

# RESULTS FIRST CONNECTICUT NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 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 released a report entitled “Recidivism Among Adjudicated Youth on Parole in Connecticut” and presented the report with a discussion of Results First to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee on October 19, 2017. Read the report [here](#).

On November 1, 2017, the IMRP released its third Results First report “Results First: Benefit-Cost Analyses of Adult and Juvenile Evidence-Based Programs.” This report is sourced from data supplied by the Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division (JB-CSSD). Until October 31, 2017, when the governor signed Emergency Certified Bill 1502, (PA 17-2, JSS) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2019, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET, the statute guiding this report (CGS Sec. 4-68s) required that the IMRP report annually and that the four agencies (departments of Children and Families, Correction, and Mental Health and Addiction Services, and JB-CSSD) report biennially. This meant that the inventories of agency program information upon which the benefit-cost analyses rely were only required to be submitted every two years while our report was required every year. The CSSD volunteered to provide current information based on Fiscal Year 2017 for this [report](#).

In addition, the act that the Governor signed yesterday makes several changes involving the application of Results First in Connecticut. According to the Office of Legislative Research’s bill analysis, the act:

- extends the program inventory reporting and evidence categorization requirements to the Department of Social Services;
- expands these reporting requirements to include all of the agencies' and division's programs, not just their criminal and juvenile justice programs;
- makes the compilation and submission of the inventory an annual, rather than biennial, requirement; and

## CONNECTICUT ACTIVITY *CONTINUED*

- requires submission of the inventory and evidence report to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary, rather than the office's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division and to the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly.
- As mentioned, current law requires IMRP to use the program inventory data to annually develop a cost-benefit analysis for each program and submit, by November 1, the report of its analyses to OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division; the Appropriations, Children's, and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees; and Office of Fiscal Analysis. The act (1) suspends this requirement until November 1, 2018, and (2) requires submission to the OPM secretary, rather than the office's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division. Note: IMRP's Benefit-Cost report was developed with CSSD in advance of any knowledge of this change and was completed November 1, 2017.

The act also requires the OPM secretary, by January 1, 2019, to create a pilot program that applies the principles of the Pew-MacArthur Results First cost-benefit analysis model to at least eight state-financed grant programs chosen by the secretary

- to promote cost-effective policies and programming by the state.
- selected programs must include those that provide family services, employment programs, and at least one contracting program provided by a state agency with an annual budget of more than \$200 million.
- The secretary must submit to the Appropriations Committee by April 1, 2019 a report that includes selected grant programs, the pilot program's status, and any recommendations.
- These are exciting developments and the IMRP looks forward to working with the agencies, the legislature, and Pew-MacArthur to implement the statutory changes and support decisions towards cost-effective policies and programs.

## NEWS FROM OTHER STATES

### WASHINGTON

The Washington State Institute of Public Policy (WSIPP) has published a report entitled "The Effectiveness of Reentry Programs for Incarcerated Persons: Findings for the Washington State Reentry Council." The legislation that created the council in the interest of reducing recidivism also directed WSIPP to "examine the effectiveness of reentry programs through a systematic review of the research literature." This review included 59 programs. WSIPP found that of the 45 programs where a benefit-cost analyses could be performed, 80% demonstrated benefits that outweighed costs. You may consult the report [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](http://www.resultsfirstct.org).

