Qlarion

Jumpstarting Your Agency's Enterprise Data Analytics Program

From health information to higher education data sets, from how much energy citizens are consuming to transportation and public safety records, there is a flood of information within government agencies. These agencies understand the need to collect and analyze this information, and make it actionable.

But many of them do not know where to begin. They may find themselves overwhelmed by new data analytics technologies that provide a wealth of features, controls, capabilities, and benefits. Some team members may even be fine sticking with their traditional tools and methods (spreadsheets, working on small data sets, etc.). They may not see the value in changing their processes, even though change can bring great benefits to the agency.

If you're in this situation there are certain things you can do to jumpstart your programs and set them on the course for success. Here are four strategies to help you start to create a successful enterprise data analytics program for your agency.

Establish the Right Team

Enterprise data analytics requires more than just part-time "volunteers" who work on data analysis as a side project, so be prepared to go "all in." Establish a team of trained professionals who are exclusively dedicated to data analysis. This is extremely important, especially in the early stages when agencies need dedicated resources to lay the groundwork and champion your agency's data analytics efforts.

Building out that team requires a careful analysis of the resources at-hand. That might not be something you're equipped to do, especially since this is your first time initiating an enterprise data analytics program. Your best bet is to work with a partner who can help you analyze your staffing needs so you can enjoy the most efficient use of your resources and achieve the best possible ROI. Qlarion's team of experts has been doing this a long time, and we can help you create a data analytics dream team of forward-thinkers and doers to get you moving and steer your course. We'll advise you on the types of people to hire, provide recommendations on who should be assigned to what, help you train your team, and more. We'll work closely with you to formulate a skilled and dedicated team of experts that serve as the beating heart of your agency's data analytics effort.
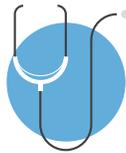
Balance Your Long-term Plan with Short-term Deliverables

Build a 45 to 60 day roadmap that lays out what you want to accomplish in the near term so you can get some quick wins to show value to shareholders. Start with milestones and goals and work your way back to determine which activities will help you achieve those objectives.

We help our clients flesh out their plans by looking at:

The impact an agency-wide enterprise data analytics program will have on your organization

The current state of your agency's data analytics program

The tools you need to make enterprise data analytics work in your agency

Ways to ensure that your employees and stakeholders are bought into the plan

The types of training and educational resources required to make the program a success

Examining these factors will set you on the path toward creating an enterprise data analytics program that everyone can understand and use. Instead of being reliant on the expertise of one or two people, it'll become institutionalized throughout your agency, effectively creating a self-service model that anyone can adopt.

We'll also help you to not lose perspective. Remember, although you're just getting started, the goal is to also set your program up for long-term success. Be thinking about what you want to accomplish over the next six to 18 months, and the milestones you'll need to achieve your long-term goals.

Get Senior Leadership on Board

It's important to get senior leadership on board and obtain the commitment of your agency's "corporate sponsors" before embarking on your enterprise data analytics journey. Involve them in the process as early as possible and make sure they understand the value of enterprise data analytics.

Start by showing them the benefits that other agencies have had with similar efforts. Show examples and case studies, and talk about the roles senior leadership had in bringing those successes to life. Show—don't tell. Help people understand that it's more than just about delivering better citizen services and building better relationships with your constituents. It's also about delivering those services in more streamlined ways. It's about making the agency run more efficiently.

Senior leadership will be more likely to support your data analytics efforts—not just through funding, but also through other critical means of support. They'll be more inclined to issue directives to different agency team members, who will take them seriously since they're coming from the top. They'll also help ensure that everyone is committed to making data analysis a part of the agency's ongoing effort to build a better model for supporting citizens' needs.

