

Modernizing the Federal Statistical System:

A Roadmap for Action

Meeting 4 (Remote)

Thursday, May 14, 2026 | 11a – 12:30p ET



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

Opening: Advancing FSS Modernization

ASA Welcome | Jeri Mulrow, ASA President

- Federal statistics are critical national infrastructure
- The system is highly capable—but under strain
- The challenge is not just technical:
 - Policy
 - Governance
 - Investment

→ The issue is not **WHETHER** to modernize—but **HOW** to act now **TO ENABLE MODERNIZATION**

Opening: Advancing FSS Modernization

Today's Objective | Jeri Mulrow, ASA President

- Clarify why modernization is needed now
- Summarize input received on what is needed
- Identify practical actions
- Gather input to inform next steps

Opening: Advancing FSS Modernization

Meeting Rules | Nick Hart, Data Foundation (*moderator*)

- Moderated discussion 60 mins (recorded):
 - Audience live polling
 - Use Q&A feature to submit questions for discussion during second portion
- Open discussion 30 mins (not recorded):
 - Chatham House rules
 - Take additional questions from Q&A feature

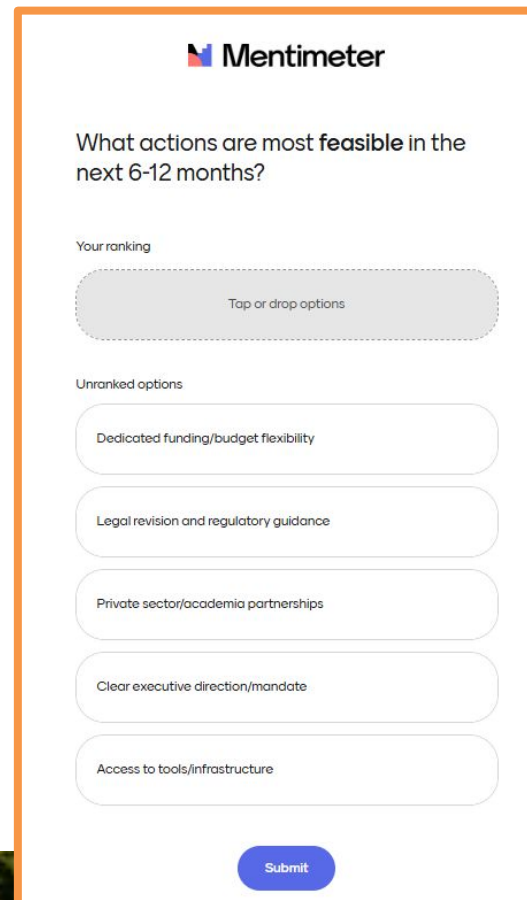
Opening: Advancing FSS Modernization

Meeting Rules | Nick Hart, Data Foundation (*moderator*)

We will use [Mentimeter](#) to gather your input.



We will put the link in the chat when we start



Mentimeter

What actions are most feasible in the next 6-12 months?

Your ranking

Tap or drop options

Unranked options

Dedicated funding/budget flexibility

Legal revision and regulatory guidance

Private sector/academia partnerships

Clear executive direction/mandate

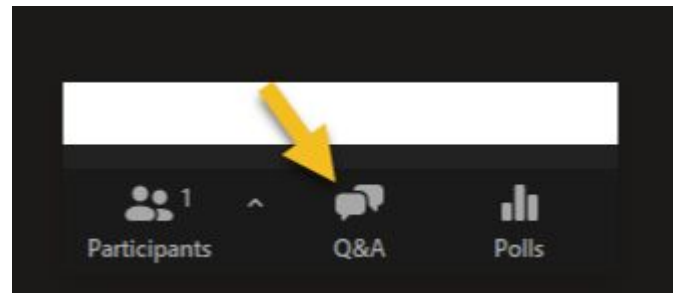
Access to tools/infrastructure

Submit

Opening: Advancing FSS Modernization

Meeting Rules | Nick Hart, Data Foundation (*moderator*)

You can submit your questions in the Q and A.



