

C.5: Worksheet – Closing the Engagement

At this stage, IDS engagement teams should review the engagement efforts and record:

- › Any decisions or recommendations made by stakeholder groups
- › Key issues and proposed solutions raised by stakeholders
- › Points of agreement and disagreement between stakeholders
- › Any additional feedback from stakeholders (in follow-up conversations, surveys, or other outreach)
- › Any other important factors or perspectives that arose during the engagement activities

It is almost certain that your stakeholders will have held conflicting perspectives on how best to use and integrate administrative data and to safeguard individual privacy, so IDS leadership will still need to do the hard work of deciding how to respond to those varied perspectives and policy choices. Keeping in mind the decision-making environment and resources that you identified in the initial engagement scoping exercise, your IDS must decide whether to take action on **all, some, or none** of your stakeholder's inputs.

It is important to recognize that successful stakeholder engagements involve flexibility and compromise, and that there may not be one perfect solution that meets everyone's needs. In these cases, IDS should seek to be as transparent as possible about how and why certain decisions were made and remain open to re-examining those choices in the future. Participants who may be disappointed in the outcome should be offered opportunities to stay involved.

Tips:

- › How policy decisions are made will depend on the particular IDS' governance and culture, as well as relevant legal, ethical, and policy guidelines. In all cases, however, the reasons for the ultimate decision should be documented and made available to interested stakeholders.
- › Where stakeholder perspectives diverge, IDS may need to make tough choices. When stakeholders do reach a common consensus, IDS leaders should respect that input and strive to abide by it as much as possible.