A comprehensive data repository leveraging an array of data sets, such as socioeconomic, demographic, health, education, and environmental data, which can be dynamically assembled and used to help model potential policy decisions, identify trends, and help achieve efficiencies.

**ANNUAL FUNDING REQUEST** $1,500,000 per year

**INITIATIVE OVERVIEW**
Texans need data-driven policy development. Research indicates that when policies are rooted in data they are more effective for the communities and their members. However, most communities have limited infrastructures that does not include access to data or to people with skills to analyze that data. In the era of big data, UTSA has the people with the critical skills to harness big data for the sorts of analyses that will launch data-driven policy changes. UTSA has the ability to assemble complex data sets of city, county, state, federal and research data to identify trends that can help small businesses, local government, nonprofits, and community leaders make informed decisions. The data portal will offer the opportunity to choose from thousands of variables and analyze relationships between several with a few mouse clicks.

**THE CHALLENGE**
With the advent of COVID and challenges it has brought, utilizing data to make timely and critical decisions is more important now than ever. By leveraging the University’s critical skill sets and applying it towards COVID, UTSA intends to highlight and demonstrate the importance and power of how big data can be used to make decisions. A data-informed understanding of COVID will ultimately make us better prepared to address various health outcomes.

**IMPACT**
This project will allow researchers to leverage the power of big data and sophisticated computer modeling to assemble complex data sets to dynamically explore relationships and trends. Models can be built to assess the impact of policy decisions and help achieve efficiencies. The work may help project how limited resources can best be allocated.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
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THE OPPORTUNITY

To demonstrate how big data can help officials make informed decisions, the pilot project proposes to focus on Bexar County and the surrounding region. Multiple complex data sets can be used, including data collected by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission and other State services, demographic data collected by the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research (IDSER), and other data sets collected by UTSA's College for Health, Community and Policy (HCaP). Researchers can add additional data sets as they become available or as necessary. Collectively this will allow researchers to dynamically identify trends and assess how technology and policy impacts correlate to educational, nutritional, physical health, and mental health outcomes.

DATA CAN BE USED TO BENEFIT SAN ANTONIO AND TEXAS BY

» Raising awareness around data literacy and data science skills in nonprofit organizations, collegiate communities, and beyond through UTSA-provided training materials and toolkits

» Assessing how technology and policy impact vulnerable communities in Bexar County in relation to educational, nutritional, physical health, and mental health outcomes

» Examining disparities worsened by COVID and differential access to testing & vaccinations throughout Bexar County

» Evaluating the impacts of COVID interventions

» Providing researchers with a community-based participatory research approach to create mechanisms to circumvent impacts of COVID related closures