

Utah
Utah State Office of Education
R384A100056

Project Title: *Utah Data Alliance*

Utah has a well-established history of strong student longitudinal data systems in the K-12 range of public education. Utah public education systems fulfill, in part or completely, most of the seven capabilities and twelve elements that the statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) request for application prescribes. The objectives and outcomes of this Utah Data Alliance (UDA) project can be summarized as the fulfillment of the entire set of SLDS requirements. Some of these requirements must be completed while others need improvements—most notably in the availability of data for decision-making.

The fulfillment of these requirements brings several state agencies together, first to share their de-identified data, and then to coordinate analyses and research using those data. This work allows the partner agencies to answer questions about their policies, programs and practices. The questions include, but are not limited to, those asked by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Institute of Educational Sciences (IES), SLDS grants program; the ARRA, Race to the Top (RttT); and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) assurances. The Utah Education Network (UEN) will build and manage the Utah Data Alliance Data Share (UDADS) to maintain these data, while the other agencies provide and consume needed data from UDADS. The Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC) also plays a key role in the project. The UEPC provides overall data and research coordination functions while pursuing its own and contracted research projects using the UDADS.

This application describes the development and delivery of numerous tangible outcomes (e.g. human resources, tools, databases, organizational and management structures, and processes) that complete all seven capabilities and twelve elements prescribed by the grant request for applications. These tangible or enabling outcomes provide the capacity to achieve answers to multiple categories of education and workforce policy, practice and program questions. The application describes those questions the UDA partners will address with the resources provided by the UDA. The enabling outcomes include:

- 1) **Human resources are the major component of the project** - Numerous positions and roles are needed. Business and systems analysts will define the needed systems, processes and procedures. IT specialists working with the analysts will build the data warehouse. Trainers will ready the data analysts and researchers so they can effectively use the data. Moreover, those data analysts, statisticians and researchers will answer the policy, practice and program questions.
- 2) **UDADS** - UDADS is the project's primary technical and enabling outcome. It will be constructed and updated through scheduled import of data from partner agencies. UDADS will transform, clean and load the data and integrate them into an accessible and timely data store for the analysts, statisticians and researchers.
- 3) **Project management and data governance** - Management of UDA's data, processes and procedures is vital not only in the initial development phases of the project, but in the following years as the teams in the partner agencies work on individual research questions and collaborate on shared outcomes. During the initial period, this work will take the form of project management. As the UDADS becomes operational, management roles will shift towards data governance and the coordination of data access and research. The UDA will emphasize sound data management and governance practice throughout the project.
- 4) **Training and staff development** - Those using the data need to understand the semantics and the structure of the data as well as the business intelligence tools used to work with those data. Training and staff development must be ongoing throughout the project.