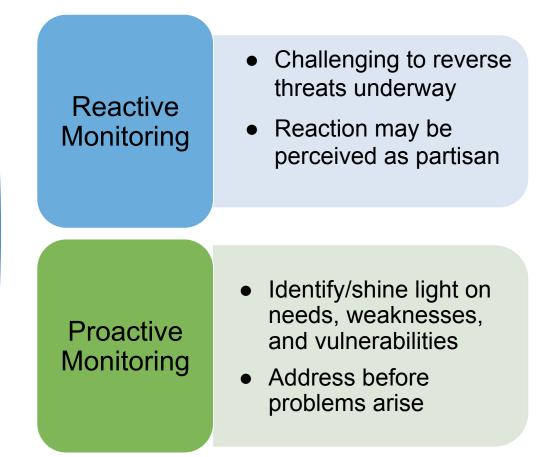# Assessing the Health of the Federal Statistical Agencies: Vision and Purpose

COPAFS

Nancy Potok

September 8, 2023

Addressing U.S. Data Infrastructure: 2024 onwards

Reactive Monitoring

- Challenging to reverse threats underway
- Reaction may be perceived as partisan

Proactive Monitoring

- Identify/shine light on needs, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities
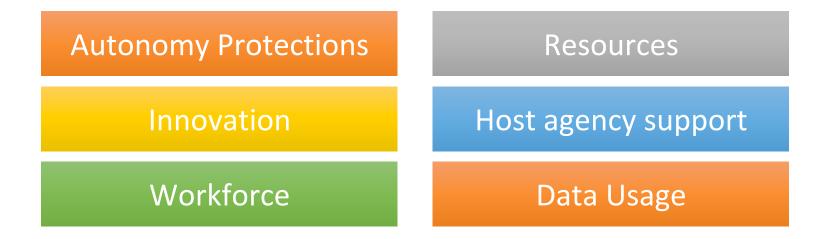- Address before problems arise

Proactive Monitoring

Success hinges on engagement of and participation of federal statistical community

Publish report in 2024 Q1 and annually thereafter, expanding coverage

Promote additional conversation and study of federal statistical agencies

State of the Data Infrastructure: Can it be assessed quantitatively?

Autonomy Protections	Resources
Innovation	Host agency support
Workforce	Data Usage

Potential indicators

- Resources (e.g., budget levels, staffing, contracting)

- Professional autonomy (e.g., safeguards against political meddling)

- Innovation/modernization capabilities (e.g., new products and data sources, pilot projects)

- Workforce (e.g., employee satisfaction, professional development, recruitment and retention, diversity)

- Host agency support (e.g., budget requests, data governance processes)

- Data use and user engagement (e.g., downloads, citations, data linkages)

Gathering Indicator Data for Analysis

Collection sources

•- Publicly available data: budgets, publication schedules, OPM employee satisfaction, etc.

- Agency questionnaire, data user survey

Analysis plans

- Conduct qualitative/quantitative analyses to ensure data and expert accounts agree

- Present data in public report