

Bay Evidence

Governance, Funding & Public Trust Packet

Published August 22, 2026

Independent research publication by Eric-Michael Wilson II



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Published: August 22, 2026

Maintained by: Bay Evidence

This packet consolidates the public policies and funding-readiness materials used to explain Bay Evidence's editorial standards, public accountability practices, audience plan, budget, reporting calendar, and terms of use. The packet is a convenience copy; the repository versions are the authoritative working documents.

Bay Evidence Editorial Independence Policy

Effective date: August 22, 2026

Bay Evidence publishes independent reporting, research, public-data analysis, and evidence guides about housing insecurity, homelessness, displacement, and public systems in the Bay Area.

Core rule

Editorial decisions are made according to public-interest relevance, evidentiary quality, fairness, originality, and the published scope of Bay Evidence. No donor, sponsor, advertiser, source, public official, contractor, partner, or owner may approve, suppress, or materially revise editorial content because of a financial or political interest.

Funding firewall

Funders may support Bay Evidence generally or support a defined project. A funder may not select or veto stories, sources, subjects, conclusions, headlines, publication timing, or confidential-source access. A restricted grant may specify a subject, geography, reporting period, or deliverable, but may not determine the outcome of reporting.

Source and subject fairness

Bay Evidence will identify material uncertainty, distinguish documented facts from analysis, and provide a reasonable opportunity for subjects to respond when allegations or adverse findings are presented.

Disclosure and control

Bay Evidence will publish material funders, fiscal sponsors, ownership information, and relevant conflicts. The editor retains final responsibility for assignment selection, methods, analysis, headlines, publication timing, corrections, and updates.

This policy is reviewed annually and whenever Bay Evidence enters a material new funding, ownership, or partnership arrangement.

Bay Evidence Corrections Policy

Effective date: August 22, 2026

Bay Evidence corrects material errors promptly and preserves a public record of the change.

Corrections

A correction is required for materially false, misleading, misattributed, or incomplete information, including incorrect numbers, dates, names, quotations, source links, calculations, or claims stated more strongly than the evidence supports.

Minor typographical or formatting changes may be made silently unless they alter meaning.

Requests

Send correction requests to editor@bayevidence.com with the page URL, disputed statement, proposed correction, and supporting source. Bay Evidence may request documentation before changing a claim.

Review and publication

The editor will log the request, compare the claim with the underlying source, consult the original reporter or researcher, and determine whether the issue is factual, methodological, interpretive, or editorial.

Material corrections will be dated on the affected page and entered in the public corrections ledger. The record will state what was wrong, what changed, when it changed, and what source supports the correction.

A subject's disagreement with an analysis does not by itself establish an error. Bay Evidence will distinguish factual error, methodological limitation, reasonable disagreement, omitted context, and unsupported retraction requests.

Retraction is reserved for material failures that make a published item fundamentally unreliable, including fabricated evidence, plagiarism, or a conclusion unsupported by the cited record.

Bay Evidence Donor Disclosure Policy

Effective date: August 22, 2026

Bay Evidence accepts charitable, philanthropic, sponsorship, and in-kind support only when the support can be disclosed without compromising editorial independence.

Public disclosure

Bay Evidence will publish an annual funding disclosure identifying institutional funders, fiscal sponsors, donors giving \$5,000 or more in a calendar year, restricted grants, general operating grants, material in-kind support, and related-party transactions.

Disclosures will identify the funder, amount or range when appropriate, purpose, grant period, and relevant restrictions.

Restrictions

Bay Evidence will not accept support that requires editorial approval, favorable treatment, suppression or delay of accurate reporting, confidential access to unpublished sources, political campaign activity, or publication of claims that cannot be independently substantiated.

Project restrictions must be written and may define a topic, geography, reporting period, personnel role, or public deliverable. They may not dictate conclusions, sources, subjects, wording, or publication decisions.

Privacy and sponsorship

Bay Evidence will protect private donor information not required for public disclosure. Donor information will not be sold.

When operating through a fiscal sponsor, the sponsor's disclosure and grant-administration requirements also apply. Bay Evidence will disclose the sponsor and administrative fee or fee range when known.

This policy is reviewed annually.

Bay Evidence Conflict-of-Interest Policy

Effective date: August 22, 2026

A conflict exists when a person's financial, professional, political, family, organizational, or personal interest could reasonably affect—or appear to affect—editorial judgment or stewardship of Bay Evidence resources.

Examples include employment or consulting for a subject of coverage, financial ownership in a covered organization, close personal ties to a subject, campaign work involving a covered policy, or a grant connected to the subject.

Disclosure and management

Covered personnel must disclose relevant interests before accepting an assignment or funding responsibility. The editor or independent reviewer may reassign the story, require a second review, add a disclosure note, separate fundraising from editorial decisions, or decline the assignment.

A conflicted person must not make the final decision on a matter in which they have a material interest.

Gifts and political activity

Covered personnel may not accept gifts, travel, employment promises, or other benefits from a source or subject when the benefit could reasonably affect coverage. Campaign work, candidacy, paid advocacy, and partisan organizational roles must be disclosed when they overlap with an assignment.

Lived experience is a legitimate source of insight, but it does not remove the need for disclosure, corroboration, fair framing, and separation between testimony and verified findings.

