

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 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 group attended the Results First Northeast Regional Convening 2016 in Providence, Rhode Island from December 13 -15. Representatives from six states attended, namely Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New York and Delaware. By way of speaker panel participation, Mississippi was represented by state legislator, Representative Toby Barker.

As always, it was inspiring to see that the other states are accomplishing and what new directions are being taken, such as the health policy area.

The agenda included discussions of:

- the year in review – generally and as it pertains to each state,
- technical sessions on policy areas and using/updating the model,
- panel presentations pertaining to A) leading the initiative in your state and B) communicating with stakeholders,
- translating results into action,
- incorporating evidence into the budget process, contracting process and legislation
- New York's experience and
- planning for the future

Some of the presentations are accessible here:

- [Mississippi's 7 Elements of Quality Program Design](#) (please note that an updated version of this document is scheduled to be released in the future as part of a Results First brief.)
- [Results First report: How to Use Evidence in the Contracting Process](#)

It was clear from the meeting that communication of the usefulness and importance of this approach is paramount to its success as a tool to improve budget and policy decisions and that more needs to be done in addition to producing analyses and reports.

More states are interested in joining the Results First Initiative during 2017.



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NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

Colorado

The State of Colorado under Governor Hickenlooper has been progressive in its pursuit of evidence-based budgeting and policy-making.

During the summer of 2014, Colorado (Executive Branch and General Assembly) began work with the Results First Initiative. The Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting manages this effort. To date, Colorado has produced four inventory reports on Adult Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice, [Child Welfare](#) and [Behavioral Health](#).

Colorado hopes that these reports inform the upcoming 2017-18 budget and policy-making process.

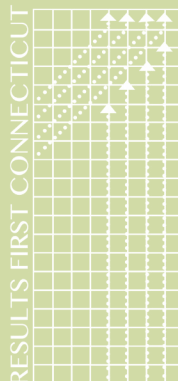
Further, as the Governor took the reins of the National Governors Association (NGA) during the 2014-15 term, he directed NGA to embark on a Chair's initiative called Delivering Results. In describing this initiative, he said " Some of my fellow governors already are taking advantage of the innovations used by businesses, universities and others to address the fundamental issue of how to deliver better results. And there are some truly cutting-edge ways they are doing this, including recruiting the best and the brightest to work in their administrations, employing modern management practices to keep government lean, and last, but not least, using data to drive results and track progress. By showcasing the aforementioned successes in various states and providing an opportunity to share best practices with each other, I know we can work together over the next year to streamline state government, improving the lives of our people and the nation."

For more information and reports, click [here](#).

NATIONAL/FEDERAL

Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking (CEP)

The CEP's held a meeting on December 12, 2016 and you can see the presentations [here](#). This meeting considered discussions on Federal models for evidence-building. The next meeting will be on January 5, 2017 in Chicago, IL.



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.