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Update on the USGS National Geospatial Programs

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The federal government has recently realigned several key programs under the new National Geospatial Programs Office (NGPO) at the U.S. Geological Survey. <http://www.usgs.gov/ngpo>
The programs now under the NGPO include the National Map, the Geospatial One-Stop, and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The creation of the NGPO as a single office is part of an effort to unify essential components of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

The emphasis of the NGPO will be to engage partners in every state in planning and ensuring that unified NGPO programs meet the needs of those on the landscape. By connecting the components of the National Map (integrated base data), FGDC (coordination, policy, and standards), and Geospatial One-Stop (information discovery and access), and by embracing and communicating the importance of the NSDI, we hope to work together to realize the vision that current and accurate geospatial data will be available to contribute locally, nationally, and globally to economic growth, environmental quality, and social progress.

The goal of the NGPO with a state such as Michigan is to support and build upon their existing and well-coordinated geographic framework efforts. The Michigan transportation framework is a unified and continuously maintained program that includes all roads and streets with address and linear referencing information. It is designed to meet a range of federal spatial data needs, including those of US DOT, Census for TIGER, USGS, and US Forest Service.