A material undisclosed conflict may result in reassignment, correction, removal from a project, repayment of improperly used funds, or termination of the relationship.

Bay Evidence One-Page Operating Budget

Budget period: September 2026–August 2027

Status: Planning proposal for grant applications

Revenue target

Source · Target

Foundation and journalism grants · \$45,000

Individual donations · \$15,000

Fiscal-sponsor or institutional partnership · \$10,000

Earned training or research services, editorially separated · \$5,000

Total projected revenue · \$75,000

Expenses

Expense · Annual estimate

Editor/reporter compensation · \$36,000

Freelance reporting and editing · \$10,000

Records, data, and document access · \$3,000
Legal and media-liability review · \$4,000
Hosting, software, analytics, and security · \$4,500
Community listening, translation, and accessibility · \$3,500
Photography, audio, and production · \$2,500
Fiscal sponsorship, accounting, and insurance · \$6,000
Outreach and audience development · \$2,000
Contingency reserve · \$3,500
Total projected expenses · \$75,000

This is a planning budget, not a record of money already raised or spent. Final figures should be adjusted after fiscal-sponsor fees, insurance quotes, tax treatment, and grant restrictions are known.

The proposed budget supports two major investigations, six evidence briefs, twelve monthly updates, quarterly listening sessions, public corrections, and basic audience measurement.

Bay Evidence 12-Month Reporting Calendar

Period: September 2026–August 2027

Month · Primary focus · Output

September 2026 · What 2026 PIT counts establish and leave unanswered · Evidence brief

October 2026 · Supportive-housing vacancies, repairs, and delayed placements · Investigation launch

November 2026 · Homelessness contracts, capacity, and outcomes · Records package

December 2026 · Winter housing insecurity and emergency response · Service guide

January 2027 · Eviction, rent burden, and pathways into homelessness · Evidence brief

February 2027 · Alameda County response and regional coordination · County report

March 2027 · San Francisco shelter, supportive housing, and retention · Investigation publication

April 2027 · Contra Costa housing instability and service geography · County report

May 2027 · Public funding changes and homelessness programs · Policy brief

June 2027 · Community listening and source audit · Findings memo

July 2027 · Cross-county comparison: what changed and why · Investigation launch

August 2027 · Annual evidence and corrections review · Annual report

Every major publication should identify reporting dates, geography, population universe, source documents, methodological limits, unanswered questions, subject-response status, and correction history. New developments may displace scheduled work when the change is material and documentable.

Bay Evidence Audience Reach and Community Engagement Plan

Effective date: August 22, 2026

Status: Initial measurement framework

Bay Evidence serves residents, journalists, researchers, service providers, advocates, public officials, and people directly affected by housing insecurity and homelessness.

Measurement integrity

Bay Evidence will not invent audience numbers. The repository does not yet contain a verified public analytics report. The first baseline must be established from privacy-respecting analytics, newsletter data, search data, download counts, and documented community distribution.

Track:

- Unique and returning visitors
- Page views by section
- Newsletter and RSS subscribers
- Report downloads
- Evidence-library searches
- Source-document clicks
- Community submissions and verified leads
- Listening-session attendance
- Corrections and factual feedback
- Public responses or record releases connected to reporting

Community engagement

Bay Evidence will hold quarterly listening sessions in Alameda, San Francisco, and Contra Costa counties; maintain a plain-language submission channel; separate testimony from verified findings; provide source-protection guidance; distribute reporting through libraries, service providers, neighborhood organizations, journalists, and civic groups; and return findings through briefings, downloadable summaries, and accessible web pages.

Community input may change an assignment, source list, correction, public resource, or reporting priority. Bay Evidence will track those changes.

Bay Evidence will avoid using photographs or identifying details of unhoused people without informed consent. Sensitive submissions are governed by the Privacy and PII Policy and Community Input Policy.

Metrics are reviewed monthly, with a public engagement and impact memo each year.

Bay Evidence Work Samples and Original Reporting

Prepared: August 22, 2026

Bay Evidence is developing an independent, source-centered publication focused on housing insecurity, homelessness, displacement, public spending, and institutional accountability in the Bay Area.

Work sample 1

Beyond Visibility: Reconciling San Francisco's 2026 Point-in-Time Reductions with Longitudinal Housing Retention

- **Format:** Long-form evidence report
- **Question:** What can a point-in-time reduction establish, and what remains unknown about housing retention and returns to homelessness?
- **Method:** Comparative reading of count data, methodology materials, research literature, and limitations.
- **Route:** /reports/2026-pit-demographic-divergence

Work sample 2

California at the Edge of the American Housing Crisis

- **Format:** Literature review and evidence synthesis
- **Question:** How do housing costs, poverty, displacement, public systems, and homelessness research fit together?
- **Method:** Scholarly and institutional literature review with source and methodology notes.
- **Route:** /reports/california-at-edge-of-the-american-housing-crisis

Work sample 3

Bay Area Housing, Homelessness, and Public-Systems Evidence Desk

- **Format:** Ongoing source ledger and public news archive
- **Question:** What changes in law, funding, programs, counts, contracts, and public reporting materially affect the Bay Area?
- **Method:** Public-source intake, editorial review, regional filtering, duplicate control, source-link tracking, and methodology notes.

