

FY: 2017

Open Data



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ADOPTED BUDGET

MAYOR KEVIN L. FAULCONER

The City of
**SAN
DIEGO**

Open Data

The City of San Diego is committed to the principles of open, accessible, and efficient government and use of technology to help put those principles into practice.

On January 2, 2014, the City Council approved Resolution No. R-308684 in support of creating an open data policy to allow for making City data available online using open standards.

On December 16, 2014, shortly after Mayor Faulconer appointed the City's first Chief Data Officer, the City Council passed the Open Data Policy marking a significant milestone in the City's open government efforts.

About the Program

The Open Data Program is administered by the Performance & Analytics Department. Its purpose is to make City operations more transparent and accountable to the public and allow the public to assist in identifying and creating tools and solutions for improving government services.

Empowerment, efficiency, and economic development are the main pillars of the Open Data Program:

- Residents, business, and visitors who use applications will be empowered and connected to their City because government information will be readily available.
- City employees will become more efficient since they will have immediate access to data across the City.
- Taxpayers will benefit from a more efficient government that is capable of providing high quality public services most economically and efficiently through the use of data-driven decisions.
- Application engineers will be able to start businesses and help City customers by creating useful tools that contribute to our local economy.

Government data belongs to the taxpayer. By releasing information in consumable and reusable formats, the amount of time to respond to public requests for data can also be streamlined to the benefit of the public and City employees alike.

Current State of Data

The City produces, tracks, and stores enormous amounts of data. Some of this data is shared systematically both inter- and intra-departmentally, while other data is used to report information to external agencies. However, this data has potential beyond its existing use. By increasing access to the data for the general public, City employees, and elected officials, the City hopes to unlock this potential and tap into additional opportunities for improved governance through data analytics.

Currently, the City's data is:

- **Closed** - Trapped in proprietary formats and databases
- **Misunderstood** - Not described well and can be misinterpreted
- **Hard to find** - Located within and across departments
- **Unknown** - No central inventory of the data that is collected and managed
- **Scattered** - Different data is dispersed across multiple systems

Open Data

Open Data is:

- **Accessible** - Made available in open, machine-readable formats that can be retrieved, downloaded, indexed, and searched by a wide variety of software
- **Described** - Sufficient information is provided to facilitate an understanding of the meaning and context
- **Reusable** - Available under an open license that places no restrictions on use
- **Timely** - Updated as quickly as necessary to preserve the value and usefulness
- **Complete** - As granular and close to the source as possible

Next Steps

The initial part of the open data effort as called for by the Open Data Policy is to understand what data the City of San Diego has in its possession, what databases it resides in, and how it is structured. The Performance & Analytics Department now has a list of high-value public datasets to target for publication on an open data portal which launched in July 2016.

In Fiscal Year 2016, the Open Data Program accomplished the following:

- Conducted the first ever data inventory effort
- Created a draft version of the Technical Guidelines that is under review
- Created an information site, datasd.org, to keep stakeholders updated on the progress of policy implementation
- Published the list of the City's high-value datasets on datasd.org with the option for people to vote on datasets
- Increased engagement with the civic hacking community and other interested stakeholders, by doing things like hosting Code Day, an event for young programmers and data enthusiasts

In Fiscal Year 2017, the City will launch an open data portal containing some datasets from the published inventory and continue preparing additional datasets for release after launch. The City will also dedicate resources towards developing visualizations and tools for the public to navigate various City data.