

Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking

Section Synthesis

Task Force on Scientific Integrity

- The Task Force on Scientific Integrity is required to identify best practices for engagement with federal scientists and contractors
- The Task Force on Scientific Integrity is required to gather stakeholder input on scientific-integrity practices. This input can come via a virtual stakeholder summit, a public request for information, a virtual listening tour, open forums, and other methods.

Evidence-Based Policymaking

- OMB may require agency evidence-building plans and annual evaluation plans to include approaches to evidence-based and equitable delivery of policies and programs. These approaches could include quantitative-survey research, qualitative research, ethnographic research, established community engagement processes, and more.
- Agencies are required to make data publicly available, consistent with the Evidence Act to ensure that researchers inside and outside government can use data for equitable, evidence-based policymaking.

Agency Chief Science Officers

- Agency heads can appoint multiple scientific-integrity points of contact to coordinate with agency Scientific Integrity Officials on implementation.
- Agency Chief Science Officers are required to prioritize evidence-based, equitable, inclusive, and participatory practices for research and communication.
- Chief Science Officers and Scientific Integrity Officials will regularly meet to discuss how to expand scientific-integrity practices.

Scientific Advisory Committees

- Agencies are required to review their needs for independent scientific and technical advice from official bodies. The review needs to:
- Assess which existing science and technology advisory committees should be continued
 - Identify agency policies, processes, or practices that need to change to enable external experts from serving on committees
- Agencies are required to ensure that nominees to advisory committees be diverse, representative of a variety of professional backgrounds, provide well-rounded, expert advice, and are selected based on their scientific and technical skills, with priority for experience with evidence-based, equitable, inclusive, and participatory practices.
 - Agencies are required to report to OMB on the results of these reviews. Specifically, which committees should continue or be restarted, which need new membership, and which agency policies, processes, or practices need to be updated.