

Minnesota Board on Aging

Data Practices Policy For the Public

Minnesota Statutes, sections 13.025 and 13.03 require this policy.

Your Right to See Public Data

The Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13) presumes that all government data are public unless a state or federal law says the data are not public. Government data means all recorded information a government entity has, including paper, email, flash drives, CDs, DVDs, photographs, etc.

The law also says that the Minnesota Board on Aging must keep all government data in a way that makes it easy for you to access public data. You have the right to look at (inspect), free of charge, all public data that we keep. You also have the right to get copies of public data. The Data Practices Act allows us to charge for copies. You have the right to look at data, free of charge, before deciding to request copies.

How to Request Public Data

You can ask to look at (inspect) data electronically or in-person. In-person inspection occurs at our downtown St. Paul office, subject to open office hours and current health and safety regulations. If preferred, you can also ask to purchase copies of public data that we maintain.

Data requests may be made using the form available at the end of this document. The MBA prefers written data requests to use the designated form. If you are unable to access the form electronically (download and print), you may contact our offices and ask for a form to be sent to you.

Completed forms can be submitted to the office by letter or e-mail. Requests should be addressed directly to the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board on Aging, Reena Shetty, who is the Responsible Authority for data practices questions. The Minnesota Board on Aging does not consider questions or inquiries that are directed at the MBA, its staff or the Responsible Authority to be data practices requests unless either the Data Request form included on this policy, or the following specific information is provided within the body of the request.

If you do not use the data request form, your request must still be in writing and include the following specific information:

- Say that you are making a request for public data under the Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13).
 - Include whether you would like to inspect the data, have copies of the data, or both.
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- Provide a clear description of the data you would like to inspect or have copied.

You are not required to explain the reason for your data request. However, you may need to provide us with some personal information for practical reasons (for example: if you want us to mail copies to you, you need to provide us with an address or P.O Box). If we do not understand your request and have no way to contact you, we cannot respond to your request.

How We Will Respond to Your Data Request

Upon receiving your request, we will review it and provide an initial response to your request within 10 business days.

- We may ask you to clarify what data you are requesting.
- If we do not have the data, we will notify you in writing at the address you provided.
- If we have the data, but we are not allowed to give it to you, we will tell you as soon as reasonably possible and identify the law that prevents us from providing the data.
- If we have the data, and the data are public, we will respond to your request appropriately and promptly, within a reasonable amount of time by doing one of the following:
 - Arrange a date, time, and place for you to inspect the data at our offices, or
 - If available, arrange a date, time, and place for you to pay for and obtain copies of the data
 - You may choose to pick up your copies, or we will mail or email them to you. If you prefer to receive copies by e-mail, we will provide electronic copies, if we keep the data in that format and we can reasonably make a copy.
 - Response time may be impacted by the size and/or complexity of your request, and also by the number of requests you make in a given period of time.
- Following our response, if you do not make arrangements within 10 business days to inspect the data or pay for the copies, we will conclude that you no longer want the data and will consider your request closed.

If you do not understand some of the data (technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms), please tell the person who provided the data to you. We will give you an explanation if you ask.

The Data Practices Act does not require us to create or collect new data in response to a data request, or to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if we do not keep the data in that form or arrangement. For example, if the data you request are on paper only, we are not required to create electronic documents to respond to your request. If we agree to create data in response to your request, we will work with you on the details of your request, including providing cost estimates and response time.

We are not required to respond to questions that are not about your data requests, or which are not requests for government data.

Requests for Summary Data

Summary data are statistical records or reports created by removing identifying information about individuals from entirely private or confidential data.

You may use the data request form on page 6 to request summary data. We will respond to your request within ten business days with the data or details of when the data will be ready and how much we will charge you.

Copy Costs – When You Request Public Data

Minnesota Statutes, section 13.03, subdivision 3(c) allows us to charge for copies.

If available, you are entitled to request copies of data we have. However, there is a charge for copies which must be paid before we will give them to you. If possible, and upon request, we will provide you with an estimation of the total cost of supplying the copies.

For 100 or fewer paper copies – 25 cents per page

100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal size paper copies cost 25¢ for a one-sided copy, or 50¢ for a two-sided copy.

Most other types of copies – actual cost

The charge for most other types of copies, when a charge is not set by statute or rule, is the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data, and making the copies or electronically sending the data.

In determining the actual cost of making copies, we include employee time, the cost of the materials onto which we are copying the data (paper, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any). If your request is for copies of data that we cannot copy ourselves, such as photographs, we will charge you the actual cost we must pay an outside vendor for the copies.

Multiple data requests within the same 15 business-day period will be treated as a single request for the purposes of calculating total copy costs.

Data Practices Contacts

Send Data Requests to:

Mail:

Reena Shetty, Responsible Authority

Minnesota Board on Aging

PO Box 64976

St. Paul, MN 55104-0976

E-mail:

Attn: Reena Shetty, Responsible Authority

Mba.dhs@state.mn.us

Responsible Authority

Reena Shetty

Data Practices Compliance Official

Reena Shetty

Data Practices Designee(s)

None

Data Request Form – Requesting Public Data

Request date:

The data I am requesting:

Describe the data you are requesting as specifically as possible.

I am requesting access to data in the following way:

- Inspection
- Copies
- Both inspection and copies

Note: Inspection is free but copies generally incur a cost based on the number of pages or complexity of the document production. For more information, see information about copy costs on page 3.

Contact information (optional)*

Name:

phone number:

email address:

address:

We will provide an initial response to your request within 10 business days.

* You do not have to provide any contact information. However, if you want us to mail/email you copies of data, we will need some type of contact information. We also need contact information if we do not understand your request. We will not work on your request until we can clarify it with you.