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The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative: INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT WORK

Wednesday, July 20, 2016



Participation in Results First



The Policy Challenge

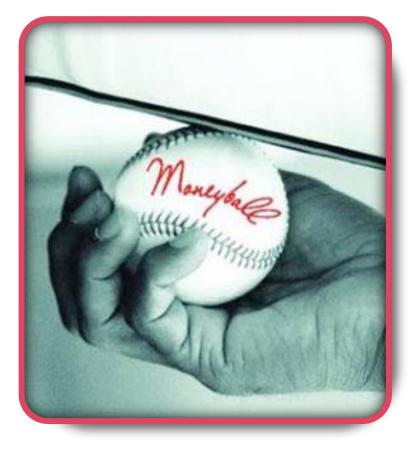
- Budget development often relies on inertia and anecdote
- Limited data on:
 - What programs are funded
 - What each costs
 - What programs accomplish
 - How they compare





The Solution: Bring Evidence into the Process





- **IDENTIFY** program budget portfolio and what you know about each program
- CONSIDER whether benefits justify costs
- **TARGET** funds using rigorous evidence

ACHIEVE dramatic improvements *without* increased spending



The Results First Approach

Compare current programs to evidence





Inventory Programs

PROGRAM INFORMATION	BUDGET			
PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM BUDGET	% OF PROGRAM BUDGET		
Correctional industries	\$125,000	6%		
Correctional education	\$50,000	3%		
Vocational education	\$300,000	15%		
Drug courts	\$250,000	13%		
Adult boot camps	\$180,000	9%		
Veterans courts	\$100,000	5%		
All others	\$950,000	49%		

Compare Inventory to Database of Evidence-Based Programs



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Policy area	Intervention	Blueprints	CEBC	Coalition	Crime Solutions	NREPP	PPN	WWC	WV
Substance abuse	Active Parenting of Teens: Families in Action		•		•	0			
Substance abuse	Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach		۲		۲	۲			
Juvenile justice	Adolescent Diversion Program (NY)				0				
Juvenile justice	Adolescent Diversion Project				-				
Child welfare	Adolescent Parenting Program	Clearinghou: Intervention: Evidence Ra		Adult b	olutions.go oot camps cts practice				
Mental health	Adolescents Coping with Depression					1	Learn m	ore 🔿	
Adult criminal justice	Adult boot camps				•				
Adult criminal justice Adult criminal justice	Adult boot camps Adult drug court (Guam)				•				
					•				

Assess Level of Funding for Evidence-Based Programs



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PROGRAM INFORMATION	BUDGET		RAM INFORMATION B		EVIDENCE-BASED	
PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM BUDGET	% OF PROGRAM BUDGET	RATINGS			
Correctional industries	\$125,000	6%	Highest rated	9%		
Correctional education	\$50,000	3%	Highest rated	5%		
Vocational education	\$300,000	15%	Second-highest rated	200/		
Drug courts	\$250,000	13%	Second-highest rated	∑ 28%		
Adult boot camps	\$180,000	9%	No evidence of effects	— 9%		
Veterans courts	\$100,000	5%	Not rated			
All others	\$950,000	49%	Not rated	54%		

Note: Data created by author for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to reflect any actual program budget.



The Results First Approach

Compare current programs to evidence

Conduct benefit-cost analysis to compare returns on investment

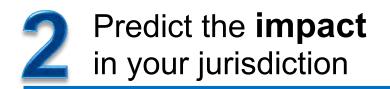


The Results First Model





Use the best **research** to identify what works







Calculate long-term **benefits** and **costs**





Compare Benefits & Costs

PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM BUDGET	RATINGS	COSTS	BENEFITS	BENEFIT TO COST RATIO
Correctional industries	\$125,000	Highest rated	\$1,485	\$6,818	\$4.59
Correctional education	\$50,000	Highest rated	\$431	\$21,720	\$18.40
Vocational education	\$300,000	Second-highest rated	\$1,645	\$19,594	\$11.91
Drug courts	\$250,000	Second-highest rated	\$4,951	\$15,361	\$3.10
Adult boot camps	\$180,000	No evidence of effects		_	—
Veterans courts	\$100,000	Not rated	—		—
All others	\$950,000	Not rated	_		—



The Results First Approach

Compare current programs to evidence

Conduct benefit-cost analysis to compare returns on investment

Target funds to evidence-based programs

GOAL: Achieve dramatic improvements without increased spending



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Results First Technical Approach

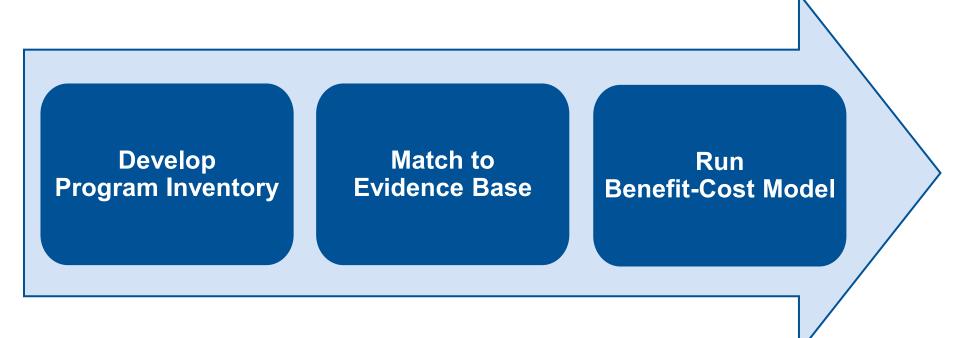
Results First policy areas







Results First technical steps





Develop Program Inventory

What is a program?



