

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, JULY 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 Results First technical assistance team at Pew-MacArthur has recently published new and improved user guides for various program policy areas: Adult Criminal Justice, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The Pew team is also releasing a new Health user guide and is working to update the Education user guide while creating a new Workforce user guide.

These guides are being improved, not only to be more user-friendly, but to be more compatible with a new Results First benefit-cost analysis model expected to be released at the end of this summer.

NATIONAL-FEDERAL BRIEF

[Harvard University - Government Performance Lab - Harvard Kennedy School](#)

The Government Performance Lab (GPL) focuses on a few programs aimed at improving the results that governments achieve for their citizens. According to the website, the GPL's current priorities involve:

- “1. Pay for Success (PFS) social impact bond (SIB) projects supporting governments exploring the use of Pay for Success contracting.
2. Results-driven contracting projects that are part of Bloomberg Philanthropy's What Works Cities initiative in which we will help 20 cities improve their procurement practices over the three years.
3. Performance improvement projects in which we help governments improve the results they achieve with their core spending.”

Recently, GLP Director Jeffrey Liebman spoke about the Results-Driven Contracting project. Listen to his podcast interview with Andy Feldman of Gov Innovator [here](#). It provides insights on a broader way of using contracts to secure the best and latest solutions to problems. The list of GLP Results-Driven Contracting projects is [here](#). Since many government services are provided under contract, it is important to understand how to secure the best solutions, integrate evidence and innovation, and manage selected contracts to achieve the expected/promised results at each decision point (e.g., initial contract award and renewal/amendment).



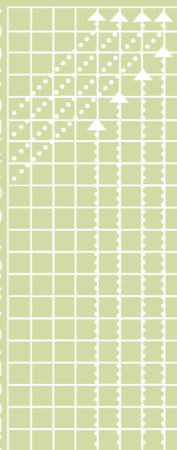
INSTITUTE FOR MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL POLICY
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL)

In its recent magazine, the National Conference of State Legislatures published an article titled “Facts Before Funding - Evidence-based policymaking can arm lawmakers with information about what works” by Alison Hiltz. This is a good summary of what is meant by evidence-based policymaking including a short history with useful examples from three states: Minnesota, New York, and Florida. Ms. Hiltz touches on the essential themes and the reasons why it is used in all 50 states. She cites the Great Recession as a major recent impetus for interest in this approach to improve investment in cost-effective program and divest of inefficient or ineffective programs.

As she says, “Despite differences in the ways and rates at which they’ve adopted evidence-based policymaking, many states are moving forward with plans to incorporate more of it into their budgeting practices. And all share a commitment to support programs that are proven to work and that allocate taxpayer money in the best way possible.” Read it [here](#).

RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT



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