



## **Getting Started:**

Legal Frameworks for Data Sharing and Legal Analytics 101

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## TELL US IN THE CHAT: What reasons have you heard for why data cannot be shared?





## Agenda

- Introductions and Overview of AISP & DISC
- Legal Frameworks
- Site Examples
- Q&A

#### What We Do

- Convene and advocate on behalf of communities that are sharing and using cross-sector data for good
- Connect to innovations, best practices, and research and funding opportunities that support ethical data sharing
- Consult with data sharing collaborations to build the human and technical capacity to share data and improve lives

#### Why We Do It

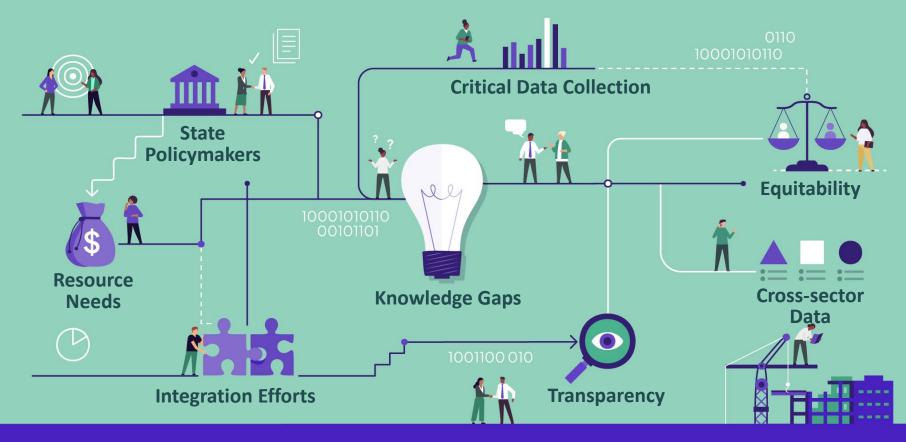
When communities bring together cross-sector data safely and responsibly, policy-makers, practitioners, and schools are better equipped to:

- · Understand the complex needs of individuals and families
- Allocate resources where they're needed most to improve services
- Measure long-term and two-generation impacts of policies and programs
- Engage in transparent, shared decision-making about how data should (and should not) be used





The Data Integration Support Center (DISC) at WestEd provides expert integrated data system planning and user-centered design, policy, privacy, and legal assistance for public agencies nationwide.







### Our roles





Data evangelists

Connectors, community builders, thought partners, cheerleaders, and data sharing therapists

Focused on ethical data use for policy change



#### We are not:

Data holders or intermediaries

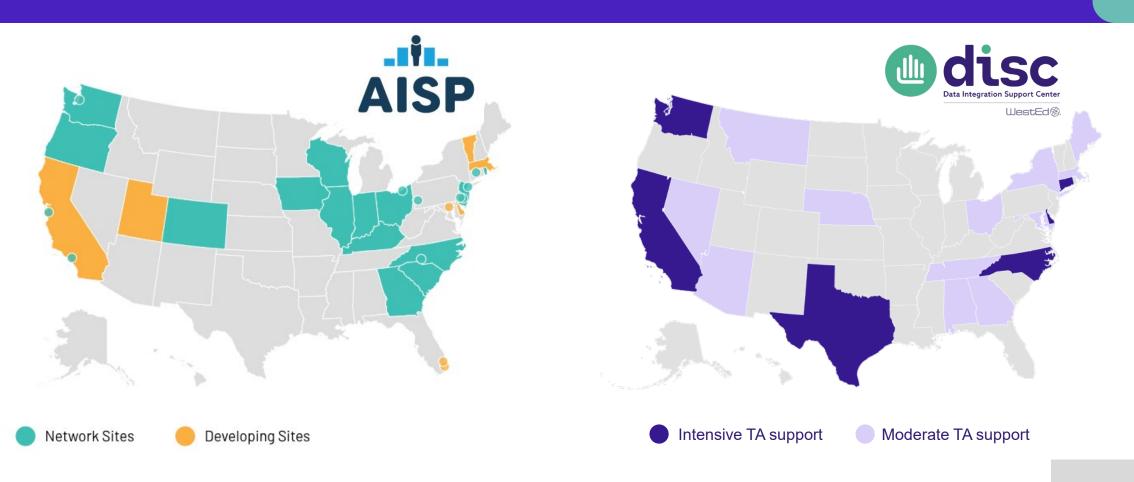
A vendor or vendor recommender

Focused on academic research





### **Our Networks**







### What we do

**AISP** 

**IDS Peer Network** 

Guidance & Standards

Training & Consulting

Advocacy & Communications

Multi-site Research

**DISC** 

Planning & User-Centered Design

Legislative Analysis

**External Legal Support** 

Privacy

System Security





## Our approach

Data sharing is as relational as it is technical.

