

Socrata Open Expenditures – Schemas

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Introduction

Socrata's Open Expenditures allows you to present and visualize the transaction-level details of your ledger/checkbook, with specific detail around the vendors used by your organization. The interface of Open Expenditures is automatically generated from your data.

Open Expenditures requires one dataset to function and recommends a second one. Each is described below. You can think of each dataset as having all your data on a single tab in Microsoft Excel. The experience in Open Expenditures is only as good as your data. While some columns below are not strictly required, more data is always better than less.

The dataset described below has three categories of columns/fields:

- **Required Fields:** These fields are required by Open Expenditures to function.
- **Recommended Fields:** When these fields are provided, Open Expenditures can provide a more relevant experience for all users.
- **Optional Fields:** These fields are optional as they are useful for analysts accessing the information and may be used in future enhancements of the Open Expenditures product.

Ledger Dataset

Recommended Column Name	Type	Value	Notes
fiscal_year	Required	Number	Used to distinguish entries across multiple years.
fiscal_period	Required	Number	Used to distinguish different months/fiscal periods, generally 1-12.
date	Required	Date	The date of the transaction.
Hierarchy / Chart of Accounts (up to 6 levels)			
priority / service / department / program / division / etc. (up to 6 levels)	Required	Text	1st level of detail presented. <i>(Ex. Public Safety, Safer Streets.)</i>
	Optional	Text	2nd level of detail presented. <i>(Ex. Police Department, Fire Department)</i>
	Optional	Text	3rd level of detail presented. <i>(Ex. Administration, Operations)</i>
Spending Details			
expense_category	Required	Text	A cross-departmental type of expense. <i>(Ex. Technology, IT Services, Training)</i>
description	Recommended	Text	The description of the what the expense was for.
entry_type	Optional	Text	Denotes credit, debit, journal entry, adjustment, etc.
fund	Optional	Text	The name of the fund that the money flows out from.
Amounts (1 primary amount + up to 4 comparisons)			
actual_amount / budgeted_amount / amended amount (up to 5 amounts)	Required	Number	The dollar amount for the transaction.
	Optional	Number	A comparison to show against the primary amount, for example the budgeted total.
	Optional	Number	A second comparison to show, for example an amended budget total.
Vendor Information (when a vendor is involved)			
vendor_name	Required	Text	Used to show the name of vendor throughout the app.
vendor_id	Optional	Text	This is a unique ID for a vendor or recipient.

Payment Information (when available)			
payment_id	Recommended	Text	This is a unique ID of the payment, often a transaction number.
payment_method	Optional	Text	Identifies how payment was made (e.g. wire, check, p-card).
payment_status	Optional	Text	The current status of the payment (e.g. Reconciled, Voided, Unaccounted, etc).
payment_check_num	Optional	Text	This is the check number.
Invoice Information (when available)			
invoice_id	Optional	Text	This is the invoice number.

Vendor List Dataset

This is an **optional** dataset that adds contextual detail on the vendor pages by joining to the Ledger dataset. Requires a common key with the Ledger dataset, either vendor_name or vendor_id.

Recommended Column Name	Type	Value	Notes
vendor_name	Required	Text	Used to show the name of vendor throughout the app.
vendor_id	Optional	Text	This is a unique ID intended to represent a specific vendor.
vendor_description	Optional	Text	Any descriptive information to display on a given vendor (contracts, etc).
Location Details			
vendor_[address_1, address_2, city, state, zip, country]	Required	Text	Used to show the location of a specific vendor.
vendor_phone	Recommended	Text	Used to show the contact number for the vendor.
vendor_location	Recommended	Location	Socrata's platform can create this column based on the vendor address. Adding a location allows you to show a map of vendors on your application homepage.
Contact Details			

vendor_contact_name	Recommended	Text	Used to show the name of the contact at the vendor.
vendor_contact_phone	Recommended	Text	Used to show the phone number of the vendor contact.
vendor_contact_email	Recommended	Text	Used to show the email address for the contact.
Vendor Flags			
vendor_flag_minority_owned	Optional	Boolean	Used to show whether the vendor is minority owned, Yes/No (or similar).
vendor_flag_women_owned	Optional	Boolean	Used to show whether the vendor is women owned, Yes/No (or similar).
vendor_flag_[...]	Optional	Boolean	
Vendor Categories			
vendor_category_[...]	Optional	Text	A category tag for vendors.