- **Routes:** /news, /library, /changes, /timeline

Before submitting this index to a funder, confirm that each route is public and that each description matches the current page. Unpublished work must not be presented as completed reporting.

Bay Evidence — Privacy and PII Policy

Last reviewed: 2026-07-10

Scope: bayevidence.org and all Bay Evidence data systems

Who this applies to

This policy applies to:

1. People who visit the Bay Evidence website
2. People who submit community input via the /contribute form
3. People mentioned in the evidence corpus (public figures, officials, researchers)
4. People whose data appears in source records (in aggregate, anonymized form)

What we do not collect (visitors)

Bay Evidence does not currently:

- Use tracking cookies
- Collect analytics (no Google Analytics, Mixpanel, or equivalent)
- Sell or share visitor data
- Require account creation to access any content
- Track individual browsing behavior

The site loads fonts from Google Fonts (fonts.googleapis.com). This means Google's servers see font requests from browsers. If you prefer to avoid this, you may use a browser extension to block Google Fonts — the site will fall back to system fonts.

Community input submissions

If you submit via the `/contribute` form, we collect:

Field · What we do with it

Submission type · Used for routing and triage

Title and description · Reviewed by Bay Evidence editorial team

URL (optional) · Used to evaluate the source

County · Used for geographic routing

Contact email (optional) · Stored securely; used only for editorial follow-up

Permission to follow up · Respected

We do **not** collect:

- Full names (unless voluntarily included in the description)
- Address or location
- Financial information
- Social security numbers or government IDs
- Medical information

How submission data is stored

Submissions are currently logged server-side (console log) pending database implementation. Future database storage will use row-level access controls limiting access to authorized reviewers.

Contact emails:

- Are stored only in the moderation queue
- Are never displayed publicly
- Are used only for editorial follow-up with permission
- Are deleted from active storage if a submission is rejected for spam, PII, or doxxing violations

PII screening

All submissions are automatically screened for patterns suggesting:

- Social Security Number format
- Credit card number format
- Password-like text
- Home addresses referencing private individuals

Flagged submissions are held for human review. We do not process or display flagged submissions until a reviewer has assessed the safety concern.

Doxxing prevention

Submissions that appear to contain location information about private individuals (especially people experiencing homelessness) are flagged for safety review. Bay Evidence will not publish information that could enable harm to vulnerable individuals, even if that information is technically public.

People mentioned in the evidence corpus

Bay Evidence's evidence records concern:

- **Public figures and officials** — elected officials, agency heads, program directors, and other public-role individuals. Information about their professional conduct and official responsibilities is within scope.
- **Researchers and journalists** — named as authors of sources. Standard academic and professional attribution.
- **Aggregate or anonymized population data** — PIT count totals, HMIS aggregate statistics, survey results. Never individual-level identifying data.

Bay Evidence does not:

- Publish home addresses of any individuals
- Publish financial details of private individuals
- Publish information that could be used to locate a specific person experiencing homelessness or in a shelter
- Intentionally identify specific individuals in data about vulnerable populations

Confidential shelter locations

Bay Evidence follows established journalistic and social-service practice: domestic violence shelter locations and other safety-sensitive service locations are not published. The Get He!p resource directory links to organizations' own referral systems rather than publishing locations that should remain confidential.

Data retention

Data type · Retention

Community submissions (approved) · Indefinite (part of the public record)

Community submissions (rejected) · 90 days (for audit/appeal), then deleted

Contact emails (editorial follow-up) · Deleted after case is closed or 1 year, whichever is sooner

Server logs · Per hosting provider default

Your rights

You may:

- Request deletion of your community submission (contact us via the method in SECURITY.md, using "Privacy request" in the subject)
- Request that your contact email be removed from our records
- Submit anonymously at any time

Third-party services

Service · Purpose · Data shared

Google Fonts · Typography · Font file requests (IP visible to Google)

Cloudflare · CDN and DDoS protection · All request traffic

SeeClickFix (OAK 311) · Server-to-server data fetch only · No visitor data

GitHub · Repository hosting and CI/CD · Repository metadata

Contact

Privacy questions: privacy@bayevidence.org

(Update this address before public deployment)

Bay Evidence — Community Input Policy

Last reviewed: 2026-07-10

Status: OPERATIONAL

Purpose

Bay Evidence welcomes community knowledge that improves the quality, coverage, and integrity of the evidence record. This policy governs how community submissions are received, reviewed, and (rarely) published.

What we accept

Bay Evidence accepts the following submission types:

Type · Description

Suggest a source · A published report, dataset, audit, article, or documentary that Bay Evidence should evaluate

Report a change · A data revision, policy change, program closure, or updated number affecting an existing record

Add context · Background, local knowledge, or information that helps interpret an existing source

Report a data gap · Something Bay Evidence should cover but doesn't yet

Lived experience note · A first-person account that adds human dimension to the research

County-specific information · Sources, programs, or data specific to one of the nine Bay Area counties

What we do not accept

- Personal identifying information about private individuals
- Allegations against individuals without published, sourced evidence
- Precise locations of people, especially those experiencing homelessness
- Information that could endanger someone's physical safety
- Commercial promotions or advertising
- Content that constitutes harassment or targeting
- Requests to publish doxxing information under any circumstances

