



A Guide to Shift's Open Data Ecosystem

In an effort to make data more accessible to Colorado's social sector, Shift Research Lab built an Open Data Ecosystem, which optimizes our data storage and provides more ways for partners to access our data. The Open Data Ecosystem serves three main functions: secure storage for our data holdings; a mechanism to feed our open data tools with reliable data; and a portal for partners to access our data resources.

OPEN DATA ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS

To help our partners understand how to best leverage this new ecosystem, we've broken down its components to illustrate how it facilitates access to our data.



DATA STORAGE

Shift curates and integrates extensive neighborhood-level data from well-known national sources like the Census Bureau as well as locally-sourced data on businesses, vital statistics, education, health outcomes, public safety, early childhood, property, community amenities, and more. To ensure these data holdings are secure, we built a robust Cloud storage system hosted by Amazon Web Services (AWS). Shift's Cloud is a flexible solution with room to scale as we acquire more data holdings. It is also built to meet industry security standards to ensure our data is reliable, clean and safely stored.



PARTNER PORTAL

To optimize the way we share data with others focused on social change, we built a partner portal that allows users to access and analyze data stored in our Cloud. Within the portal, users can create customizable personal workspaces, where they can use software products—like Tableau, QGIS and RStudio—to analyze and visualize our data. Users can also feed their own data into the ecosystem through a data workflow to let so others leverage it, or utilize an Application Program Interface (API) to build applications, like dashboards and open data tools, using the data stored in our Cloud.



DATABASE FOR SHIFT'S OPEN DATA TOOLS

Shift's open data tools, including Community Facts and the Early Education Map, run on the data stored within our Cloud. Because the AWS Cloud is always being curated and updated with new data, it ensures that our signature data tools provide reliable, up-to-date information to users.

Learn more about how to leverage Shift's Open Data Ecosystem by contacting Jennifer Newcomer, Principal of Research, at jnewcomer@garycommunity.com.