We don't just need to integrate data;

we need to integrate people.





### **ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**



What legal instruments are used to facilitate routine data sharing and integration?



What are some current positive practices in the U.S. of data sharing and integration, with a focus on robust legal frameworks, data governance and routine data access and use?



What are some commonly perceived legal barriers to data sharing and integration?



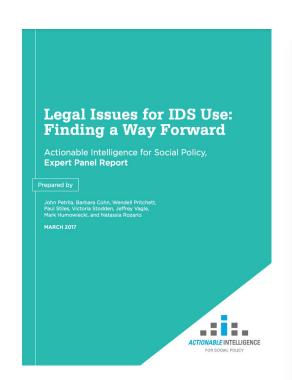


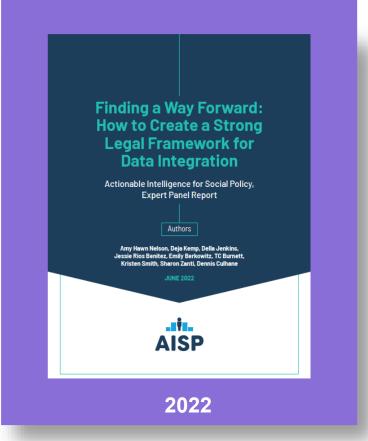
## Legal Frameworks

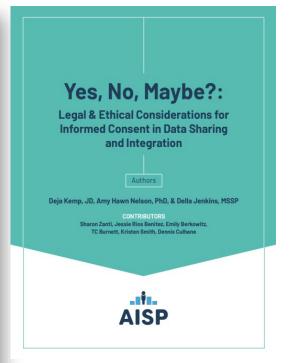




## Legal Publications



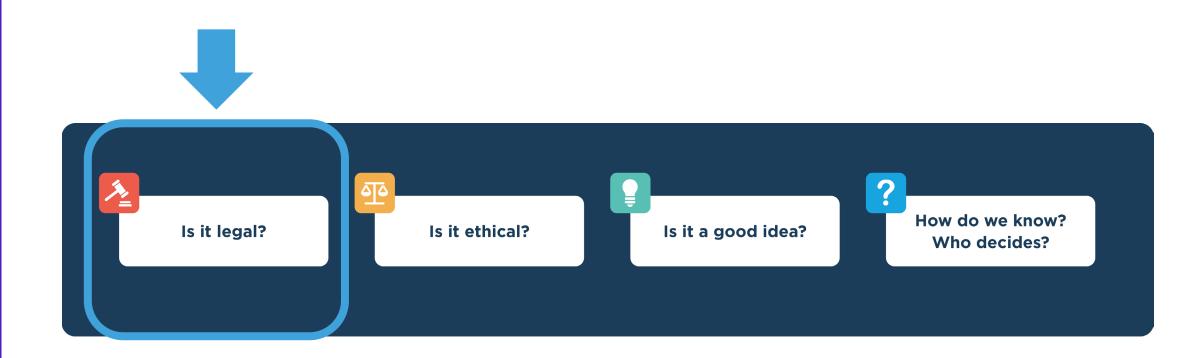








## Why: The Four Questions



## Where to begin?

#### **Legal Authority**



#### **Data Classification**

Open Data	Data that can be shared openly, either at the aggregate or individual level, based on state and federal law.
Restricted Data	Data that can be shared, but only under specific circumstances with appropriate safeguards in place.
Unavailable Data	Data that cannot or should not be shared, because of legal restriction or another reason (e.g., data quality concerns).

Regulates

personally

identifiable records

maintained by

federal agencies.

#### HIPAA

HIPAA regulates the protection of individually identifiable health information.



#### 42 CFR PART 2

Stringent federal regulations (referred to commonly as 42 CFR Part 2) protect the confidentiality of alcohol and substance abuse treatment records.

# State & Federal Laws

JUSTICE RECORDS

**CRIMINAL & JUVENILE** 

State laws typically govern access to criminal records, such as arrest records, and juvenile justice records, such as juvenile court files.

MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS

HMIS

Protects

information

collected through

the Homeless

Management

Information System (HMIS), under the

guidance of the

U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD). FERPA

FERPA protects

the confidentiality

of education

records.