How submissions are handled

All submissions enter the following pipeline:

1. **Server-side validation** — field lengths, URL format, required fields

2. **Spam and rate-limit checks** — automated spam scoring; high-score submissions are silently rejected
3. **PII screening** — submissions flagged for possible PII are held for human review before any action
4. **Doxxing screening** — submissions that appear to contain location information about individuals are flagged
5. **Moderation queue** — valid submissions enter PENDING_REVIEW state
6. **Human editorial review** — a Bay Evidence staff member or trained reviewer assesses the submission
7. **Disposition** — the submission is classified and may lead to:
 - A source entering the discovery pipeline (Stage 0 of EVIDENCE_PROMOTION_WORKFLOW.md)
 - A context note added to an existing record
 - A lived-experience testimony (clearly labeled)
 - Rejection with a reason (not publicly disclosed)

What submissions become

Community submissions may result in the following public states:

State · Description

COMMUNITY LEAD · A source or data point the editorial team will investigate

COMMUNITY CONTEXT · Local knowledge added as context to an existing record

LIVED EXPERIENCE EVIDENCE · First-person testimony, distinguished from administrative data

CORROBORATED · A community-sourced item that has been independently verified

PENDING REVIEW · Received, not yet reviewed — no content is displayed publicly

NOT PUBLISHED · Rejected or not eligible for public display

A community submission **never automatically becomes VERIFIED evidence**. See EVIDENCE_PROMOTION_WORKFLOW.md for how evidence advances through the pipeline.

Anonymity

You may submit anonymously. An email address is optional and used only for editorial follow-up (never published or shared). You are never required to create an account.

Response time

Bay Evidence is a small team. We cannot guarantee a response time for community submissions. Submissions that suggest a high-priority gap or a live source

update will be prioritized.

Appeals

If you believe your submission was incorrectly rejected, you may:

1. Resubmit with additional context explaining why the submission is relevant
2. Open a GitHub issue (for public, non-sensitive matters)

Bay Evidence will not re-open submissions that were rejected for spam, doxxing, or harassment violations.

Transparency

Bay Evidence aims to maintain public transparency about the community input system by:

- Displaying the submission states and their meanings at `/contribute`
- Publishing this policy publicly
- Maintaining the moderation workflow in `EVIDENCE_PROMOTION_WORKFLOW.md`
- Not publicly identifying or shaming rejected submitters

What we do with your data

See `PRIVACY_AND_PII_POLICY.md` for the full privacy policy.

In summary:

- Contact emails are stored securely and used only for editorial follow-up
- Submission content is stored in the moderation queue
- PII-flagged submissions are held and not processed until a human reviews them
- Doxxing-flagged submissions are held and not acted upon until safety is confirmed
- Rejected submissions are logged for audit purposes but not displayed

Governing principles

Community testimony is not the same as an administrative dataset. Lived

experience evidence is valuable and legitimate — it belongs in a clearly labeled channel that distinguishes it from official counts and peer-reviewed research.

Bay Evidence does not discard advocacy research, but its institutional position is visible. A submission from a housing advocacy organization is treated differently from a peer-reviewed study or an official government audit — not because advocacy is invalid, but because readers deserve to know the source's institutional position.

Bay Evidence — Moderation Policy

Last reviewed: 2026-07-10

Scope: Community input submissions, comment moderation, editorial decisions

Principles

Bay Evidence's moderation approach is grounded in:

1. **Evidence integrity** — the authoritative corpus must not be contaminated by unreviewed submissions
2. **Human dignity** — people experiencing housing instability are not data points; their experiences deserve respectful treatment
3. **Epistemic honesty** — advocacy and lived experience are valuable but distinct from peer-reviewed research; our labels must reflect those distinctions
4. **Non-retaliation** — rejected submissions are not publicly identified or shamed

What moderators review

All community input submissions enter a PENDING_REVIEW state before any editorial action is taken. Moderators assess:

1. **Spam check** — automated score ≥ 70 triggers silent rejection; borderline scores (40–69) are reviewed by a human
2. **PII assessment** — any submission flagged for possible PII is reviewed before any processing

3. **Doxxing assessment** — any submission containing apparent location information about private individuals is reviewed for safety
4. **Relevance** — is this within Bay Evidence's scope?
5. **Duplicate detection** — does this duplicate an existing record?
6. **Source quality** — if a source is suggested, does it meet minimum standards for entering the discovery pipeline?

Moderation states

State · Meaning

PENDING_REVIEW · Received; automated checks passed; awaiting human review

IN_REVIEW · A moderator is actively reviewing this submission

APPROVED_AS_LEAD · Cleared as a source lead for the discovery pipeline

APPROVED_AS_CONTEXT · Cleared to appear as context on an existing record

APPROVED_AS_LIVED_EXPERIENCE · Cleared as lived-experience testimony

CORROBORATED · Independently verified and upgraded

REJECTED_SPAM · Rejected as spam (automated or human)

REJECTED_IRRELEVANT · Rejected as outside Bay Evidence's scope

REJECTED_DUPLICATE · Rejected as a duplicate of an existing submission or record

REJECTED_POLICY · Rejected for violation of the community input policy

REDACTED · Approved but with PII redacted from the displayed version

What we will never publish

Regardless of the submission's other qualities, Bay Evidence will not publish:

- Personal identifying information (name, address, phone, email) of private individuals
- Precise locations of shelters, safe houses, or individuals experiencing homelessness
- Unsubstantiated allegations against named individuals
- Content designed to harass, target, or expose vulnerable people
- Information that could reasonably be used to locate or harm someone
- Political advocacy content without an evidence basis (advocacy research is labeled as such and its source's institutional position is visible)

Escalation

Submissions that present safety concerns are escalated immediately to the senior editorial staff. Examples:

- A submission appears to contain a threat against a named individual
- A submission appears to include a precise location for a domestic violence shelter
- A submission appears to be an attempt to identify a specific person's current location

Escalated submissions are not processed further until a safety review is complete.

