

Purpose and Context

The document compiles AI-generated summaries of meetings held with Connecticut state agencies to discuss **Open Data Access Plans**, as mandated by **Connecticut General Statute Section 4-67p**. These plans require agencies to outline strategies for publishing public and protected data in machine-readable formats, ensuring transparency, accessibility, and compliance with statutory requirements.

Common Themes Across Agencies

- **Strategic Priority:** Transparency and accessibility through open data is a statewide mandate. All agencies must create an open data access plan detailing how they will publish public and protect data, including aggregation/redaction for privacy. Each agency is asked to submit at least one goal for improving open data access within 1–2 years.
- **Implementation Barriers:** Legacy systems, staffing shortages, and privacy concerns are common. Some agencies have decades-old systems, others are navigating major IT projects. Privacy concerns create challenges as agencies work to determine how to meet changing requirements and manage FOI requests.
- **Agency capacity:** Agencies have different internal capacity (small / medium / large agencies) and ability to staff and prioritize open data. Small or regulatory agencies in particular have had limited ability to focus on open data with ADOs as ‘other duties assigned.’
- **Data quality and documentation:** Data quality issues limit interest in publishing data and lack of standardization or limited metadata (ex. column descriptions) reduces usability.
- **Collaboration:** Modern software and technical infrastructure are critical for managing interagency data sharing efforts and workflows (e.g. data storage solutions like Azure and GIS tools). Agencies should continue to collaborate on identifying and implementing shared solutions.
- **Publishing through agency websites / other portals:** Several agencies publish data to their own sites in machine-readable format and/or through agency-hosted dashboards or portals. Tyler Tech and Esri platforms are used by many, but not all, agencies.
- **Machine-Readable Formats:** Emphasis on publishing data in formats like CSV, JSON, XML, and dashboards rather than PDFs.
- **Future Direction:** Agencies aim to automate processes, improve data quality, and develop dashboards for public engagement.