

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, JULY 2016

In this inaugural and subsequent editions of *The Score* (a monthly e-mail), we at the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) will attempt to provide an avenue for news on the practice of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting. Many of you have been introduced to this approach through the [nationwide Results First Initiative](#), which Connecticut joined in March 2011 with the Governor's and legislative leaders' commitment to research-based practices while pursuing data-driven decision-making and financing.

However, there are several other efforts underway to assist the local, state, and federal governments make the best policy and budget decisions based on the reliable evidence of past success (or failure). Some of these are targeted to cities or states, and most notably there is a new federal Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking.

GENERAL ORIENTATION

As a general orientation, you may wish to review the [Pew-MacArthur Results First fact sheet](#) and their [guide for effective government](#). This initiative is in motion throughout 22 states and six counties in California and Pennsylvania.

CONNECTICUT ACTIVITY

Over the past year, four agencies (DCF, DOC, DMHAS and JUD/CSSD) prepared program inventories pursuant to JSS PA 15-5, which IMRP subsequently analyzed in its ["Benefit-Cost Analyses of Adult Criminal and Juvenile Justice Evidence-Based Programs"](#) in March 2016.

In advance of the budget submission for the next biennium, FYs 2018-19, the same agencies will submit updated program inventories and IMRP will publish, by November 1, 2016, another cost-benefit report for policymakers and the Appropriations Committee.

NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

Washington

The [Washington State Institute of Public Policy \(WSIPP\)](#) has been at the forefront of evidence-based policymaking and budgeting and continually adds studies and analyses according to legislative requirements to its compendium of what programs work and which do not. These evaluations are used to increase the probability that the state's funds are directed to programs with a high likelihood of success.

Massachusetts

The Special Commission to Study the Commonwealth's Criminal Justice System coordinates the [Massachusetts Results First](#) project, with technical support from a team representing several criminal justice agencies headed by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

FEDERAL

Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

The Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking ([P.L. 114-140](#), H.R. 1831 signed on March 30, 2016) was sponsored by Representative Paul Ryan with the significant support of Senator Patty Murray from Washington State. The Commission will be comprised of [15 members](#) with expertise in economics, statistics, program evaluation, data security, confidentiality, or database management. Ten have been appointed thus far. The report of the commission shall be submitted no later than 15 months after a majority of commission members have been appointed. In large part, this effort will conduct a comprehensive study of the data inventoried by agencies related to federal policymaking, consider whether a clearinghouse for program and survey data should be established, and submit its report. In support of this work, the commission will evaluate (among other things) how data and results of research can be used to inform program administrators to improve program design, as well as determine what incentives may facilitate inter-agency data sharing towards improved program effectiveness. Better access to useful data, better information on program effectiveness, and better decisions are expected to result from this work.

