

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2017

This update on evidence-based policymaking and budgeting is prepared by the [Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy \(IMRP\)](#). The IMRP manages the [Results First Initiative in Connecticut](#) – an evidence-based approach to policymaking and budgeting sponsored by the Pew-MacArthur collaboration. This letter intends to provide you with an interesting and useful avenue for news on the practice of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting. We intend to bring you information from a variety of sources and at various levels of government.

CONNECTICUT ACTIVITY

The IMRP released a report entitled “Recidivism Among Adjudicated Youth on Parole in Connecticut.” This report was written in compliance with Connecticut Public Act 14-217. The IMRP focused on establishing a baseline rate of recidivism among adjudicated juvenile offenders committed to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), which could be used in the Results First Initiative model. We anticipate that further study of evidence-based outcomes (recidivism and others) together with an analysis of program cost data will aid in producing specific program cost-benefit analyses using the Results First approach. Read the report [here](#).

NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

NEW YORK

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has been employing evidence-based practices for several years and maintains an informative website that explains evidence-based practices and programs as it pertains to Child Well-Being. This is an initiative of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development. This site walks private providers through program planning, defining target populations, outcomes and measurements, while also discussing implementation issues. Their [website](#) includes links to other interesting sites.

Thank you for your interest in this work and taking the time to read this issue. We hope to continue to provide fresh updates and insights periodically in the future. Please let us know if this is a valued resource in enhancing your understanding and use of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting practices. Visit our website:

www.resultsfirstct.org.

NATIONAL-FEDERAL BRIEF

[IBM Center for The Business of Government](#)

TIBM reviewed the federal government’s experience with Tiered Evidence Grants, which are designed to encourage the incorporation of program evidence in grant proposal requirements, scoring, award and implementation evaluation criteria. This included an examination of 44 of the grants made under the Education Innovation and Research grant program within the federal Department of Education. The IBM review also summarizes the Government Accountability Office’s (GAO) generally optimistic analyses. And, according to Results for America, five federal evidence-based innovation programs use a tiered-evidence approach: 1) the Social Innovation Fund, 2) the Education Innovation and Research program, 3) the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program, 4) the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, and 5) the Development Innovation Ventures. You can see the review and recommendations [here](#).

[Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget](#)

In July, 2017 the Office of Management and Budget issued Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Budget Guidance to the heads of federal departments and agencies ([Memorandum M-17-28](#)) for their preparation of the next federal budget. As you can see from the last paragraph of the memo (excerpted below), the Director expresses the administration’s commitment to the use of evidence in making better decisions.

“Evidence and Evaluation. The Administration is committed to building evidence and better integrating evidence into policy, planning, budget, operational, and management decision-making. We appreciate agencies’ efforts to strengthen the use of data and evidence to drive better decision making and achieve greater impact and efficiencies. To further these efforts, agencies should submit: 1) proposals to advance agency efforts to build and use a portfolio of evidence; and 2) proposals to strengthen agency infrastructure and capacity to use evidence, evaluation, and data as tools to improve Federal Government effectiveness. All proposals should be within the guidance levels. OMB strongly encourages agencies to engage with their RMOs early in the process of developing these proposals. Agencies should complete the 2019 Evidence template (forthcoming) as a part of their Budget submission.”

