



Title 21 Vacancy Announcement
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE)

Application Period: December 26, 2023 – January 9, 2024

Area of Consideration: United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

Position: Data Scientist

Series: 0301; (Miscellaneous Administration and Program Series)

Location(s): Remote

Salary: Starting at \$132,368

Work Schedule: Full Time

Cures Band(s): Band D

Full Performance Band Level: Band D

Travel Requirements: Up to 25% travel

Bargaining Unit: 3591, Bargaining Unit

Relocation Expenses Reimbursement: You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority.

Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:

[21st Century Cures Act Information](#)

Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices safe, and effective.

The mission of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) protects and promotes public's health by ensuring that the nation's food supply is safe, sanitary, wholesome, and honestly labeled, and that cosmetic products and dietary supplements are safe and properly

labeled.

Duties/Responsibilities

The incumbent serves as Data Scientist in the Signals and Analysis Staff, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network, (CORE) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) and is responsible for expertise in mathematics, statistics, computer science, and data science. In this role, the Data Scientist uses advanced scientific and analytical techniques to develop computational algorithms and statistical methods that find patterns and relationships in data. Utilizes scientific methodologies, processes, algorithms, and systems to extract insights from structured and unstructured data.

- Conducts data mining, analysis, modeling, development of algorithms, and computer program design activities with expert knowledge software development methodologies, the necessary mathematics, coding languages, and analytics tools (e.g., Appian, SAIL, mySQL, AWS, Tableau, UiPath, Mulesoft, Java). From those patterns, the incumbent develops findings, inferences, conclusions, and recommendations.
- Translates the results of analysis into clear, actionable communications that equip Agency decision makers to make informed, data-driven decisions about data analytics and artificial intelligence development.
- Solves technical problems by writing code and explaining data architecture and design to both technical and non-technical audiences and delivers reports and relevant information to support the needs of leadership and product teams. Works with internal customers and colleagues to understand business processes, gather requirements, develop analysis methodologies, and coordinate ongoing iterative development of data products.
- Analyzes this information to translate requirements and operational strategy into usable technology. Using their expertise to make recommendations regarding the implementation of existing technologies and techniques related to data science, identifies data that are available and relevant, including internal and external data sources, leveraging new data collection processes, and performing all phases of the systems development life-cycle required in the design, development, and implementation of features enabling data access.
- Advises senior leadership in interpreting and communicating insights from data. Makes recommendations in the modernization of existing services. Collaborates with other subject matter experts to select the relevant sources of information, as needed, to perform job duties and makes strategic recommendations on data collection, integration, and retention requirements incorporating business requirements and knowledge of best practices. Utilization and Support of Data: The Data Scientist identifies requirements, expected outcomes for new or existing initiatives, and the measurements of success.
- Identifies data that is available and relevant, including internal and external data sources, leveraging existing data collection processing, performing all phases of the systems development life cycle required in the design, architecture, and implementation of features enabling data access.

- Provides strategic and technical guidance and hands-on support in the transfer and transformation of any required data.
- Identifies, adapts, and leads changes to products or programs in response to evolving user needs. Advanced knowledge in development, support and implementation of data platforms and frameworks including Appian, AWS, SAIL, Tableau, UiPath, and Eclipse Java. Recommends usage and access control policies and systems in collaboration with system security design staff and stakeholders in continuous improvement processes impacting data quality, performance enhancements, and overall user experience.
- Leads the development, execution, and presentation of computational and/or mathematical models, methodologies and results regarding outbreaks and outbreak investigations to solve problems and conduct analyses relating to improved program operations and management systems for CORE through the use of data applications and software.
- Identifies actual or potential problem areas, trends, and similar factors in outbreak program operations and recommends new or amended procedures and management systems affecting the agency and other Federal and State agencies with program responsibilities.
- Executes very complex analyses of program operations which require the application of operations research techniques.
- Designs and conducts analyses of outbreak operations and data innovations; identifies topics for analysis, directs the development of the data analysis plan and selection of the methods and data sources to be used, performs analysis, and writes analytical reports.

Supervisory Responsibilities: None

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.
- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.
- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959 must be registered with the Selective Service.
- One year probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. All employees must pass a security

investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.

Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
 - a. **Qualified** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.
 - b. **Outstanding** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

In order to qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following **required** qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as required is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the “desired” criteria will not be excluded from consideration for this position.*

Education Requirement:

A bachelor’s degree or higher in mathematics, statistics, computer science, informatics, data science, engineering, operations research, bioinformatics, economics, public health, computational biology, physics, or related scientific or technical field. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution. **OR** Experience: Comparable work in or demonstrated understanding in data science or a related field (through portfolios, certifications, etc.).

Professional Experience: Expertise as lead designer and/or technical lead analyzing data and business requirements to design, develop, implement and maintain complex public health data system.

Desired Professional Experience:

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- Demonstrated experience working with software programs such as Appian, SAIL, MySQL, AWS, Tableau, UiPath, Java. Appian Lead Developer level certification preferred.
- Experience working with large and complex data sets and performing extensive analysis of volumes of data sufficient to design and deliver frameworks to facilitate data development lifecycle and design.
- Demonstrated experience in written and oral communications techniques required to prepare and deliver reports and presentations on study results and other critical data and information.

- Experience using concepts, principles, and practices related to data management, data reliability, data validity, and data analysis.
- Demonstrated experience communicating highly technical information in a clear matter.
- Experience collaborating and working with staff at all levels of the organization and varying levels of domain expertise.

Education Transcripts

SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action.

Ethics Clearance Requirements

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information please visit the FDA Ethics web page: <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](#)

Reasonable Accommodation

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly.

Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](#) or [how to contact an agency](#).

E-Verify

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

How to Apply

Submit resume or curriculum vitae, cover letter, and copy of all college transcripts and/or foreign education evaluation by the closing date as identified above to CFSAN-Cures@fda.hhs.gov and include the job reference ID: **Data Scientist, CORE**. Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring official within the CFSAN with a similar job vacancy. Candidates can opt out of this process by annotating resume with “do not share”. For questions, please contact CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov and include the job reference ID: **Data Scientist, CORE**.

Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov.

The Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

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