States typically have statutory provisions governing the confidentiality of mental health records.

MEDICAID RECORDS

Access to Medicaid records is generally controlled by the state agency that administers the Medicaid program.

**HIV LAWS** 

Most states have special laws protecting the confidentiality of information that may disclose a person's HIV status.

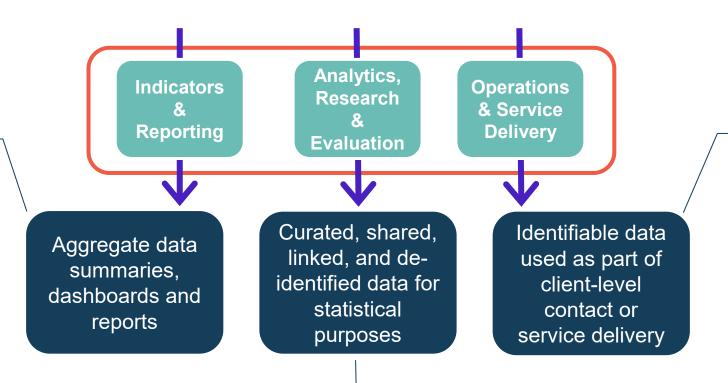




Consent likely

## Purpose will inform legality of use

Possibility of using de-identified data or publicly available data



Identifiers shared for limited purposes, might be able to rely on certain exceptions





## Guiding Principles for Legal Agreements



A complex legal landscape governs data integration, especially regarding sensitive information.



Law is a real and perceived barrier to integrating meaningful data.



It is possible to navigate law to facilitate data integration.



When law is not clear, written agreements should be used to provide clarity.





## Role of legal agreements in data integration:

- Identify and codify purpose
- Identify and codify relevant laws
- Clarify appropriate use and access
- Clarify where law is not clear





## Considerations for Legal Agreements

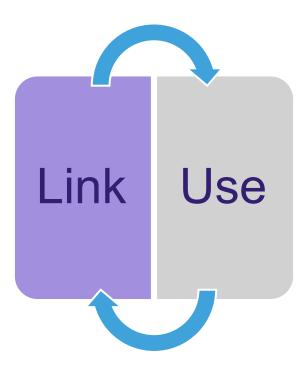
- Time
- Adaptability
- Administrative burden





## Data Integration Purpose in IDS

1. Bring administrative data together to describe a population



2. Identify policies and programs that are most impactful in preparing residents to thrive

## Foundational Legal Agreements

LEGAL AGREEMENT	PURPOSE	PROCESS	SIGNATORY
Memorandum of Understanding MOU  Overarching process document signed on by all data partners	The MOU documents the purpose and governance process. The MOU will be signed by all data partners as they enter the collaboration. The MOU references the DSA, DUL, and relevant policies, and procedures for data access and use.	Drafted in partnership with legal counsel from all participating data partners	Lead agency/ies + all data partners
Data Sharing Agreement DSA  Agency-specific to how data will be used for integration	The DSA includes the specific terms and conditions that govern how data are transferred, stored, and managed when shared and integrated. The DSA references the MOU and the DUL. This document is specific to data held by a data partner.	Template is drafted in partnership with legal counsel from all participating data partners. Completed according to specific data assets of the data partner. Reviewed and updated annually, or as agreed upon.	Lead agency/ies + data partner
Data Use License DUL  Data use—specific once data has been integrated	The DUL outlines the role and responsibilities of the data recipient. The DUL is often executed after the Data Request Form is approved. The Request Form and/or DUL should include: purpose, data fields, anonymization procedures, dissemination plan, and timeline of project completion. A DUL must be executed prior to data access.	Template is drafted in partnership with legal counsel from all participating data partners. Once data request is approved, a DUL is executed.	Lead agency/ies + data recipient

