



ONE-YEAR REPORT

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New York State Office of Information Technology Services

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*“Open NY provides a powerful tool for transparency and accountability,
fostering citizen engagement and enhancing the public's trust in government.”*

— Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

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Introduction

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recognizes that technology has dramatically changed the way government conducts business and maintains information. Modern technological advancements have altered the public's expectations with respect to the accessibility of government data and information.

In view of this new reality, Governor Cuomo announced his Open NY initiative in his January 2013 State of the State. As set forth in this report, the Open NY initiative has increased transparency, citizen engagement, and government performance.

Open NY is a major shift in the way New York State shares information. Open NY has created an extraordinary opportunity to explore, discover, and utilize data in ways never before possible. Through Open NY, the State is:

- Promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency;
- Supporting a new level of collaboration between government and the public; and
- Fostering innovation, business development, and scientific research.

Transparency improves the flow of information allowing new insights that can improve the lives of citizens. A transparent government acts as a catalyst to enhance government and private-sector efficiency and performance.

Access to data in machine-readable formats – i.e., data that can be searched, mapped, visualized, and re-used – maximizes the social, economic, and scientific value of the data. New York State will continue to evolve Open NY to make it even better by reinvesting the knowledge gained with each new dataset, collaboration, and citizen feedback.



Fast Facts

Did you know that:

- Data.NY.Gov is a global platform. It has been accessed in over 135 countries, all 50 States, and Washington, D.C. Persons in over 4,000 cities worldwide – including over 3,000 United States cities – have accessed the site.
- Sixty years of historical budget publications, dating back to 1954, are available on Open Budget.
- Since launch, the number of records available through Open NY has grown to nearly 50 million.
- During that same time, the number of data catalogue items has more than doubled, increasing 155%.
- Since launch, State agency participation continues to expand rapidly, increasing 36%. Forty-five State entities have published data on Data.NY.Gov.
- New York State is the first State in the nation to publish a provisional Open Data Handbook on GitHub, a social platform that supports software development.
- The first ever *I Love NY* app was released utilizing data from Data.NY.Gov
- The 2013 MTA App Quest Competition attracted 38% more apps than 2012's competition.

A Look Back



Open NY harnesses technology to showcase the vast resources of the State and supports a new level of engagement and collaboration between government and citizens. Below is a look back at the first year of Open NY.

Executive Order 95

The Governor issued Executive Order 95 on March 11, 2013. The Executive Order recognized that government's responsibility to provide information to its citizenry through affirmative disclosure has changed in the digital age. The order requires State agencies to continually review and catalogue their data for publication in an open format online. It further requires the creation and upkeep of a website that provides, organizes, and makes searchable open data maintained by the State and participating localities.

In compliance with the Executive Order:

- Data.NY.Gov was created. At launch, the site had more data than any other State data site at launch, including over 200 datasets, maps, and charts from over 30 State agencies and authorities;
- Every participating agency has appointed a data coordinator;
- The required data working group, comprising a cross-section of participating agencies, has been established; and
- The New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) published a Final Open Data Handbook that sets forth models, definitions, and guidelines that enable State entities to release high-quality data in a consistent and logical manner. Previously, ITS created the required Provisional Open Data Handbook;
- The participating agencies are proactively and continuously publishing high-value open data.

Data.NY.Gov: A Year of Remarkable Growth

The number of data catalogue items on Data.NY.Gov has more than doubled and the number of State agencies that feed data to the site has increased by more than a third, to 45. Local and federal government data is now available and searchable on the site. Individuals in 135 countries and all 50 States have accessed the site. Nearly 50 million records are now published to the site; among the most popular datasets are the following:

- [Top fishing spots](#), featuring locations of the best rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds for fishing in New York State, as determined by biologists working for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, based on quality of fishing and public access;
- [Winter farmers' markets](#), 116 are listed, an all-time high in New York, including information detailing the hours and location of farmers' markets as well as the name and phone number of the market manager;
- [Wineries, breweries, cideries, and distilleries](#), searchable by license type and location;
- [National Register of Historic Places](#), featuring more than 5,600 historic and archeological resources maintained by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation;
- [ReCharge NY Customers](#), and the number of jobs they have committed to retain or create, a condition of this New York Power Authority program that provides low-cost power to spur economic development;
- [Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget data](#), allowing an insider's look at the Executive Budget plan;
- [Texting Zone Locations](#) along the New York State Thruway and state highways that give motorists a pull-off area to park and use their mobile devices;
- [Regulated Child Care Programs](#), containing a map that can be filtered by capacity for school-age children;
- [Hospital-acquired infections since 2008](#), including central line-associated blood stream infections in intensive care units, surgical site infections following colon, hip replacement/revision, and coronary artery bypass graft, and Clostridium difficile infections;
- [State of New York Mortgage Agency \(SONYMA\) Loans Purchased](#) since January 2004, searchable by type of loan, loan date, county, and property type;
- [Food service establishment inspections](#), showing violations filtered by facility, city, and county; and
- [Top baby names in New York](#) since 2007, filtered by year, gender, and count.