If we don't address them during the first hour, we can take them at the open discussion at the end.

Question 1: Why is Modernization Urgent?



Urgency: 11:10-11:15



Why Modernization is Urgent

The Case for Urgency | Connie Citro, CNSTAT Senior Scholar

External pressures

- Declining survey response rates
- Explosion of new data sources to be leveraged
- Rising privacy concerns/distrust
- Rising demands for more timely, granular, relevant data

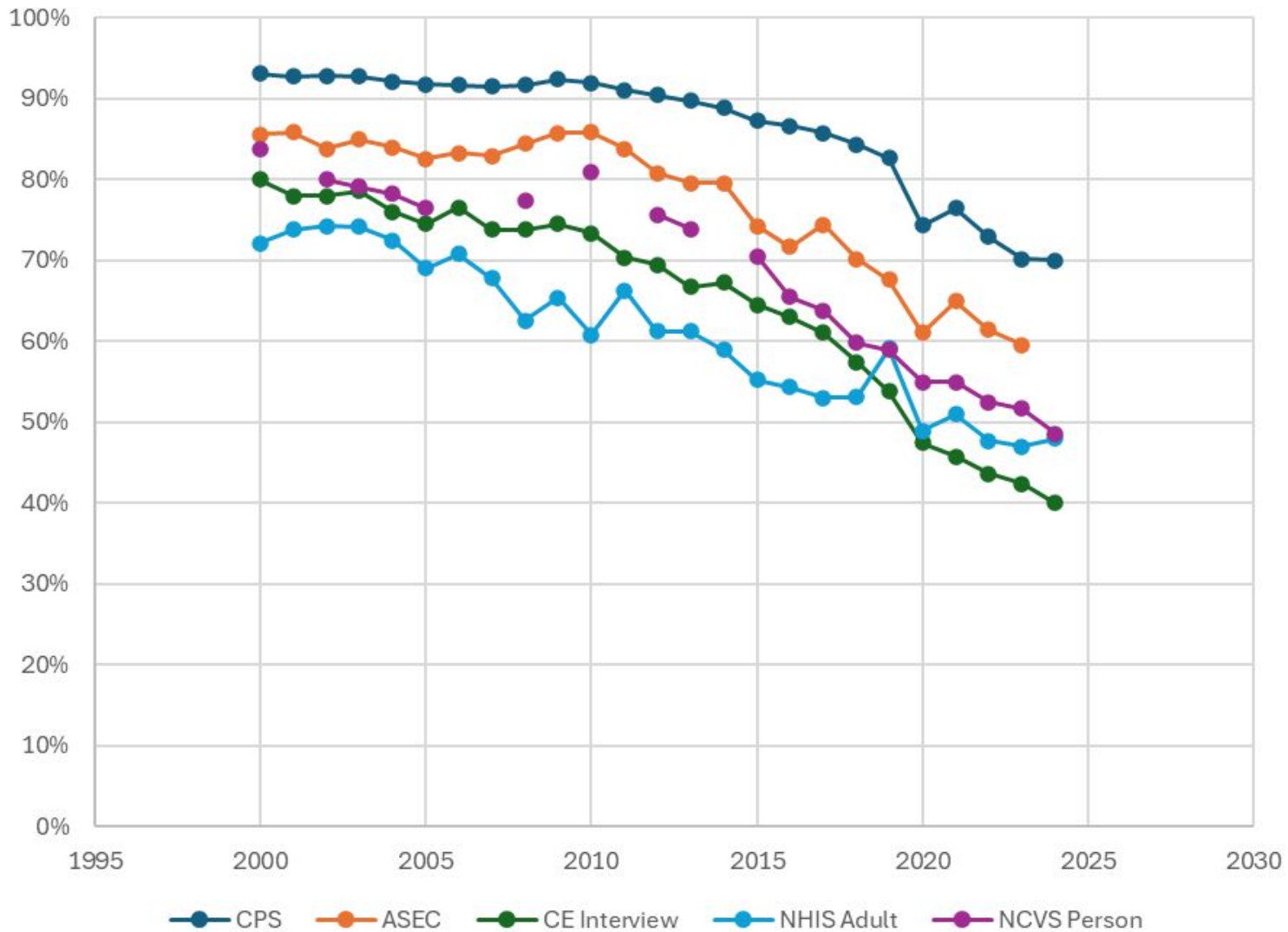
Internal constraints

- Declining (since Great Recession), inflexible budgets
- Recent actions undercut agencies' resources/adaptability (impact varying)
- Fragmented systems, cumbersome legal barriers, insufficient coordination

Result → Agencies can't fully leverage blended data/respond quickly to new needs

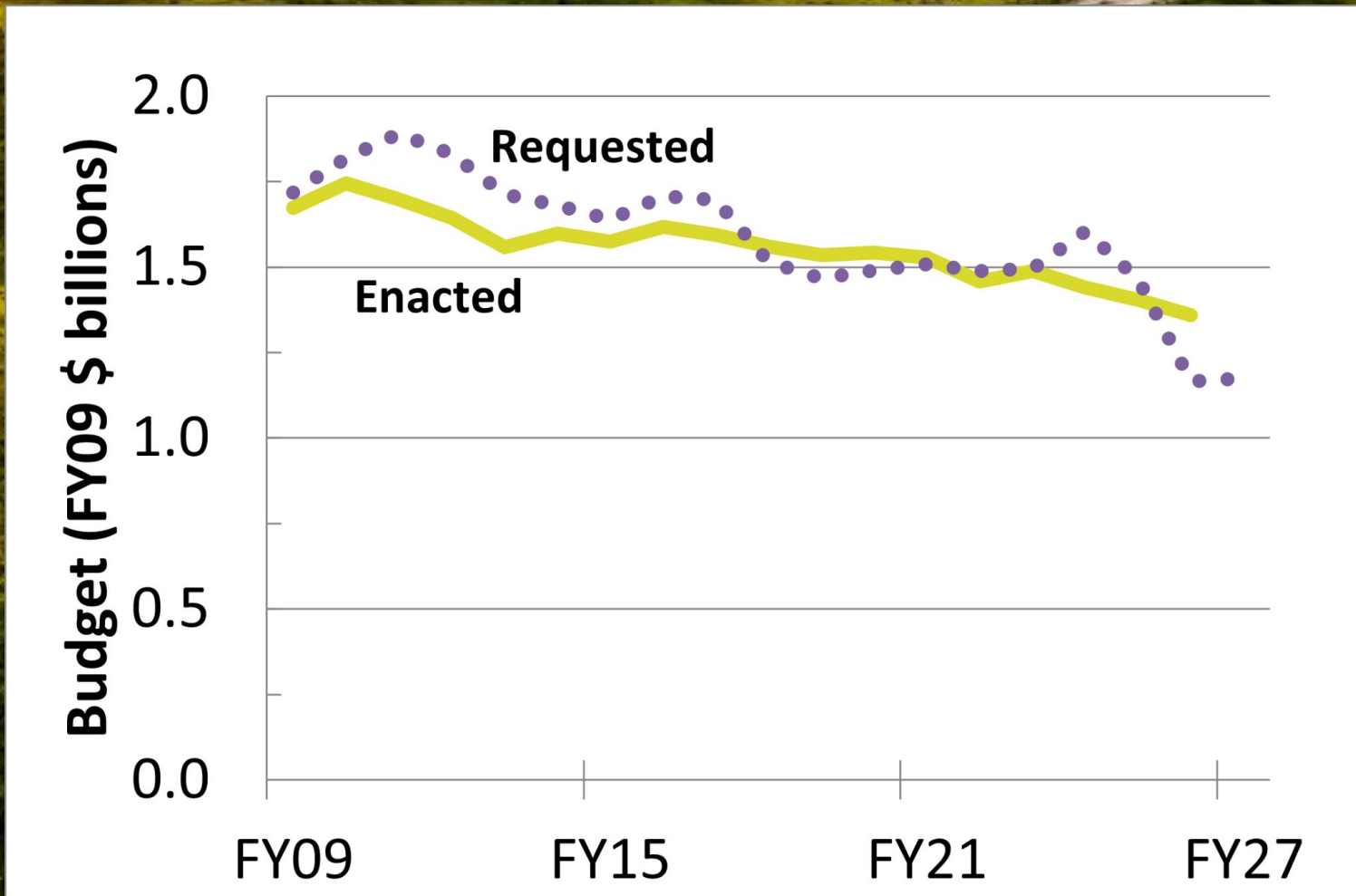
Urgency → Action is needed **now** for the agencies to get ahead of the curve