### Tiered Agreement

#### Data Use License (DUL)

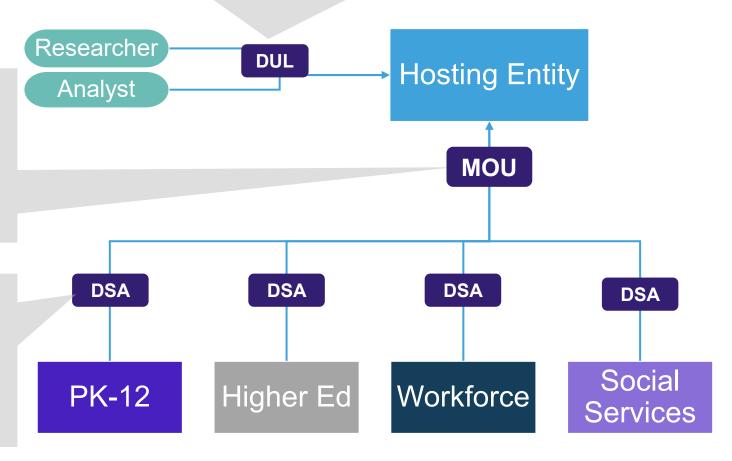
- Between Hosting Entity and Data Recipient
- Roles and responsibilities of the data recipient, often executed after a Data Request is approved.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

- Between Hosting Entity and Data Partners
- establishes the specific context in which the host may access and use the data in the IDS
- MOU references the DSA, DUL, and relevant policies, and procedures for data access and use

#### **Data Sharing Agreement (DSA)**

- Between Hosting Entity and Data Partners
- includes the specific terms and conditions that govern how data are transferred, stored, and managed when shared and integrated
- DSA references the MOU and the DUL



## Pros & Cons of Tiered Legal Agreements





#### **PROS**

- Purpose is inclusive of the data integration effort
- Flexible and adaptable
- Standardized
- Transparent and understandable to non-legal staff
- Ease of administration

#### **CONS**

- Longer initial development time
- More complex to understand and socialize





#### A Practical Example



**Lease** = Legal Authority

**MOU** = Roommate Agreement

**DSA** = Individual Agreement re assets

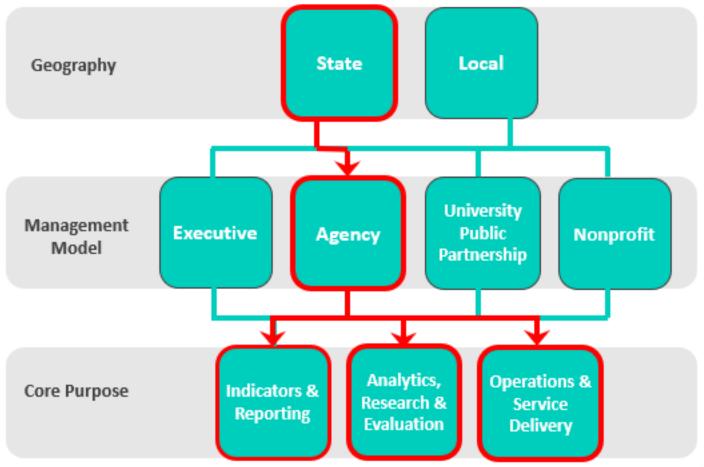
**DUL** = Details the use





## Site Examples

## North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services

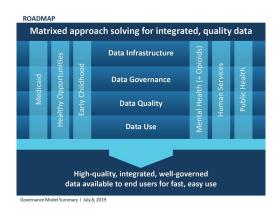


## Legal Framework History



2019

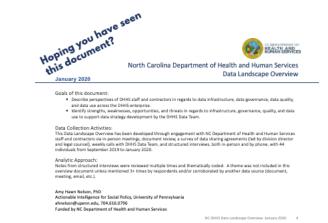
- ✓ Staffing of Data Office
- ✓ Data Strategy Development





2020

- ✓ Data Landscape
- ✓ ID key steps to improve data access and use





2021

- ✓ Data Sharing Guidebook
- ✓ Data Request Forms
- ✓ Legal Framework





## Legal Framework History



#### **November 2021**

Executed

 Intradepartmental
 Memorandum of
 Understanding
 (IMOU)



#### January – June 2022

- Draft Division and Office Specific Data Sharing Agreements
- Begin Executing DSAs



#### July 2022 - Present

- Continuous process improvement
- Demonstrated use cases across all of DHHS
- Executing Remaining DSAs



