9 Core Policy Areas of State Governments

What are some of the key focus areas for state governments? Every state is different, but here’s a quick list. Within each, GIS plays a critical role in visualizing, standardizing and connecting users to data. Our case studies below dive deeper into these focus areas for government.

**Agriculture**

**Energy**

**Health & Human Services**

**Public Safety**

**Transportation**

**Economy**

**Education**

**Elections**

**Environment**

**Human Services**

**Public Safety**

**Transportation**

**Montana**

There are over 20 maps in the Montana map gallery – everything from school district to Census information.

- They have executive support, as the Montana COO envisions GIS on all state employee’s desktops and the CTO is charged with making it happen.
- Montana is leveraging Esri Maps for Office, a plugin for Microsoft Excel that allows ArcGIS Online users to create maps within their spreadsheets and share them in PowerPoints or online.
- They also use ArcGIS Online, allowing organizations to create web-based maps and applications that can be shared within the organization and/or with constituents.

**Louisiana**

LouisianaMAP provides many GIS features that serve as Louisiana’s clearinghouse for maps and spatial data, enabling the state to make improved data-driven decisions.

- LouisianaMap provides ready-to-use GIS services and features that are accessed through web browsers, thin clients or desktop GIS.
- Users can download maps on the highway, legislation districts, parishes and historical maps.
- Louisiana is planning on upgrading services and providing more data, maps and GIS services to even better empower users across the state.

**South Carolina**

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is one of the largest agencies in the state of South Carolina, and is leveraging GIS to transform its operations.

- DHEC has 3,500 employees and is responsible for everything from watered-down issues, dock permits, recycling centers, to birth & death rates.
- The state created the Health Department Finder, allowing citizens to find the closest health centers to them for services such as birth control, vaccines, & teen clinics.
- The Environmental Public Notices web app allows users to obtain public notices about the environment in their community.

**Hawaii**

Through the Renewable EnergyGIS initiative, Hawaii is using GIS to connect with citizens and helping them learn more about renewable energy options in their community.

- Using Renewable EnergyGIS, Hawaii citizens can find renewable energy resources specific to their location.
- The hope is that the tool will help developers, citizens and policy makers understand the potential of renewable energy in Hawaii.
- To use the tool, no GIS skills are needed, so anyone can access the data and begin to make smart energy decisions.

**Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Transportation (UDOT) is using data to become more efficient.

- Tasked with managing everything from the Utah’s roads, bridges, fences, guardrails and signs, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) is using data to become more efficient.
- UDOT created an open data portal that is the clearinghouse for all public UDOT data.
- It’s helping the state quickly share data to citizens, business, & government employees.
- Anyone can publicly access data on pavement, planning, projects, and traffic & safety.

**Utah**

The project seeks to reduce the duplication of spatial data and improve the coordination, communication & standardization of GIS data across the state.

- Anyone can download GIS data related to imagery, survey, control, governmental boundaries, elevation, transportation, hydrography, property ownership, or the environment.

**Mississippi**

The Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse (MGC) helps provide access to spatial information and GIS resources to the citizens of Mississippi.

- MGC is where government, academics and the private sector can access comprehensive spatial information from the Mississippi government.
- Anyone can download GIS data related to imagery, survey, control, governmental boundaries, elevation, transportation, hydrography, property ownership, or the environment.

**Montana**

How Esri is Helping:

Esri’s ArcGIS platform provides a common way to share data, improve workflows and facilitate better decision making across agencies. ArcGIS has become a mission critical tool for state government agencies, with applications from everything on emergency readiness, environment, transportation and economic development. For more information, visit the ArcGIS Platform webpage.