## Key Summary

### Motivation

The ability to evaluate how a government spends taxpayers' money is fundamental to a democracy.

### Problem

It is difficult for taxpayers to make sense of extensive and multi-faceted budget data.

### Method

BudgetMap, an interactive tool for navigating budgets of government programs through a lens of social issues of public interests

### Result

BudgetMap helps users develop awareness and understanding of budgetary issues.

## Issue-Driven Navigation

Using “social issues” to navigate government budget programs, will have the following advantages over the existing classification system.

1. Reflects public interests and uses the language of the general public, therefore making the budget more accessible for navigation.

2. Can meet the timely needs of the public because social issues by nature reflect the current status of a society.

3. Can serve as constructive feedback for government officials in the next budgeting cycle or improving the current system; by engaging in government activities, taxpayers will become better informed.

## Active Tagging

BudgetMap helps users develop awareness and understanding of budgetary issues.

## Passive Tagging

Passive Tagging: solicits lightweight and structured contributions from less active users, who may not deliberately search for programs and add links.

A social issue is a form of tag that may connect to budgets from multiple programs.

## Issue-driven navigation

When the user selects an issue, relevant budgets and programs are highlighted. On the middle panel, the matching programs are shown at the top.