### The Framework – Foundational Legal Agreements

#### NCDHHS' FOUNDATIONAL LEGAL AGREEMENTS

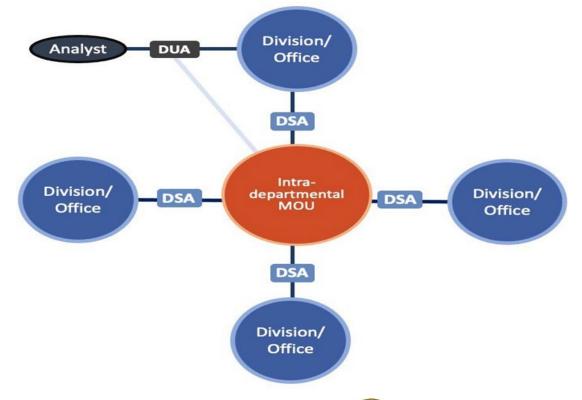
LEGAL DOCUMENT	PURPOSE	PROCESS	SIGNATORY
Intradepartmental MOU Overarching process and guiding principles document signed by all Divisions / Offices	<ul> <li>Documents the purpose and governance process.</li> <li>Is signed by all data partners as they enter the collaboration.</li> <li>Sets the stage where collaborators understand and agree on the basic premise that data use must be legally complaint, responsible, and only to the extent required.</li> <li>References the data sharing agreements, data use agreements, policies, and procedures for data access and use (e.g., NCDHHS Data Sharing Guidebook).</li> </ul>	Drafted by Data Office, reviewed by legal counsel, signed by Executive Leadership and updated through the NCDHHS Data Governance Council as needed.	All Division and Office Directors and Secretary's Office are parties to 1 agreement
Data Sharing Agreement Division / Office Specific	<ul> <li>The DSA includes the specific terms and conditions that govern how division- and office-specific data are transferred, stored, and managed when shared and integrated across the Department.</li> <li>The DSA references and reinforces the IMOU and the DUA.</li> <li>It is specific to Division and Office held data and incorporates language around use of data for administrative purposes, which if legally permissible is by default approved unless the data owner decides otherwise.</li> </ul>	Drafted by Data Office and Division/Office specific legal counsel. Reviewed and updated annually, or as agreed upon.	1 DSA per Division/Office Signed by Division and Office Director, the Data Office, and Information Technology Division
Data Use Agreement Data Request Specific	Legal counsel determines if a DUA is needed for a specific request. The DUA outlines the role and responsibilities of the data recipient. If applicable, this document is attached to the Data Request Form, which includes relevant fields, depending on the request, including: purpose, data fields, anonymization procedures, dissemination plan, and timeline of project completion. A DUA must be executed prior to data access.	Data request is identified by type and reviewed appropriately based upon the type of request. Legal counsel determines if a DUA is applicable. If yes and request is approved, a DUA is executed.	DUAs are used as needed for use cases not covered by DSAs.  Signed by Data Recipient and Data Owners (if applicable)

## NCDHHS' Foundational Legal Agreements

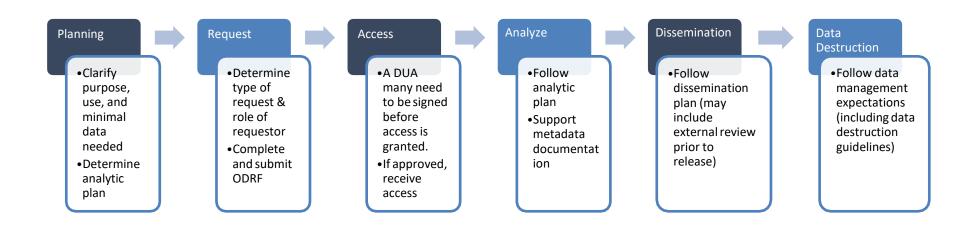




Illustration of the intradepartmental legal agreements used to govern data access and use across NCDHHS Divisions and Offices and Programs.



## Data Request Process for Data Requestors



## Data Request Process For Request Recipients

(including Data Steward, Data Owner or Designee, & Data Custodian)

#### Data Office Reviews Request

- Data Office reviews, Is request legal (according to DSA), ethical, a good idea?
- If yes, how will request be fulfilled?
- What are data sources for requested data elements?

#### Data Steward and Legal reviews request

- If applicable, using ServiceNow and/or email, start review and approval process with Data Steward
- Consult with Legal Counsel to determine legal framework
- Consult with Data Owner