Appeals

Submitters whose submissions were rejected may:

1. Resubmit with additional context (for relevance rejections)
2. Open a GitHub issue to request reconsideration (for source-quality rejections)

Bay Evidence will not reinstate submissions rejected for safety, spam, doxxing, or harassment violations.

Reviewer conduct

Moderators commit to:

- Reviewing submissions based on their merit relative to the policy, not based on whether they agree with the submitter's perspective
- Not publicly identifying or shaming rejected submitters
- Maintaining confidentiality of contact information
- Escalating safety concerns promptly
- Documenting decisions in the moderation record for audit purposes
- Recusing themselves from reviewing submissions about topics where they have a personal conflict

Transparency

Bay Evidence will maintain public transparency about the moderation system by:

- Publishing this policy
- Publishing `COMMUNITY_INPUT_POLICY.md`
- Maintaining the moderation workflow in `EVIDENCE_PROMOTION_WORKFLOW.md`
- Making submission states visible to the submitter where feasible
- Reporting aggregate moderation statistics annually (e.g., total submissions, approval rates, rejection categories) without disclosing individual submissions

Revision history

Date · Change

2026-07-10 · Initial policy created

Bay Evidence — Security Policy

Supported versions

Bay Evidence is a public-interest evidence repository operated as a continuous deployment from the `main` branch. There is no separate version matrix. The current `main` branch is the only supported version.

Reporting a vulnerability

Please do not report security vulnerabilities as public GitHub issues.

How to report

1. Email: **`security@bayevidence.org`** *(configure this address before deploying)*
2. Or use GitHub's private security advisory system:

Repository → **Security** → **Advisories** → **"Report a vulnerability"**

Include:

- A clear description of the vulnerability
- Steps to reproduce (proof of concept if available)
- Potential impact
- Affected component (OAK 311 server function, community input pipeline, search, etc.)
- Whether you believe it is being actively exploited

We do not require a minimum report format. A clear description is enough to begin the process.

What to expect

Stage · Timeline

Acknowledgement · Within 72 hours

Initial assessment · Within 7 days

Status update · Within 14 days

Fix (critical) · Within 30 days

Fix (high) · Within 60 days

Disclosure · Coordinated with reporter

Threat model summary

See `THREAT_MODEL.md` for the full threat model.

The primary security concerns for Bay Evidence are:

1. **Evidence corruption** — unauthorized or unnoticed changes to the canonical historical corpus (`data/corpus/bahec-source-ledger.md`)
2. **Provenance loss** — removal of source attribution, methodology notes, or correction records
3. **Editorial pipeline compromise** — unauthorized publication of unreviewed community submissions as verified evidence
4. **Upstream data injection** — malformed or malicious data from the OAK 311 SeeClickFix API injected into the UI
5. **PII exposure** — accidental publication of personally identifying information submitted via community input
6. **Dependency vulnerabilities** — supply chain compromise via npm dependencies

What is in scope

- All routes and server functions in `src/`
- The community input pipeline (`src/lib/community/`)
- The OAK 311 server function (`src/lib/oak311.functions.ts`)
- The corpus integrity system (`data/corpus/`, `scripts/`)
- GitHub Actions workflows (`.github/workflows/`)
- The content delivery surface (any deployed URL serving `bayevidence.org`)

What is out of scope

- Third-party services (SeeClickFix/OAK 311 API, Google Fonts, Cloudflare CDN)
- Issues affecting only development environments with no path to production
- Denial of service via legitimate high-traffic (not weaponized)
- Findings that require physical access to a maintainer device

Security controls

In-application

Control · Location · Status

OAK 311 request timeout · `src/lib/oak311.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

OAK 311 response size limit · `src/lib/oak311.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

OAK 311 upstream schema validation · `src/lib/oak311.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

OAK 311 error sanitization · `src/lib/oak311.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

Community input rate limiting · `src/lib/community/submission.functions.ts` · ✓ In-memory

Community input honeypot · `src/lib/community/submission.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

Community input spam scoring · `src/lib/community/submission.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

Community input PII/doxxing detection · `src/lib/community/submission.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

Community input text sanitization · `src/lib/community/submission.functions.ts` · ✓ Implemented

Content Security Policy · `src/start.ts` · ✓ Implemented

X-Content-Type-Options · `src/start.ts` · ✓ Implemented

X-Frame-Options / frame-ancestors · `src/start.ts` · ✓ Implemented

Referrer-Policy · `src/start.ts` · ✓ Implemented

Permissions-Policy · `src/start.ts` · ✓ Implemented

HSTS · `src/start.ts` + Cloudflare · ✓ Implemented

Corpus integrity manifest · `data/corpus/integrity-manifest.json` · ✓ Implemented