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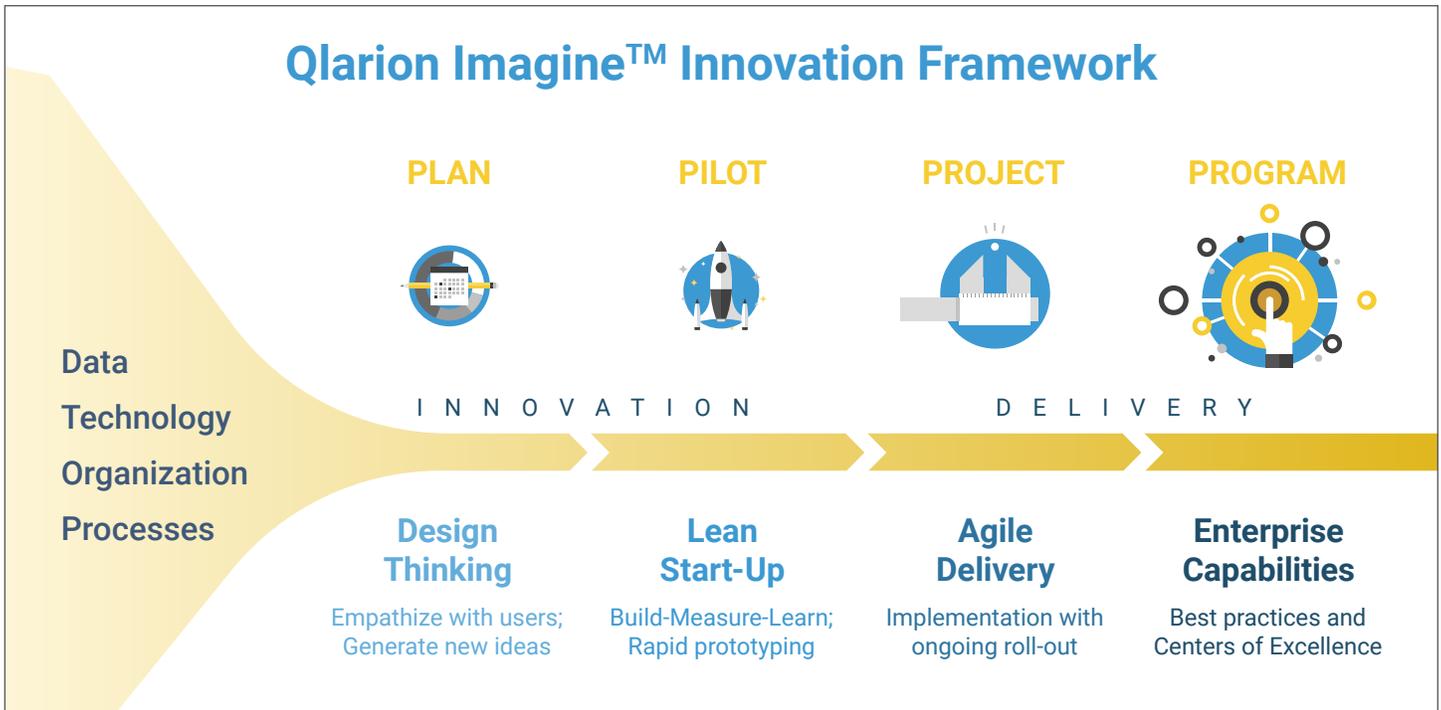
Work with an Experienced and Established Data Analytics Firm

At Qlarion we've worked with many federal, state and local government agencies and led them on their first tentative steps down the enterprise data analytics road. Many of those steps were taken using the Qlarion Innovation Framework. This Framework details an entire process that you can employ to ensure your agency reaches its ultimate data analytics goals.

Establishing an enterprise data analytics program is Qlarion's specialty, not yours. We understand that getting it going can take weeks, perhaps even months. Whatever it takes, we are committed to helping you create an enterprise data analytics program that works for your agency.

Qlarion Imagine Innovation Framework

Imagine™ is Qlarion's high-value, low-risk approach to developing business intelligence and analytics solutions. We begin by identifying a mission-critical challenge and launching a rapid prototyping process to quickly show value and secure buy-in from internal stakeholders. Our approach is centered on the business use case—not the technology. By empowering more users with data analytics so they can make better business decisions, we deliver measurable, tangible results for our clients.

Qlarion Imagine™ Innovation Framework

	PLAN	PILOT	PROJECT	PROGRAM
Data Technology Organization Processes	INNOVATION		DELIVERY	
	Design Thinking	**Lean Start-Up**	**Agile Delivery**	**Enterprise Capabilities**
	Empathize with users; Generate new ideas	Build-Measure-Learn; Rapid prototyping	Implementation with ongoing roll-out	Best practices and Centers of Excellence

Who We Are

Qlarion is a government innovation firm that provides data and analytics solutions for federal, state, and local government agencies.

Our solutions are designed to help our customers make better business decisions, improve citizen engagement, reduce costs, and improve efficiency by using business intelligence and big data and analytics to effectively manage, access, and understand information.

Using our Imagine™ innovation framework, we work with our clients to identify high value use cases, design and implement data and analytics solutions, and establish Centers of Excellence that create lasting impact for our clients and the people they serve.

Our Areas of Expertise

Health Care
Improve quality of care, increase access to care, and reduce healthcare costs

Public Safety
Identify problem neighborhoods, optimize police resources, and improve threat prediction

Transportation
Track real-time impacts of traffic and construction and improve emergency response

Finance and Administration
Prevent fraud, abuse, and waste and leverage workforce analytics for human capital management

Energy and Environment
Optimize environmental cleanup resources and provide efficiency to energy markets

Education
Improve financial performance of K-12 schools and proactively identify at-risk students

Let us tell you more about how Qlarion can help your analytics initiatives soar.

Visit **www.qlarion.com** for more information and contact us today to get started on creating a culture devoted to enterprise analytics excellence.