National Data Exchange (N-DEx) Data Integration

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **Can the N-DEx Program Office (PO) provide agencies with a list of vendors they work with?**

   The N-DEx PO works with all vendors. The vendors are chosen by the agency.

2. **What are the N-DEx System's data submission requirements/specifications for an agency to submit data directly to N-DEx?**

   To begin the data integration process, the N-DEx PO requests a sample dataset. This initial sample dataset must be 10 GB or less. After an adapter is built and the agency goes live with data, there is no data size limitation. If an agency is unable to submit an initial sample dataset of 10 GB or less, the agency technical Point of Contact (POC) should contact the N-DEx PO to discuss next steps. Data submission requirements/specifications are defined within our data submission guidelines document. This document can be provided upon request.

3. **What is the cost to an agency?**

   The N-DEx PO does not charge agencies for data integration services. However, agencies may incur costs dependent upon what an agency's arrangements are with their current vendors, how they want to build their interfaces on their end, the agency's system architecture, and technological capabilities. This will vary greatly from one agency to the next.

4. **When would the N-DEx PO staff be able to begin the mapping process?**
   Agencies must obtain state CJIS Security Officer (CSO) approval prior to beginning the data integration process. Once approval is obtained, the N-DEx PO will coordinate a teleconference in order to obtain necessary artifacts and to begin the integration process. Mapping is only one component within the integration process. The technical team will need to coordinate with the agency's technical POC to discuss various aspects of integration.

5. **What is the maximum number of agencies/interfaces that the N-DEx PO could work on in a given period (such as a year)?**
   The N-DEx PO will work on all agencies/interfaces that are received. Each agency will be prioritized and processed as resources permit. The integration timeframe is dependent upon several factors such as an agency's technological capabilities; agency's responsiveness to providing artifacts; test files; and various other technical requests. Additionally, an agency's existing system could increase the time necessary to complete an agency's adapter.

6. **What is the approximate time needed to map an agency?**
   Mapping time varies for each agency based on factors listed in #5.

7. **What type of data submission process seems to work best for most states?**
   The preferred N-DEx System data submission method is the Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP).

8. **If an agency has a large amount of data held within the "core system", can the N-DEx PO map from the agency's core?**
   Yes.

9. **Can the N-DEx System accept jail/corrections data?**
   Yes. The N-DEx System contains incident, arrest, and booking reports; pretrial investigations; supervised released reports; calls for service; photos; and field contact/identification records.

10. **A "disk" method is available for agencies to submit data. Would the agency's vendor need to write to a specific Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) or will the N-DEx PO provide that service?** Regardless of the method used to submit data to the N-DEx System, all data must be extracted from an agencies system, transformed according to the N-DEx specifications (IEPDs), and loaded into the operational system. Due to agency needs, the N-DEx PO provides various methods for submitting data. If the N-DEx PO is performing an agency's data integration process, the N-DEx PO will transform the agency's data according to the N-DEx specification. However, if an agency chooses to perform their own data integration process, then the agency will be required to transform/map their data according to the N-DEx specifications.