External link `rel="noopener noreferrer"` · `src/components/site-chrome.tsx` · ✓ Implemented

CI/CD

Control · Workflow · Status

Corpus completeness gate · `quality-gate.yml` · ✓

Corpus integrity hash verification · `quality-gate.yml` · ✓

TypeScript typecheck · `quality-gate.yml` · ✓

Production build verification · `quality-gate.yml` · ✓

CodeQL security scan · `codeql.yml` · ✓

Dependency vulnerability audit · `security-scan.yml` · ✓

Secret scanning (gitleaks) · `security-scan.yml` · ✓

Dependabot (npm + Actions) · `dependabot.yml` · ✓

Minimal GitHub Actions permissions · All workflows · ✓

Hosting-layer (Cloudflare — must be configured separately)

- HSTS preload enrollment
- DDoS protection
- Bot management
- WAF rules for the community input endpoint
- Rate limiting at CDN layer (complements in-application rate limiting)
- Access controls for any admin interfaces

See `DEPLOYMENT_AND_RELEASES.md` for Cloudflare configuration requirements.

Responsible disclosure

Bay Evidence commits to:

- Acknowledging reports promptly
- Keeping reporters informed of progress
- Coordinating disclosure timing
- Not taking legal action against good-faith security researchers

We currently do not operate a bug bounty program.

Maintainer contact

For non-security inquiries, open a GitHub issue or discussion.

For security matters only: security@bayevidence.org

(Update this address before public deployment)

Bay Evidence Data Governance & Freshness Protocol

Bay Evidence is designed to distinguish **freshness** from **evidence quality**. A newly published number is not automatically authoritative, and an older measure may remain the latest valid estimate for a specific concept.

1. Every public metric requires provenance

No numeric claim may appear in a headline, chart, map, county dossier, or comparison table unless the underlying record includes:

- stable Bay Evidence record ID;
- source institution;
- source title;
- canonical source URL;
- source type;
- geography and geographic unit;
- reference period (what time the data describes);
- publication date;
- retrieval date;
- expected update cadence;
- methodology version or notes;
- last human review date;
- current freshness state;
- current evidence-quality state;
- known limitations;
- citation text.

2. Freshness states

Freshness is evaluated relative to the source's expected publication cadence, not a universal number of days.

- **CURRENT** — within the expected source cycle.
- **DUE_SOON** — next expected release is approaching.

- OVERDUE — expected release date has passed and no replacement has been verified.
- SUPERSEDED — a newer authoritative version exists.
- HISTORICAL — intentionally retained for longitudinal analysis.
- UNKNOWN_CADENCE — publication pattern is irregular or not documented.

3. Evidence-quality states

Quality is evaluated independently of freshness.

- VERIFIED — source and extraction checked; methodology adequate for the displayed claim.
- PARTIALLY_SUBSTANTIATED — some elements supported; material caveats remain.
- CONTESTED — credible sources or methodological interpretations materially conflict.
- INCOMPLETE — source is partial or required fields/data are missing.
- RETRACTED — source or claim has been formally withdrawn or invalidated.
- PENDING_REVIEW — ingested but not cleared for authoritative display.

4. Source hierarchy

Bay Evidence uses a source hierarchy, but does not confuse institutional authority with methodological perfection.

Tier A — Primary administrative and statutory records

Official datasets, audited financial statements, adopted budgets, contracts, ordinances, court filings, legislative records, PIT/HIC files, HMIS/HDIS aggregates, official program reports.

Tier B — High-quality independent research

Peer-reviewed scholarship, university research centers, methodologically transparent evaluations, inspector general and auditor reports.

Tier C — Accountability journalism and documentary evidence

Original reporting with document trails, named data sources, reproducible calculations, or direct records.

Tier D — Advocacy, provider, and stakeholder reports

Useful for interpretation, field context, qualitative evidence, and claims requiring corroboration.

Tier E — Discovery-only material

Search results, social posts, unattributed summaries, AI-generated summaries, and unsourced graphics. These may identify leads but may not support authoritative public claims without verification.

5. The official-source spine

The research pipeline should continuously monitor at minimum:

- HUD AHAR, PIT and HIC files;
- HUD System Performance Measures and Longitudinal Systems Analysis releases where public;
- California HDIS and California Open Data releases;
- each Bay Area Continuum of Care and county homelessness system;
- county and city adopted budgets and budget revisions;
- controller, auditor, inspector general, civil grand jury, and legislative analyst reports;
- housing-element annual progress reports and state housing dashboards;
- public contract, procurement, and grant records;
- court decisions and statutory/regulatory changes affecting housing, shelter, encampment policy, behavioral health, and public benefits;
- peer-reviewed and university research feeds;
- selected accountability-newsroom feeds.

6. Update cadences

Different records require different schedules.

Record class · Check cadence · Typical publication cadence

Breaking policy / court / executive action · Daily · Event-driven

Budgets, contracts, procurement · Weekly · Event-driven / monthly

County dashboards · Weekly · Daily to quarterly

HDIS · Monthly check · Quarterly collection cycle; release schedule may vary

PIT/HIC · Monthly release check · Annual data release cycle

System performance measures · Monthly release check · Annual

Research literature · Weekly · Continuous

Housing production / APR data · Monthly check · Annual

Census ACS · Monthly release check · Annual

7. Ingestion workflow

1. **Discover** — automated source check identifies new or changed material.

