Information Collection

Public policy makers, including law enforcement executives, frequently do not have access to sufficient data or analytical tools to craft informed policy. Under this topic, teams will propose a study to contribute to the community’s understanding of a significant problem or issue. Each proposed study will include ways to collect and analyze data, provide a clear justification of the need and potential outcomes of the proposed work, and identify stakeholder that may be impacted. Ultimately, studies such as those proposed here can contribute to improved public policy in a number of ways.

Guiding Principles

Any study aimed at identifying and/or analyzing new sources of data should have a potential to contribute to our societal understanding of an important problem or issue. The methods applied should be appropriate, the study should use resources wisely, and all aspects of the proposal should be clearly explained and justified with appropriate sources.

Expectations for all Topic 1 Projects:

a) The study should be built upon a meaningful understanding of core issue being considered and should present one or more clearly stated research questions. Generally, research questions are not “yes-no”, but rather hope to explore the impact of one or more factors on the problem at hand.

b) Propose a feasible method or methods to collect and/or organize data from new or existing sources and explain how this data might broaden society’s understanding of the core issue.

c) Propose one or more methods to analyze the data collected, including how your analysis will address your research questions.

d) Provide an estimated timeline to complete all aspects of the study.

e) Identify potential outcomes of the proposed study, and the impact of these outcomes within the city, state or country.
f) Identify **potentially interested community members and other stakeholders**, beyond the law enforcement community, who may be interested in or impacted by the proposed study. Justify your choices by citing related studies or sources.

Larger and/or more advanced project teams may also choose to construct future steps for refining study plans based on collected data, and may also choose to explore/implement some of the following:

- g) Incorporate **intermediate sampling methods and statistical techniques across the proposed study**. The potential appropriateness of these techniques should be **clearly justified**.

- h) Provide an **estimated budget**, along with a discussion of the **human, financial and technological costs** needed to complete the proposed study.

- i) Develop a **communication or dissemination plan** to share the outcomes of the study with the identified stakeholders and communities of interest.

- j) Build upon **detailed and well-researched review of the relevant literature** in public policy, statistical methods and/or any other relevant area.

- k) Incorporate **advanced sampling methods and statistical techniques across the proposed study**. The potential appropriateness of these techniques should be **clearly justified**. In depth projects should also at least briefly consider how the study might deal with incomplete or “dirty” data.

- l) In addition to your poster, submit a detailed and well-researched review of the relevant literature in public policy, statistical methods and/or any other area that may relate to the focus of your project.

- m) Within your literature review, present a communication or dissemination plan to **involve impacted community members and other stakeholders in a feedback cycle**, and explain how that feedback might be used to strengthen or otherwise modify the proposed study.

**Example Areas of Study**

(Note: Participants are encouraged to propose and explore any interesting issues - these are only examples!)

1) Equitable hiring and firing practices within police departments.
2) Impacts of marijuana decriminalization.
3) Effects of social media on community-police relations.
4) Qualitative or mixed-methods studies into police mindset and/or practice, community perceptions of policing, or other issues.
5) Understanding the movement of homeless populations within Denver, and the impact of these movements within the community.
6) Applications of machine learning or other “big data” techniques to problems in law enforcement or other areas of related public policy.
## Data to Policy Project: Public Data for the Public Good
### Rubric for Information Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Exceeds Expectations:</th>
<th>Meets Expectations:</th>
<th>Below Expectations:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Identifies problem(s) or research question(s)</strong></td>
<td>Identifies a narrow problem of need related to law enforcement in Denver and states (a) clear, approachable research question(s), identifying affected parties</td>
<td>Identifies a broad problem related to law enforcement in Denver and states at least one research question</td>
<td>Problem(s) and/or research question(s) absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relevancy of Data</strong></td>
<td>Available data is directly relevant to the problem(s) or research question(s) identified, or employs multiple indirectly related data sets</td>
<td>Available data is indirectly relevant to the problem(s) or research question(s) identified</td>
<td>Data is not relevant to the problem(s) or research question(s) identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approach design</strong></td>
<td>Proposed study carefully lays out data collection and organization methods, and addresses timeline and budgetary considerations.</td>
<td>Proposed study includes a plan for data collection and organization.</td>
<td>Proposed study doesn’t address methods for data collection and organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis design</strong></td>
<td>Proposed analysis of collected data is appropriate, building on what is established within the disciplinary literature, to address the problem(s) or research question(s) and utilizes an innovative technique or approach</td>
<td>Proposed analysis of collected data is appropriate, as established within the disciplinary literature, to address the problem(s) or research question(s)</td>
<td>Proposed analysis of collected data is not appropriate to address the problem(s) or research question(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Impacts</strong></td>
<td>Policy or practice proposed directly addresses the identified problem or research question(s), and</td>
<td>Policy or practice proposed addresses the identified problem or research question(s)</td>
<td>Policy or practice proposed does not address the identified problem or research question(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication: Poster</td>
<td>Poster effectively communicates ideas using clear language, layout, images and/or design</td>
<td>Poster effectively communicates ideas using clear language and layout</td>
<td>Poster language, and/or images are unclear or confusing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication: Presentation</td>
<td>Project presentation effectively communicates the ideas presented in the poster to a lay audience, and can answers questions</td>
<td>Project presentation effectively communicates the ideas presented in the poster</td>
<td>Team is unable to effectively communicate the ideas presented in the poster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>