#### Fulfill request

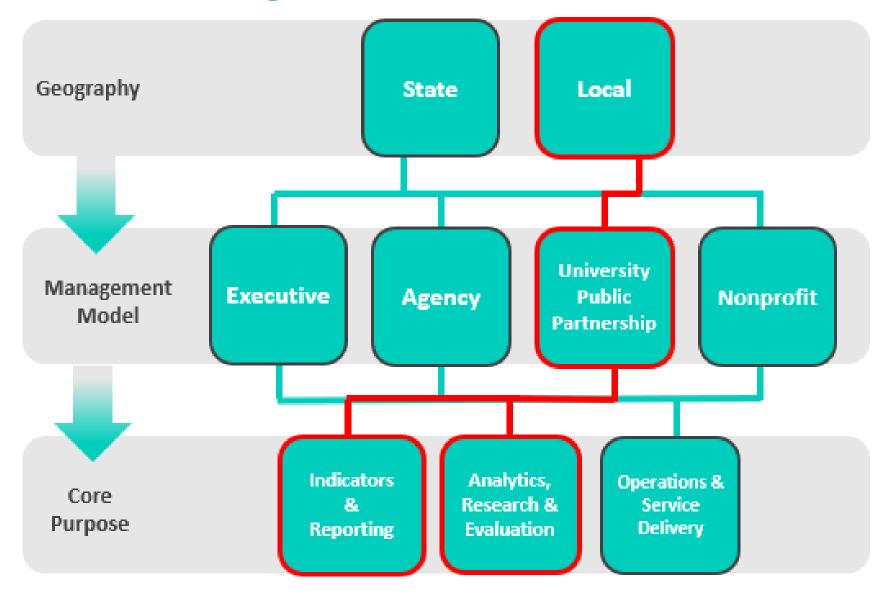
- Fulfill request based upon requested data output
- Before request is fulfilled, ensure legal agreements are in place
- If applicable, determine appropriate de-ID procedures are followed
- If applicable, confer with PSO for secure transfer

#### Ensure data use stipulations have been met

- If applicable:
- Annual update reports
- Review findings/report prior to public dissemination
- Contact communications
- Ensure data has been destroyed



## Charlotte Regional Data Trust







Community Research Services



Regional Policy & Issue Analysis



Research Outreach & Engagement

### The Charlotte Regional Data Trust

We seek solutions to the complex social, economic, and environmental challenges facing our communities. We engage expertise across a diverse set of disciplines and life experiences to curate data, conduct actionable research, and provide relevant policy analysis to inform better decisions that benefit all of us. **We support knowing for doing.** 



## Governance Documents



## Enterprise Memorandum of Understanding (EMOU)

Documents the shared ISC mission, purpose, and governance process and establishes buy-in to a shared community asset.

### **Security Policy**

Describes ISC security and privacy agreements and procedures, including the incorporation of the latest data security advancements (use of cloud technology, for example).

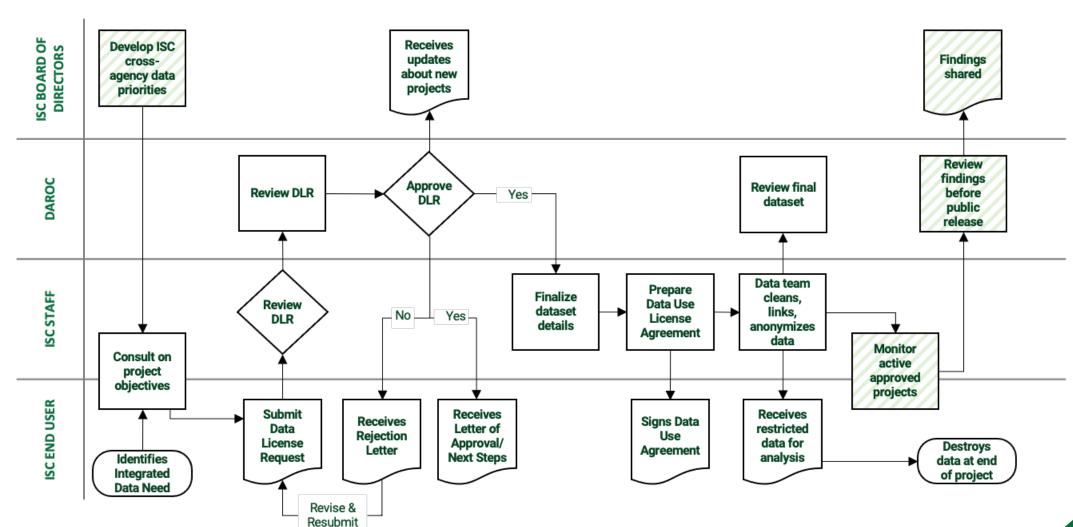
### **Data Sharing Agreement**

Describes the terms of data sharing with each data partner and may include additional negotiated language specific to the partnership and organization.

### **Data Use License**

Outlines the legal terms of data use by approved end users.

#### Charlotte Regional Data Trust **Data Use Process**









Questions?





# Closing Reflections





## TELL US IN THE CHAT:

What is one thing you are taking away from this training today?





## Thank you.

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