2. **Capture** — source metadata and immutable snapshot/hash are recorded where legally and technically appropriate.
3. **Parse** — structured fields are extracted into staging tables.
4. **Validate** — schema, units, geography, date range, duplicates, and outliers are tested.
5. **Reconcile** — conflicts with prior versions or parallel sources are flagged.
6. **Review** — a human reviewer clears high-impact metrics and methodological changes.
7. **Publish** — approved records become visible with provenance and freshness labels.
8. **Monitor** — source is checked on its expected cadence and records are superseded rather than silently overwritten.

8. No silent overwrites

Bay Evidence uses append-only version history for source records and derived metrics. New releases create new versions. Public interfaces may default to the latest approved version, but historical versions remain accessible for longitudinal work and auditability.

9. Methodology-break detection

A newer count must not automatically be displayed as directly comparable with earlier counts. Each series must record methodology changes, including changes to:

- field-count timing;
- enumeration method;
- sampling strategy;
- geographic coverage;
- shelter inventory definitions;
- deduplication;
- demographic classification;
- data-system participation;
- missing-data treatment;
- estimation or imputation rules.

When a break is material, charts must show a visible comparability warning and the analytical layer must avoid percent-change claims across the break unless a defensible bridge method exists.

10. Derived metrics

Every derived metric must store:

- formula;

- source record IDs;
- transformation code or query version;
- units;
- aggregation logic;
- geography mapping logic;
- analyst/reviewer;
- created and last-validated timestamps.

11. Freshness score

A freshness score may be used for triage, never as a substitute for judgment.

Suggested model:

`freshness_ratio = age_since_reference_end / expected_update_interval`

Interpretation:

- < 1.0 — current within expected cycle;
- $1.0-1.25$ — due soon / monitor;
- > 1.25 — overdue unless source cadence is irregular.

Public-facing language should use understandable states rather than raw scores.

12. Public trust features

Every evidence page should expose:

- Source
- Published
- Describes period
- Retrieved
- Last reviewed
- Freshness state
- Evidence-quality state
- Methodology note
- Limitations
- Related records
- Citation export

- Revision history

13. Automation principle

Automation may discover, fetch, parse, compare, and flag. It may not silently convert unreviewed material into authoritative public claims. High-impact figures and methodological changes require review before publication.

14. Editorial principle

Bay Evidence should say "**latest available**" only when the pipeline has checked the relevant authoritative source registry and confirmed that no newer approved release exists. The interface should state the reference period and publication date so users can see the difference between when data was measured and when it was published.

Bay Evidence — Accessibility

Last reviewed: 2026-07-10

Target: WCAG 2.2 Level AA

Status: PARTIAL — ongoing improvement

Standards and target

Bay Evidence targets **WCAG 2.2 Level AA** compliance across all public routes.

The design system in `DESIGN_CONSTITUTION.md` establishes accessibility as a first-class concern:

- Accessible floor: WCAG 2.2 AA
- Visible focus rings on brick/dark surfaces
- Tap targets $\geq 44 \times 44$ for primary interactive elements
- Motion budget $\leq 150\text{ms}$; respects `prefers-reduced-motion`
- Status conveyed by text + icon + pattern, not color alone

Current implementation

Implemented

Feature · Status · Notes

prefers-reduced-motion media query · ✓ · src/styles.css — all transitions disabled

Semantic <header>, <main>, <footer> landmarks · ✓ · src/components/site-chrome.tsx

<nav aria-label> on all navigation regions · ✓ · Primary nav, research index nav, filter nav

rel="noopener noreferrer" on external links · ✓ · All external links in site chrome

Focus-visible ring (:focus-visible) · ✓ · focus-visible:ring-2 focus-visible:ring-brick on all interactive elements

Form field labels · ✓ · /contribute — all fields have <label htmlFor>

ARIA descriptions (aria-describedby) · ✓ · /contribute — all form fields with hints

Required field indicator · ✓ · Visible asterisk with aria-label="required"

Accessible error announcements (role="alert") · ✓ · /contribute error states

Success announcement (role="status", aria-live) · ✓ · /contribute success panel

Search result count announcement · ✓ · Global search: aria-live="polite"

Search dialog (role="dialog", aria-modal) · ✓ · GlobalSearch component

Honeypot hidden from assistive technology · ✓ · aria-hidden="true", tabIndex={-1}

Skip-to-content link · ✗ · TODO

One logical H1 per page · Partial · Most pages have one H1; review all routes

Heading order (H1 → H2 → H3) · Partial · Most pages follow; confirm on all routes

Table headers and captions · Partial · Tables in data routes need review

Mobile table alternatives · Partial · Some tables scroll; consider responsive alternatives

Color contrast (AA: 4.5:1 body, 3:1 large) · Partial · Brick accent on paper: needs audit

Meaningful link text · Partial · Some "Open →" links could be more descriptive

Screen reader announcements for filter updates · Partial · County rooms need aria-live on result counts

Not yet implemented

Feature · Priority · Notes

Skip-to-content link · High · Add to <SiteHeader>

Automated accessibility testing (axe/Playwright) · High · Add to CI

Full contrast audit · Medium · Run WCAG color contrast checker on all token combinations

Keyboard trap check on all dialogs · Medium · Global search dialog needs audit

<caption> on data tables · Medium · PIT counts, spending, program tables

Accessible mobile table alternatives · Medium · Long tables need horizontal scroll or card view

ARIA live region for filter result counts · Medium · Counties, collections, library filters

"Currently viewing" landmark on paginated results · Low ·

Known issues

1. **Global search dialog keyboard trap:** The cmdk dialog manages focus within the command list, but the focus-trap behavior when tabbing out of the input has not been fully tested across screen readers (NVDA, JAWS, VoiceOver).

