

# RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2016

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.

## GENERAL BRIEFING

In last month's issue, we provided a general orientation to the Results First Initiative with links to the Pew Results First website. Attached are links to three issue briefs that describe how to successfully implement an evidence-based approach.

The first is one in a series about the five key components of evidence-based policymaking as identified in [Evidence-Based Policymaking: A Guide for Effective Government](#).

This second piece indicates [four steps to improve implementation of evidence-based programs](#). Please note the embedded examples from Pennsylvania, New York, and the University of Cincinnati.

The third is the most recent issue brief from Pew, ["A Guide to Evidence-Based Budget Development"](#) that discusses the effective use of data to produce an evidence-based budget so that funding is directed to the programs most likely to achieve the desired results.

## CONNECTICUT ACTIVITY

IMRP and Pew-MacArthur consultants will conduct a meeting in August for staff from the four Connecticut Results First agencies (DCF, DOC, DMHAS and JUD/CSSD) to help them prepare and submit program inventories by the October 1, 2016 deadline. We will debrief agencies on our most recent efforts and discuss the procedures and systems agencies will use to complete their work and how they can benefit from and use the analyses to improve their policy and budgeting decisions. [Here](#) is a link to the appropriate sections of PA 15-5, June Special Session.

## NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

### Rhode Island

[Rhode Island](#) joined the Results First Initiative in 2013, and in 2014 produced a [report](#) on the benefits and costs of evidence-based adult criminal and juvenile justice programs delivered in the state. It also studied the cost of programs designed to reduce recidivism. Rhode Island's [Office of Management and Budget](#) has a Performance Management Office which, among other things, operates Results First and LEAN process improvement initiative programs in that state.

### New Mexico

[New Mexico](#) has been working with [Results First since 2011](#) through its [Legislative Finance Committee](#). Recently, the Department of Corrections has implemented policies and practices which incorporate regular updates to program inventories while ensuring that decisions are informed by evidence. For instance, according to New Mexico, "70 percent of program funds are directed to evidence-based programs."



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## NATIONAL/FEDERAL

### National Governors Association

Beginning in July 2014, the National Governors Association (NGA) embarked on an effort called "Delivering Results." NGA published a series of papers and sponsored a 2015 summit meeting attended by 28 states in an effort to help governors focus on:

- Hiring the best and the brightest leadership team;
- Adopting innovative performance improvement practices that use data and evidence to drive results; and
- Improving regulations and requirements so they protect the public but also make it easy to work with state government and without impeding economic growth.

The papers and summit materials are included [here](#).

Please note that this link includes references to three important articles: (1) Finding and Building Effective State Leaders, (2) Data-Driven Approaches to Delivering Better Outcomes and (3) Core Principles.

The importance placed on finding and building effective state leaders cannot be overstated. They set the administrative direction for the organization and influence the management philosophy and culture that can initiate and sustain an evidence-based approach to decision-making.

### Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

The Results For America organization reported recently that all of the members of the Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission have been appointed and that the first meeting was scheduled for July 22, 2016. The website for the commission and the latest information on its meeting is included [here](#). Here is also a [primer](#) by [Results For America](#).

**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](http://www.resultsfirstct.org).