

Sean Moulton

Director of Open Government Policy at the Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch)

Sean Moulton has worked on transparency and government accountability issues at the Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch) for over a decade, with special attention to freedom of information issues and environmental right-to-know policies.

He is the author, with Gavin Baker, of a recent report examining the progress made on open government during the first term of the Obama administration, *Delivering on Open Government: The Obama Administration's Unfinished Legacy*. This report builds on a two-year project Moulton directed that developed government transparency recommendations from more than 100 groups from across the political spectrum. The 2008 report, *Moving Toward a 21st Century Right-to-Know Agenda*, was seen as a "blueprint" on transparency by public officials.

Moulton oversees an annual analysis of federal agency performance in processing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, which also examines trends in backlogs and exemption use across administrations. In 2011, Moulton was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame.

On federal spending transparency, Moulton co-directed the development of FedSpending.org, a groundbreaking website that opened trillions of dollars in federal spending to public searches. The site has facilitated more than 10 million searches of federal spending and was the precursor of the Recovery.gov website and USAspending.gov dataset.

In response to EPA's cutbacks to the Toxics Release Inventory in 2005, Moulton helped mobilize 120,000 people to file opposing comments with the agency, which eventually led to the restoration of the program. That same year, Moulton led an effort, which included a FOIA lawsuit, to prompt disclosure of Risk Management Plan data, important emergency preparedness information for communities that EPA pulled off its website following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The only online access to the data continues to be RTKNET.org, the Center for Effective Government website created and maintained to provide better access to environmental health and safety data.

Prior to joining the Center for Effective Government, Moulton served as the Tax Policy Analyst at Friends of the Earth, was a research fellow at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Industry Sector Policy Division, and was an Environmental Researcher and Data Manager for the Council on Economic Priorities (CEP). He holds a Masters of Public Policy degree from the University of Maryland and a BA in Economics and English.