Response Rates - Five Household Surveys - 2000-2024



Budgets - FY 2009-2027

[9 statistical agencies, excludes censuses]



Question 2: What Does a Modern Statistical System Look Like?



Features of A Modern Statistical System

A Shared Vision | Erica Groshen, Cornell University ILR

We heard you want:

- Weekly or on-demand, hyperlocal, demographic-, occupation-, or industry-specific, trusted measures of social well-being and economic activity
- New dissemination modes to improve accessibility
- Comparable estimates to enable trend analysis

To produce these, a modern FSS must innovate to:

- Produce timely, granular, integrated data
- Enable cross-agency data linkage
- Support AI-ready, machine-readable data
- Maintain privacy, transparency, objectivity
- Manage costs



→ **A functionally interoperable system will deliver this**



What type of "goodies" should the project use to engage support for modernization?

Enter a word

25

You may submit multiple responses

Submit

Question 3: How Do We Get There?





Roadmap Strategy

How to Get There | Bill Beach, FiscalLab

Immediate priority: Interoperable systems (beyond IT!)

Defined by increased:

- Flexibility-enabled innovation
- Routine, privacy-centered, data access for statistics
- Blending data sources to make needed products
- Robust public-private collaboration

Key actions:

- Launch modernization initiative (Recs 1–2)
- Expand public-private R&D partnerships (Recs 3–4)
- Make data AI-ready and discoverable (Recs 5–6)
- Enable data sharing via privacy by design (Recs 7-13)

Interoperable systems → Foundation for everything else

Why interoperability?

Resource constraints require innovative use of existing data.

This makes interoperability of data and systems essential.

Interoperability enables privacy by integrating differing requirements.



Roadmap Strategy

How to Get There | Bill Beach, FiscalLab

Second priority: Unified “state-of-the-art” systems

Defined by (FSS-wide):

- Planning
- Budgeting
- Consistent privacy practices
- Shared IT and other operations services

Key actions:

- FSS CIO + shared IT (Recs 21-22)
- Provide multi-year funding flexibility (Recs 23-25)



Roadmap Strategy

How to Get There | Bill Beach, FiscalLab

Next priority: Adaptive systems

Defined as:

- Fully agile, integrated system with a collaborative communication culture

Key actions:

- Continuous reinforcement of privacy practices (Recs 14-16)
- Rapid response to new data needs (Recs 17-20; 26)
- Continuous innovation (Recs 27 and 28)
- Cross-trained FSS workforce (Recs 29 and 30)

Bottom Line → Interoperability is not optional—it is the gateway to unified and resilient (adaptive) and privacy-centric systems

Question 4: What Actions are Required Now?