2. **Brick contrast on paper background:** The `--brick` token is `oklch(0.48 0.13 35)`.

On the `--paper` background (`oklch(0.972 0.012 85)`), the contrast ratio should be checked against WCAG AA (4.5:1 for normal text, 3:1 for large text). If it fails, darken the brick token slightly.

3. **Small-caps utility:** The `.small-caps` utility uses `font-variant-caps: all-small-caps`, which is visually distinctive but may be read awkwardly by some screen readers.

Evaluate whether `aria-label` overrides are needed for critical labels.

4. **"Open →" link text:** Many Evidence Library entries use generic "Open →" text.

Consider adding `aria-label` with the document title.

How to run an accessibility check

Automated (browser)

1. Install the [axe DevTools browser extension](#)
2. Navigate to any Bay Evidence page
3. Open DevTools → axe tab → Scan page

Screen reader testing

- **macOS/iOS:** VoiceOver (built-in)
- **Windows:** NVDA (free) or JAWS
- **ChromeOS:** ChromeVox

Key flows to test:

1. Navigate from homepage to Evidence Library using keyboard only
2. Use global search (/ key) to find and navigate to a result
3. Submit community input form with keyboard only, including error handling
4. Navigate Get Help page filters

Automated CI (TODO)

Add `@axe-core/playwright` to the test pipeline to catch regressions.

Document history

Date · Author · Change

2026-07-10 · Bay Evidence engineering · Initial accessibility audit and documentation

```
import { createFileRoute } from "@tanstack/react-router";

import { PageHeader } from "@components/editorial";

export const Route = createFileRoute("/terms")({
  head: () => ({
    meta: [
      { title: "Terms · Bay Evidence" },
      {
        name: "description",
        content:
          "Publication terms for Bay Evidence research, public records, data, external links, corrections, emergency information, and reuse.",
      },
    ],
    links: [{ rel: "canonical", href: "/terms" }],
  }),
  component: TermsPage,
});

function TermsPage() {
  return (
    <>
    <PageHeader
      eyebrow="Publication policy"
      title="Terms"
      lede="The practical limits and responsibilities attached to using Bay Evidence research, data, records, and public-service information."
    />
    <main className="mx-auto max-w-4xl space-y-9 px-6 py-10 text-sm leading-relaxed text-foreground/85">
    <section>
    <h2 className="font-serif text-3xl text-foreground">Research publication, not professional representation</h2>
```

<p className="mt-4">

Bay Evidence publishes research, analysis, public records, datasets, explanatory material, and links for public-interest use. Nothing on the site creates an attorney-client, clinician-patient, fiduciary, case-management, emergency-service, or other professional relationship.

</p>

</section>

<section>

<h2 className="font-serif text-3xl text-foreground">Evidence changes</h2>

<p className="mt-4">

Public datasets, budgets, court records, program information, service availability, and agency statements change. Bay Evidence dates material where practical, publishes corrections, and distinguishes verified evidence from unresolved questions. Readers making consequential decisions should confirm the current primary source.

</p>

</section>

<section>

<h2 className="font-serif text-3xl text-foreground">External sources</h2>

<p className="mt-4">

Links to agencies, courts, researchers, news organizations, nonprofits, companies, and third-party research tools do not constitute endorsement of every statement, policy, or practice of those organizations. External sites control their own availability, privacy, accessibility, and terms.

</p>

</section>

<section>

<h2 className="font-serif text-3xl text-foreground">Get Help</h2>

<p className="mt-4">

The Get Help directory is a public-information resource, not an emergency dispatch or placement service. Capacity, eligibility, hours, phone numbers, and referral rules can change. In an immediate emergency, use the emergency resources displayed on that page and verify program availability before traveling.

</p>

</section>

<section>

<h2 className="font-serif text-3xl text-foreground">Reuse and citation</h2>

<p className="mt-4">

Readers may quote and cite Bay Evidence in accordance with applicable copyright law and any source-specific licensing attached to underlying material. Third-party photographs, documents, datasets, and publications retain their own rights. Do not remove source attribution or represent Bay Evidence analysis as an official government finding.

</p>

</section>

<section>

<h2 className="font-serif text-3xl text-foreground">Corrections and contact</h2>

<p className="mt-4">

Factual corrections, privacy concerns, and questions about these terms can be sent to

editor@bayevidence.com.

</p>

</section>

<p className="border-t border-border pt-6 font-mono text-xs uppercase tracking-wide text-muted-foreground">

Last reviewed August 18, 2026.

</p>

</main>

</>

);

}