produce relevant evidence about Federal programs
- Data lifecycle model a framework for thinking about current practice and potential future models
  - Data acquisition
  - Data curation
  - Data linkage
  - Data access/analysis
  - Data archiving/destruction
- Also charged to make recommendations about how to institutionalize robust evaluation in ongoing program operations

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Privacy considerations central to our work

- 5 of the 15 Commissioners were appointed based on expertise in “protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization”

- The Commission’s September 9 meeting was devoted to key considerations about privacy related to evidence-building

- Privacy considerations will continue to play a substantial role as the Commission formulates findings and recommendations
What are we hearing: Existing Federal models

- Will discuss Federal models at December 12 meeting
  - Data acquisition, curation and linkage
    - BLS QCEW program
    - Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications
    - Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program
  - Data access/analysis
    - Statistics of Income Joint Statistical Research Program
    - Federal Statistical Research Data Center network
    - CMS Virtual Research Data Center
    - NCES Data Licensing System
- Data access models differ in several respects
  - Implementation of privacy and confidentiality safeguards
  - Criteria and process for research project approval
  - Approaches to funding necessary infrastructure
What are we hearing: International models

- Working to understand how other countries tackle these issues; will explore this more at our January 13 meeting.

- Four aspects of approach to data access that appear to be common across several countries:
  - Centralized, but shared, governance: Centralized approval of research applications by board that include lay members
  - Privacy Principles – Five Safes: Safe people, safe project, safe setting, safe data, safe outputs
  - Distributed Access: Virtualized access, walled off analysis
  - Cost Recovery: User fees fund access models
What is the role of evaluation in the Commission’s work?

- Important for the Commission to understand the needs of the evaluation community
  - Evaluators both inside and outside of government play a central role in generating relevant and rigorous evidence
- The Commission’s November 4 meeting focused on issues of concern to evaluators
  - Nine witnesses described key capacity challenges and opportunities, including those related to collecting and accessing data for evaluation
  - Numerous other evaluation associations, advocates, and contractors have contacted the Commission to provide suggestions and advice
What are we hearing: RFC

• CEP published a Request for Comments in September; will remain open thru December 14.
• More than 220 comments received thus far

• Major themes we’re hearing from the public
  o Nearly 150 comments related to privacy concerns with collecting and using specific data. Many are related to the student unit record ban or objecting to government collection of data
  o More than 70 comments include detailed suggestions about improving access to microdata for research purposes, with extensive focus on strategies for preserving privacy and confidentiality
  o Multiple commenters have offered specific models of linkage, access, or data security
  o Multiple commenters have encouraged integrating program evaluation in the design of Federal programs, with many encouraging the Commission to promote a range of methods in final recommendations
What is the Commission’s timeline?

- **CEP Enacted**
  - March 2016

- **Meetings, Hearings, Research & Deliberations**
  - July 2016-August 2017

- **Final Report**
  - September 2017

- **Commission Ends**
  - Sept. 30, 2017

**Past Events**
- **Meeting #1, July 2016** – Introduction
- **Meeting #2, Sept. 2016** – Privacy Considerations
- **Public Hearing, Oct. 2016** – Washington, DC
- **Meeting #3, Nov. 2016** – Key Issues Related to Evaluation

**Upcoming Events**
- **Meeting #4, Dec 12, 2016** – Federal Models
- **Public Hearing, Jan. 5, 2017** – Chicago, IL
- **Meeting #5, Jan 13, 2017** – State and International Models
- **Public Hearing, Feb 9, 2017** – San Francisco, CA

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How can you participate?

- **Submit Written Comments:**

- **Attend a Meeting of the Commission**
  - Next meetings scheduled for Dec. 12 and Jan. 13 in Washington, DC
  - Check CEP.gov for notices regarding in-person and remote attendance

- **Attend a Public Hearing**
  - Next hearing scheduled for January 5 in Chicago
  - Third hearing scheduled for February 9 in San Francisco
  - Check CEP.gov for notices regarding attendance options

- **Join the Commission email list for future updates:**
  - events@cep.gov