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## Framework Subcomponent: Sustainability

Excerpt from *DaSy data systems framework* by The DaSy Center (Menlo Park, CA: SRI International, 2014), 39-40.

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## **Subcomponent: Sustainability (SU)**

Sustainability refers to the state's capacity to support the Part C and Section 619 data system over time to meet the program's evolving needs. To sustain the data system, a state needs to ensure that sufficient fiscal and human resources are available, key leadership and stakeholders support the data system, data are used widely, and the data system can address a state's evolving information needs. Demonstrating the value of data in informing decisions is an important contributor to sustainability. Producing an enduring, efficient, effective, and sustainable data system is an ongoing endeavor; there will always be more work to do to ensure the data system remains current and relevant.

The process of identifying the need for system enhancements or an entirely new data system is conceptualized as a part of sustainability. However, the data governance and management entity is viewed as responsible for translating the identified enhancements or request for a new system into an actionable scope of work that includes activities, timelines, and required resources (see Data Governance and Management subcomponent). The development of a new system or enhancing of an existing system is executed in accordance with the system development life cycle as presented in the System Design and Development subcomponent.

**Quality Indicator SU1:** Part C/619 state staff use a systematic process that includes stakeholder input to identify enhancements to the data system.

Elements of Quality	
SU1a.	Part C/619 state staff identify the criteria that indicate that the data system is meeting the needs of various types of stakeholders.
SU1b.	Part C/619 state staff or representatives collect and analyze data on the identified criteria.
SU1c.	Part C/619 state staff use results of the analysis to identify needed improvements to the data system and the supports for the data system (e.g., improved professional development for data use, improved access to data analysts).
SU1d.	Part C/619 state staff verify that potential improvements align with the purpose and vision of the data system.
SU1e.	Part C/619 state staff have a process for initiating changes to the data system in response to changes to federal or state reporting requirements.
SU1f.	Part C/619 state staff or representatives monitor that the data system is up-to-date with effective technologies to meet stakeholder needs.

**Quality Indicator SU2:** Part C/619 state staff generate political and fiscal support to maintain and enhance the data system.

Elements of Quality	
SU2a.	Part C/619 state staff articulate to decision-makers the benefits of the data system and the need for improvements.
SU2b.	Part C/619 state staff work with state leadership/management to identify the needed resources (i.e., fiscal, personnel, time), including expanding current funding and finding new funding sources to maintain the existing system and, as needed, to improve the system.
SU2c.	Part C/619 state staff promote the use of data-informed decision-making for continuous program improvement at multiple levels (policymakers to local users), to generate support for the data system by demonstrating its value.
SU2d.	Part C/619 state staff plan for and address transfer of knowledge about the data system to new Part C/619 state staff, IT staff, and vendors, including maintaining documentation, establishing a personnel system with back-ups, and providing orientation/training.
SU2e.	Part C/619 state staff promote participation in integrated and/or linked data systems initiatives such as ECIDS and SLDS, which generates support for the data system by demonstrating its value.