Implementation: 11:29-11:41



Policy Actions to Take Now

Administration and Congressional Action | Nancy Potok, NAPx

Launch & governance:

- Launch modernization initiative (Rec 1)
- GAO oversight and monitoring (Rec 2)

Enable privacy-centered data access and easier data blending between statistical agencies (critical bottleneck):

- Issue Evidence Act data protection and access regulations (Recs 11–12)
- Expand access to state/private data (Recs 8–10)



Policy Actions to Take Now

Administration and Congressional Action | Nancy Potok, NAPx

Build innovation capacity:

- NSF's TIP/NSDS partnerships (Rec 3)
- NAIRR collaboration (Rec 4)
- Innovation Fund (Recs 27–28)

Strengthen trust:

- Extend confidentiality protections (Rec 14)
- Reduce respondent burden (Rec 15)
- Protect objectivity (Rec 16)

NSF: National Science Foundation. TIP: Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships. NSDS: National Secure Data Service. NAIRR: National Artificial Intelligence Research Resources

What actions would have biggest impact in the next 6-12 months?

Your ranking

Tap or drop options

Unranked options

Private sector/academia partnerships

Dedicated funding/budget flexibility

Access to tools/infrastructure

Clear executive direction/mandate

Legal revision and regulatory guidance

Submit

What actions are most feasible in the next 6-12 months?

Your ranking

Tap or drop options

Unranked options

Dedicated funding/budget flexibility

Legal revision and regulatory guidance

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Clear executive direction/mandate

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Submit

Question 5: What is the Benefit?





Value Proposition

Roadmap ROI | Erica Groshen, Cornell University ILR

Goodies: Products (most easily measured)

- Faster, granular data
- Greater agility to meet user needs
- More innovative tools/products
- Lower reporting burden
- Increased usage
- Strengthened privacy protections

Goodies: Accountability and Trust

- Reinforced objectivity
- Sustained modernization via clear authority and staged evaluation



Value Proposition

Roadmap ROI | Erica Groshen, Cornell University ILR

Thinking differently—an aside about interoperable systems

- Support **secure data sharing**
 - Standards enable greater consistency and transparency for privacy protections
 - Allow embedded “privacy by design”
- Support **effective decisions**
 - Make options and trade-offs more explicit
 - Facilitate prioritization, innovation, and new products

What outcomes would demonstrate greatest success?

Your ranking

Tap or drop options

Unranked options

Better system integration

Increased usage

More innovative tools/products

Stronger privacy

Reduced burden

Faster Data

Submit

Closing: What We Need From You





Bottom Line

Key Takeaways | Bill Beach, FiscalLab

→ *You gave us your vision of a modern FSS. Here's an actionable roadmap to achieve it.*

The need to modernize is:

- Urgent
- Broadly supported

Our proposal is:

- Feasible
- Leverages existing and developing efforts
- Flexible
- Accountable for measuring progress



What is one concrete step you could take to support this roadmap?

Short responses are recommended. You have 200 characters left.

You may submit multiple responses

Submit

Mentimeter



The Road Ahead

Key Takeaways | Nick Hart, Data Foundation (*moderator*)

Tell us your priorities and how they align with the roadmap's actions

- Today's polls
- Meeting survey (forthcoming)
- NEXT: Open Q&A (not recorded)

Input received will refine roadmap messaging and inform the team's implementation strategy, including future meetings.

Help keep (and focus) momentum

- Future meetings
- JSM panel

After Meeting: Open Q&A

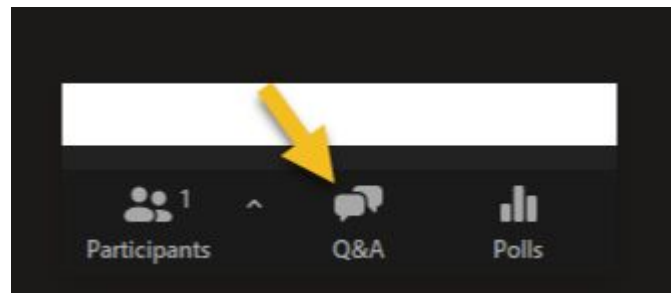


After Meeting 12-12:30

After Meeting

Open Q&A | Nick Hart, Data Foundation (*moderator*)

- Recording is **off**. Chatham House rules are **on**.
- We have your questions submitted in the Q and A.
- I'll take them in no particular order.
- You can **continue to submit questions** in the Q and A.



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