

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 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.

CONNECTICUT ACTIVITY

IMRP and Pew-MacArthur consultants conducted a meeting in August for staff from the four Connecticut Results First agencies (DCF, DOC, DMHAS and JUD/CSSD) and interested OPM budget analysts to help them prepare and submit program inventories by the October 1, 2016 deadline. Subsequently, we answered further questions and made modifications to the program inventory template. This involved arranging a conference call with agency fiscal staff and our consulting economist from Sienna College in New York.



Photos from the CT Results First August meeting at the IMRP. From left: Justin Oles (DOC), Mary Janicki (IMRP), John Noonan (IMRP)

NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

Alaska

Since the spring of 2015, Alaska has endeavored to apply the Results First approach to evaluate its adult criminal justice programs. Thus far, the Alaska Results First program inventory working group and the Alaska Justice Information Center have collaborated to identify the pertinent programs and matched them with those in the Results First Clearinghouse Database and the Results First Ratings Database. Next, they will finalize cost estimates and complete the Benefit-Cost Analyses. See Alaska's "Progress Report and Initial Findings" [here](#).

Vermont

In January 2016, Vermont released a draft of its "Preliminary Results Comparing the Benefits and Costs of Crime Reduction." This Results First report was a collaborative effort with funding provided by the legislature's Joint Fiscal Committee and analyses by the Crime Research Group, Inc. The report includes recidivism data in Vermont and information on how programs can help. See the draft report [here](#).



INSTITUTE FOR MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL POLICY
Central Connecticut State University

NATIONAL/FEDERAL

National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)

The NCSL's July/August edition of its "State Legislatures" magazine includes an article entitled "Budgeting for Results". This piece details the history of the Results First Initiative highlighting the perspective from legislators and staff in three states who see this approach as "the closest thing to a silver bullet that exists" and one that "...has helped build our capacity to provide legislators with upfront investment advice before appropriations are made". Platitudes aside, the authors acknowledge that "Policy-making is a balancing act, requiring lawmakers to weigh competing values when deciding what to fund and where to cut. Relying on evidence, as Results First does, and not on anecdotes can help mitigate partisanship by putting the focus on data, rather than ideological assumptions." To read more, see [this link](#).

National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO)

NASBO recently held its annual meeting and one of the most significant sessions was called "Using Data and Evidence to Drive Decision-Making". The informative power point presentations made by [Minnesota](#) and [Utah](#) at that session are attached.

Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

The commission met yet on July 22, 2016 and several executive and congressional officials sent messages of encouragement. "By-laws and Operating Procedures" were also established and are included with the statements by officials [here](#).

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.