Program means an intervention (program or practice) that is implemented to affect a discrete outcome.

- Criminal Justice programs aimed at reducing recidivism, improving life skills, decreasing substance abuse, increasing parenting skills, etc.
- Child Welfare programs aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect, out of home placement, increasing parenting skills, etc.
- **Substance Abuse** programs that aim to reduce the incidence of disordered alcohol, cannabis, illicit drugs, tobacco, or opioid use.
- Mental Health programs that seek to reduce the incidence or symptoms of mental health illness.
- Education programs that aim to increase high school graduation rates and/or test scores, or decrease grade repetition.

Evidence-based means...



- Programs or practices whose level of effectiveness has been determined by rigorous evaluations.
- Evidence-based programs can be ineffective or even have a negative impact.
- Where is the evidence?
 - Jurisdiction-specific evaluation
 - Clearinghouses

Allows you to answer...



- What programs are currently funded?
- Are they evidence-based?
- Are they effective?
- What programs should be prioritized for evaluation?
- What programs have additional or lack capacity?

PHASE I: Gather basic program information



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PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Name
- Description
- Duration
- Frequency
- Oversight agency

EVIDENCE BASE

- Jurisdiction-specific evaluation
- Type of evaluation

PHASE II: Gather more detailed information



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PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Name
- Description
- Duration
- Frequency
- Oversight agency

EVIDENCE BASE

- Jurisdiction-specific evaluation
- Type of evaluation

BUDGET

• Program budget



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PHASE II: Optional information

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Service provider
- Provider credentials
- Delivery setting

CAPACITY

- Number of participants served
- Annual capacity
- Eligible but unserved individuals

PARTICIPANTS

Participant population



Match to Evidence Base

PHASE III: Match to the evidence base



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EVIDENCE BASE

- Jurisdiction-specific evaluation
- Type of evaluation
- Clearinghouse/s that rated the program
- Clearinghouse rating

What are clearinghouses?



- Purpose is to identify "what works"
- Review and summarize rigorous evaluations of different interventions
- Assign ratings to interventions based on the evidence (e.g., model, promising, mixed effects)
- Use slightly different methodologies, criteria and terminology
- Policy area specific
 - What Works Clearinghouse = Education
 - CrimeSolutions.gov = Criminal Justice

Results First Clearinghouse Database

- Contains information from 8 clearinghouses
- Over 1,000 interventions
- Policy area and intervention type (where applicable)
- Rating assigned by the clearinghouse
 - Link to program page
- Results First rating color





Results First Clearinghouse Database



Results First Clearinghouse Database

Overview

To assist policymakers at all levels of government in identifying evidence-based programs and making data-driven budget decisions, the project has created the Results First Clearinghouse Database. This one-stop online resource provides policymakers with an easy way to find information on the effectiveness of various interventions as rated by eight national research clearinghouses.

Using the Database

Use the search options below to find interventions. Users can also leave the search options blank to access all interventions in the database. In either case, users must click on Go to perform any search, including when making modifications to an existing one. In the Results table that appears afterward, each dot represents a clearinghouse review of an intervention. Hover over each one to see the actual clearinghouse rating, and click on Learn More to be taken to the clearinghouse's page for the intervention. Users may also hide any of the information boxes on this page by clicking on the dash in the right corner. To unhide, click on the plus sign.

Assess level of funding for evidence-based programs



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PROGRAM INFORMATION	BUDGET		EVIDENCE-BASED	
PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM BUDGET	% OF PROGRAM BUDGET	RATINGS	
Nurse Family Partnership	\$125,000	6%	Highest rated	9%
Homebuilders	\$50,000	3%	Highest rated	5%
Triple P	\$300,000	15%	Second-highest rated	28%
Parents as Teachers	\$250,000	13%	Second-highest rated	5 20%
Healthy Families America	\$180,000	9%	No evidence of effects	— 9%
Supportive Housing	\$100,000	5%	Not rated	
Parent Child Interaction Therapy	\$950,000	49%	Not rated	54%

How jurisdictions have used the program inventory



- Establish a baseline
- Evaluation decisions
 - Identify programs that need evaluation
 - Use data collection as a check on program fidelity
- Budget decisions
 - Target resources at effective programs
 - Use Clearinghouse Database as a menu of potential investments
- Identify program capacity issues





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