Delivering the Data

The Governor Launches Open Budget

The State has taken steps to enhance fiscal transparency. In January 2013, the Governor launched Open Budget, the first step in his Open NY initiative. Open Budget provides access to detailed budget data with powerful lookup tools and other features. On the site, the public can view and download current and historical budget information, dating back to 1954.

The Governor Launches NY's Open Data Site

In March 2013, the Governor launched Data.NY.Gov, dramatically increasing public access to one of the State's most valuable assets – data. The site provides unprecedented, user-friendly access to federal, State, and local data. The open data portal provides access to data across multiple agencies and multiple layers of government. The data is presented in machine-readable formats, permitting re-use, analysis, and innovation.

The Governor Launches Health Data NY

Also in March 2013, under Open NY's umbrella, the Governor launched Health.Data.NY.Gov. The site is focused on using both aggregate and raw data, along with maps and graphs, to improve healthcare for all New Yorkers. Information available via the health data website is also automatically available at the main Data.NY.Gov website.

Designed for Innovation

Downloadable for Analysis and App Development

Data.NY.Gov and Health Data NY provide raw data and allow the general public to analyze and download that data in a variety of formats. Visitors can view comprehensive metadata, create visualizations, and utilize Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to build mobile apps.

TasteNY's Website

The Open NY website allows its information to be incorporated into other websites. The most prominent example of this function is the Governor's TasteNY website, which features a map of wineries, breweries, and distilleries powered by the Open NY technology platform.

I Love NY Smartphone App

Data from the Open NY website can be easily integrated into mobile apps. The *I Love NY* tourism smartphone app provides geographically-targeted tourism, recreation, lodging, and dining options in every region of the State.

Engaging New Yorkers

A core principle of Open NY is open collaboration. New York is ushering in a new era of public participation in government by soliciting public comment through innovative means, hosting app competitions, and introducing a new developer resource on Data.NY.Gov that will facilitate the creation of mobile apps.

A Pioneering Use of GitHub

New York became the first State to publish provisional open data guidelines and seek public comment on GitHub. GitHub is a social platform that supports software development, particularly in the open-source software community. Publishing the [Open Data Handbook](#) on GitHub enabled the public to propose direct edits and provide comments. The Open Data Handbook provides guidelines to government entities participating in Data.NY.Gov for identifying, reviewing, and prioritizing publishable data.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority's App Quest Competition

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) – an international leader in publishing transit data – launched its second App Quest Competition in May 2013. The competition encourages developers to enhance the experience of the 8.5 million daily commuters in the greater New York City area. The kick-off hackathon brought more than 100 software developers together to build prototype products. Three months later, 58 projects had been submitted for review.

NY Innovates Developer Conference and Health Data Code-A-Thon

NY Innovates, a multi-day event to explore the creative use of data to solve the challenges of tomorrow, was held in December 2013. As part of the event, the first NYS Health Code-A-Thon took place, utilizing data from several resources including Health.Data.NY.Gov and Data.NY.Gov. Its theme, "Healthy Connections = Healthy Communities," focused on obesity and diabetes. The participants, working with health experts and open data leaders, turned novel ideas into mobile/web-based tools that help New Yorkers take control of their health by linking them to resources within their communities.

