

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, JUNE 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

A few more program policy areas are available for analysis through the Results First Model, including Education and Child Welfare. The Connecticut Results First staff at IMRP are considering expanding the use of the model into these areas. We would be interested to know if related agency/program staff would like to explore these opportunities.

NATIONAL-FEDERAL BRIEF

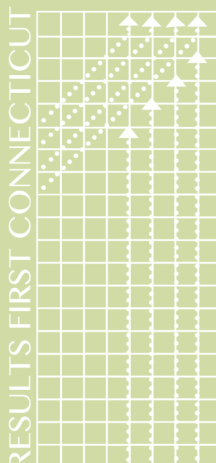
NEW YORK

As many of you know, we have discussed the importance of being faithful to the specific program you are operating so as to achieve the results (financial and programmatic) that the RF model predicts for your implementation. In very clear acknowledgement of the need to plan for and maintain fidelity to the program being implemented, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services has released an RFP soliciting a contractor to assist in the development of an “integrated Fidelity System.” According to NYS, the goal of the system is to “increase program alignment with evidence-based practices and principles.” You can read more about it [here](#).

CONGRESS

The House of Representatives took a step on May 23, 2017 to expand the use of evidence-based policy and decision-making by passing (with a unanimous voice vote) H.R. 1809, the [Juvenile Justice and Reform Act of 2017](#). This bill re-authorizes and improves the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) of 1974. This bill includes definitions of “evidence-based” and “promising.” The summary of the bill written by the Republican Policy Committee notes that it “requires the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP) to prioritize evidence-based and promising strategies as well as use current, reliable information to focus on long-term solutions to reduce juvenile delinquency.”

According to Results for America (RFA) CEO and Co-Founder Michele Jolin, this bill indicates that “States must describe how they will use JJDP funds to promote evidence-based and trauma-informed programs and practices. Under the Title V competitive grant program, state and local entities must spend their funds on evidence-based and promising practices, and they receive a priority for developing data-driven prevention plans, employing evidence-based prevention strategies, and conducting program evaluations. Finally, the legislation requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct an evaluation of selected JJDP grantees.” This bill and its passage shows that the federal government is increasingly interested in ensuring that financial and policy decisions are driven by data and evaluation that provides evidence of intended results. We will try to follow this bill in the Senate.



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: