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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

**FROM:** Matt Cox, Director Management Operations  
**VIA:** Todd Abrajano, Deputy Director (Acting)  
**SUBJECT:** Evidence Act Implementation  
**DATE:** September 16, 2019

### Summary

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, M-19-23, released on July 10, 2019, defines management's responsibility for phase 1 implementation of the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018*: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning Guidance. The *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* ("Evidence Act"), signed into law on January 14, 2019, emphasizes collaboration and coordination to advance data and evidence-based functions in the Federal Government by statutorily mandating Federal evidence-building activities, open government data, and confidential information protection and statistical efficiency. Evidence is broadly defined and includes foundational fact finding, performance measurement, policy analysis, and program evaluation. In addition, the Evidence Act mandates a systematic rethinking of government data management to better facilitate access for evidence-building activities and public consumption.

### Evidence Act Implementation

Meeting the requirements of the Evidence Act will require ongoing, focused effort. OMB is committed to providing iterative and supplemental guidance in four phases:

- Phase 1: Learning Agendas, Personnel, and Planning
- Phase 2: Open Data Access and Management
- Phase 3: Data Access for Statistical Purposes
- Phase 4: Program Evaluation

Phase 1 includes designating newly-defined positions (Chief Data Officer, Evaluation Officer, and Statistical Official), establishing a Data Governance Body inside each agency, and describing a Learning Agenda.