Open NY's Milestones

- More than 50 State agencies and localities are currently publishing data on Data.NY.Gov. The featured datasets come from wide-ranging sectors of the government, including finance, economic development, transportation, health, education, energy and environment, and recreation. Widespread government participation ensures that Data.NY.Gov remains a dynamic platform.
- In May 2013, millions of finance, lobbying, and other public integrity-related records were published. The data included campaign contribution and expenditure records from the New York State Board of Elections dating back to 1999, New York State lobbying and enforcement records from the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, and attorney registrations as far back as 1898 from the Office of Court Administration.
- In July 2013, more than 100 transportation data catalogue items were released. MTA, Thruway Authority, Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, and others contributed datasets, maps, and charts.
- County, city, town, and/or village information is accessible in a wide variety of datasets, including broadband availability, farmers' markets, food service establishment inspections, campgrounds, parks, parcel counts by municipality, fishing rivers and streams, child care facilities, and many more.
- The Health Data Consortium awarded DOH Commissioner Dr. Nirav Shah the inaugural Open Data Liberator Award in June 2013.
- To ensure Open NY's success, Governor Cuomo has built an experienced leadership team. The Open NY team is led by Director Andrew Nicklin and advised by Drs. James Hendler and Theresa Pardo. Dr. Hendler is the Director of the Rensselaer Institute for Data Exploration and Application at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Pardo is the Director of the Center for Technology in Government at the State University of New York at Albany. The team coordinates with the Executive Chamber through Rachel Haot, Deputy Secretary for Technology, who leads the State's digital experience across web, mobile, and social media with a focus on streamlining services and supporting public engagement.





What They Have Said

*“New York State should be commended for its leadership in making government data more accessible, discoverable, and usable,” said **Todd Park, U.S. Chief Technology Officer, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy**, who has been leading federal open government efforts. “Opening up government data will promote greater government efficiency and effectiveness, and will fuel a rising tide of private-sector entrepreneurship, innovation and discovery.”*

John Kaehny, Executive Director, Reinvent Albany, said, *“Governor Cuomo is sending out a torrent of valuable state— city and county — data for all of the public to use. This flow of data will increase transparency, spur the innovation economy, improve public services and reduce the cost of government. New York State’s open data initiative is particularly innovative and interesting from a national perspective, because it makes the state’s data website available to local governments as a resource they can use to make their data easier for themselves and the public to find and use.”*

Robert Freeman, Executive Director of the Committee on Open Government, said, *“Governor’s Cuomo’s initiative serves as a dramatic advance in the disclosure of government information. Not only is the array of information impressive, perhaps even more significant will be the ability of the public to use the information in creative and innovative ways. With Open.ny.gov, information will be there for the taking, and it can be analyzed, extracted, merged to be useful to citizens in their daily lives and to our business and academic communities.”*

Elizabeth Lynam, Vice-President and Director of State Studies, Citizens Budget Commission said, *“This is a critical breakthrough in improving the transparency of the New York State budget. By sharing key budget information with the public for review and download, open-budget.ny.gov will facilitate research and analysis and improve the ability of all New Yorkers to engage with the State budget.”*



A Look Ahead



Open NY will continue to utilize technology to promote transparency, improve government performance, and enhance citizen engagement. We will enhance the experience of the end user with the following initiatives:

- Continue to expand the published information on Data.NY.Gov;
- Continue to collaborate with the developer community, beginning with the Governor's upcoming Health Innovation Challenge;
- Develop a new Open NY hub which will provide access to the State's open government initiatives. To further this initiative and bring Open NY to the next level, ITS, in partnership with the Center for Technology in Government at the State University of New York at Albany, will host a collaborative workshop called Shaping Open NY: Visioning a New Transparency Hub. Following the workshop, the State will incorporate the best strategies culled from the workshop into the new hub;
- Continue integrating open data into the core mission and ongoing operations of government;
- Advance the standardization, quality, and consistency of the data in furtherance of interoperability;
- Publish Data.NY.Gov quarterly reports;
- develop eco-systems and communities of practice and innovation with expanded data; and
- build a culture of performance and accountability through technology.

It has been a year of remarkable growth for Open NY. We launched and continually enhanced Data.NY.Gov, a state-of-the-art data site, and Open NY's datasets have facilitated community engagement and innovation. We look forward to continuing to use Open NY to make New York's data the people's data.



We are thankful for the support of the following organizations that have contributed to the success of Open NY:

**Center for Technology in Government at the
State University of New York at Albany**

Citizen's Budget Commission

Citizens Union

Empire Center for New York State Policy

Fiscal Policy Institute

New Amsterdam Ideas

New York Conference of Mayors

New York Public Interest Research Group

New York State Association of Counties

New York State Committee on Open Government

New York University GovLab

NY Tech Meetup

Open Data Institute

Reinvent Albany

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Sunlight Foundation

The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy

