Invest in What Works
State Standard of Excellence

Oregon

The Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence sets a national standard – a “north star” – for how state governments can consistently and effectively use data and evidence in their budget, policy, and management decisions to achieve better outcomes for their residents. The purpose of the Standard is to:

- Define the data and evidence infrastructure state governments need to have in place in order to invest in what works.
- Showcase examples of results-driven and evidence-based practices, policies, programs, and systems within state governments.
- Provide a road map for state government leaders committed to investing in what works.

How did the state stack up in 2019?

The State Spotlight highlights Oregon's leading and promising data and evidence efforts featured in Results for America's 2019 State Standard of Excellence.

Oregon had 7 examples from the 15 criteria, including 0 leading examples and 7 promising examples. Oregon had no examples in 8 criteria. It was among the five leading states.

To accelerate its progress, Oregon could focus on investing in evaluation capacity (criteria #8) and using evidence of effectiveness when allocating funds for grant programs (criteria #12).
1. Strategic Goals

Did the governor have public statewide strategic goals?

The creation of statewide strategic goals is an important first step in aligning state government budgets, policies, and programs to improve outcomes on a state government’s highest priorities.

**Leading Example**

**COLORADO**

In 2019, Colorado launched the Governor’s Dashboard, which outlines four high-priority strategic goals: tax reform and economic development, energy and renewables, health, and education and the workforce. Each high-priority strategic area is supported by a cabinet working group as well as aligned goals, metrics, and strategies contained within agency performance plans. The governor’s annual budget request also links these goals to specific agency activities and outcomes.

**Promising Example**

**OREGON**

In 2018, the Oregon Governor’s Office released the Action Plan for Oregon, which identified key priorities for the state in the areas of environment, healthcare, education, transportation, good government, earthquake preparedness, housing and homelessness, child welfare, and job training.

4 other promising examples

Arizona, Utah, Vermont, Washington
2. Performance Management / Continuous Improvement

Leading Example

WASHINGTON

A 2013 Washington State Executive Order established Results Washington within the Governor’s office as “an innovative, data-driven, performance management initiative, that will drive the operations of state government.” As part of its work, Results Washington proactively and regularly publishes outcome data within the state's priority areas of: world-class education; prosperous economy; sustainable energy and clean environment; healthy and safe communities; and efficient, effective and accountable government. In each of these areas, the state measures progress. Since 2014, Results Washington has conducted Results Review meetings with the Governor 10 times per year. The meetings are recorded and publicly posted and allow the “Governor and state agency directors to discuss objectives, improvement strategies and metrics.”

Promising Example

OREGON

A 2016 Oregon law required all state agencies to develop and use performance measures. Each state agency submits to the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office an Annual Performance Progress Report detailing the agency's programmatic outcomes, which are reviewed during the state's budget process.

10 other promising examples

Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Tennessee
Did the governor’s office or any state agency have a senior staff member(s) with the authority, staff, and budget to collect, analyze, share, and use high-quality administrative and survey data—consistent with strong privacy protections—to improve (or help other entities including, but not limited to, local governments and nonprofit organizations improve) federal, state, and local programs? (Example: chief data officer)

A designated chief data officer can create a coherent set of policies, structures, and guidance for how state agencies should routinely use data to improve programs.

**Leading Example**

**CONNECTICUT**

A 2018 Connecticut law formalized the position of Chief Data Officer, created the Connecticut Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board, and required each state agency to designate an agency data officer to manage high value data sets and coordinate data-related activities with the state Chief Data Officer. The Chief Data Officer, along with individual agency data officers, are required to biannually update the state data plan, which covers open data and creates data standards for agencies. The plan also contains 11 principles and accompanying practices that all agencies should adopt in order to improve their management, use, sharing, and analysis of data.

**Promising Example**

**OREGON**

A 2018 Oregon law created a state Chief Data Officer responsible for centralized data strategy, including an enterprise-wide open data platform. The Chief Data Officer is charged with creating open data standards, providing privacy guidance for state agencies, identifying opportunities for data sharing, and designing stakeholder engagement strategies including an advisory committee.

6 other promising examples

Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington
4. Data Policies / Agreements

Did the state or any of its agencies have data sharing policies and data sharing agreements—consistent with strong privacy protections—with any nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, local government agencies, and/or federal government agencies which were designed to improve outcomes for publicly funded programs, and did it make those policies and agreements publicly available? (Example: data sharing policy, open data policy)

Data sharing policies and agreements allow state governments to take a coordinated approach to identifying and using relevant data to improve programs while implementing strong privacy protections.

Leading Example

WASHINGTON

The Washington Education Research and Data Center has a memorandum of understanding which identifies how data will be collected and shared among partners with a strong focus on protecting individual privacy. The Center brings together eleven partners, including state workforce, education, and child welfare agencies, to compile education and workforce data to improve student achievement and workforce outcomes.

The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services maintains an Integrated Client Database with data from 10 state agencies, 40 separate data systems, and 2.4 million individuals. This data is used for rapid-cycle policy analysis, program evaluation, predictive modeling, and performance measurement to help agencies understand how health and other factors are related to outcomes for persons served by public assistance programs. The database has been used by the state’s Health Home Program, which provides intensive care management services to high-risk Medicaid beneficiaries, to improve beneficiary health outcomes and lower costs. These lower costs have included over $20 million in savings to the state as well as tens of millions in dollars in shared savings payments from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which has evaluated the program and encouraged other states to consider developing similar programs.

No Oregon examples of this criteria
5. Data Use

Did the state or any of its agencies have data systems consistent with strong privacy protections that linked multiple administrative data sets across state agencies, and did it use those systems to improve federal, state, or local programs?

The linking of agency data allows state governments to increase the effectiveness of state services and get better results for their residents.

Leading Example

INDIANA

The Indiana Management Performance Hub, overseen by the state’s Chief Data Officer, houses the integrated Education and Workforce Development database, which brings together data from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Family and Social Services Administration. In addition, the Hub has created integrated databases to address pressing policy issues related to opioids, vehicle crashes, medicaid, fiscal transparency, and other areas. According to a 2018 annual report, the Hub has generated an estimated return on investment of $40 million for the state.

17 Promising Examples

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Washington

No Oregon examples of this criteria
6. Evaluation Leadership

Did the governor’s office or any state agency have a senior staff member(s) with the authority, staff, and budget to evaluate its major programs and inform policy decisions affecting them? (Example: chief evaluation officer)

Evaluation leadership positions are an important tool for state governments to ensure that evidence of what works is a primary consideration when making programmatic and budget decisions.

Leading Example

OHIO

The Director of the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Research, Evaluation and Advanced Analytics is responsible for helping educational leaders across the state recognize, gather, analyze, evaluate, and leverage data to solve problems and improve student outcomes. Initiatives such as Empowered by Evidence and the Ohio’s Evidence-Based Clearinghouse are designed for “a culture of continuous learning... [and] to create the framework and processes needed for actionable research.” The Department has partnered with the Ohio Education Research Center to share education data across the state.

No Oregon examples of this criteria

3 Promising Examples

Connecticut, Massachusetts, Mississippi
7. Evaluation Policies

Did the state or any of its agencies have an evaluation policy, evaluation plan, and research/learning agenda(s), and did it publicly release the findings of all completed evaluations?

Evaluation policies allow state governments to align their evaluation and research priorities, learn about what works, and share information with outside researchers about additional areas where they want to increase their knowledge base.

Leading Example

MINNESOTA

In 2018, Minnesota Management and Budget adopted an evaluation policy, which governs its use of evaluations and requires the release of all completed evaluation reports regardless of findings. The policy outlines key principles for evaluation: rigor; relevance; independence; transparency; and ethics. Relatedly, Minnesota Management also defines evidence for research, evaluation, and funding purposes.

7 Promising Examples

Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia

No Oregon examples of this criteria
8. Evaluation Resources

Did the state or any of its agencies invest at least 1% of program funds in evaluations?

Making specific funding commitments to evaluation is critical and ensures that state governments have the necessary funds to evaluate whether state programs are achieving their desired outcomes. At the federal level, several agencies have made commitments to spend 1% of program funds on evaluation, which has allowed them to improve programmatic outcomes and build their knowledge base about what works.

**Leading Example**

NO LEADING EXAMPLE IDENTIFIED

No leading examples identified for this criteria.

**No Oregon examples of this criteria**

**O Promising Examples**

No promising examples identified for this criteria.
9. Outcome Data

Did the state or any of its agencies report or require outcome data for its state-funded programs during their budget process?

Using data and evidence as part of the budget process helps state policymakers allocate funds based on information about what works.

**Leading Example**

COLORADO

The 2013 Colorado State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive and Transparent Government (SMART) Act required all Colorado state agencies to submit annual performance reports to the Colorado state legislature as part of the state's budget process. These reports include: (1) performance measures for the major functions of the department; (2) performance goals for at least the following three years; (3) a description of the strategies necessary to achieve those goals; and (4) a summary of the department's most recent performance evaluation. In addition, the state's FY 2019–2020 budget development instructions (pp. 43–47) prioritize new program requests "based on the evidence and body of research supporting the program's effect on desired outcomes and proposed implementation plan." The instructions also include information on tiered evidence frameworks and program evaluation requirements. In the FY 2020–2021 budget cycle, the state applied an evidence continuum to budget requests and used that criteria to inform resource allocation decisions.

**Promising Example**

OREGON

A 2016 Oregon law (section 2) requires all Oregon state agencies to develop and use performance measures. The agencies must also submit to the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office an Annual Performance Progress Report detailing the agency's programmatic outcomes, which are reviewed during the state's budget process.

6 other promising examples

Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina
10. Evidence Definition and Program Inventory

Did the state or any of its agencies release a common evidence framework, guidelines, or standards to inform its research and funding decisions and make publicly available an inventory of state-funded programs categorized based on at least two tiers of evidence?

Defining evidence and conducting program inventories can help state governments ensure that their programs are using proven practices and that their interventions are effective in meeting the state’s desired goals as well as improving outcomes for residents.

**MINNESOTA**

Under a 2015 Minnesota law (section 13), Minnesota Management and Budget has developed numerous inventories of evidenced-based programs, including in the areas of criminal justice, mental health, child welfare, and higher education. Minnesota Management and Budget also maintains the Minnesota Inventory, a searchable clearinghouse of more than 400 programs operating in the state. As part of the inventory, the state developed a guide for using evidence in policymaking and evidence definitions to categorize interventions as proven effective, promising, theory based, or no effect. These resources helped inform funding decisions in the state, including $87 million in new or expanded evidence-based programming in the FY 2020-2021 budget.

**OREGON**

Under a 2003 Oregon law the Oregon Department of Corrections, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Youth Development Division, and “the part of the Oregon Health Authority that deals with mental health and addiction issues” are required to compile a biennial program inventory with results from funded programs and to perform cost-benefit analyses. The law also defines an evidence-based program as being cost effective and incorporating “significant and relevant practices based on scientifically based research,” including “[u]tilizing randomized controlled trials when possible and appropriate.” In 2018, the Oregon Youth Authority and the Oregon Department of Corrections published reports on the costs and benefits of their programs.

8 other promising examples

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Utah, Washington
11. Cost-Benefit Analysis

Did the state or any of its agencies assess and make publicly available the costs and benefits of public programs?

Cost-benefit analysis helps state governments quantify outcomes and program costs to ensure that public dollars are being efficiently spent to get the most value for taxpayers and the best outcomes for residents.

**Leading Example**

**WASHINGTON**

A 2013 Washington State law (pp. 105–106) directed the Department of Corrections, in consultation with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), to (1) compile an inventory of existing programs; (2) determine whether its programs were evidence-based; (3) assess the effectiveness of its programs, including conducting a cost-benefit analysis; and (4) phase out ineffective programs and implement evidence-based programs. As a result of this and similar laws, WSIPP has published hundreds of cost-benefit analyses in a wide variety of issue areas over the past 10 years. The WSIPP cost-benefit framework has been widely adopted by governments across the country.

**Promising Example**

**OREGON**

Under a 2003 Oregon law, the Oregon Department of Corrections, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Youth Development Division, and “the part of the Oregon Health Authority that deals with mental health and addiction issues” are required to compile a biennial program inventory with results from funded programs and to perform cost-benefit analyses. In 2018 the Youth Authority and the Department of Corrections both published reports on costs and benefits of their programs. The Youth Authority’s report found that four of the six programs examined had a high likelihood of providing a positive return on investment.

7 other promising examples

Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Utah
12. Use of Evidence in Grant Programs

Did the state or any of its agencies (1) invest at least 50% of program funds in evidence-based solutions or (2) use evidence of effectiveness when allocating funds to eligible grantees (including local governments) from its five largest competitive and noncompetitive grant programs?

Requiring a portion of grant funds to be spent on evidence-based programs allows state governments to use and scale proven program models to achieve better results.

Leading Example

NEVADA

Since 2017, the Nevada Department of Education has allocated 100% of the state's $8.5 million in federal Title I school improvement funds to districts and schools for interventions backed by strong, moderate, or promising evidence (using the top three tiers of evidence as defined by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)). This represented an increase over the approximately 15% of funds that had been allocated based on level of evidence in the 2016-2017 school year. Grant recipients may set aside funds to monitor and evaluate the identified evidence-based approaches to ensure the investments yield a positive impact on student outcomes. Applications for Title I school improvement funds must meet at least one of Nevada’s three statewide priorities: focus on the lowest performing schools, data-driven decision making, and leadership development.

Beginning in 2017, the Nevada Department of Education began requiring school districts to invest awarded funds for two additional federal grant programs in interventions that meet one of the four tiers of evidence (strong, moderate, promising, and under evaluation) defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): (1) ESSA Title IV–B ($9 million in 2017–2018), for the competitive 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants and (2) Competitive ESSA Title IV–A grants ($3 million in federal funds to Nevada in 2017–2018 to increase students’ access to a well-rounded education), where applications with stronger evidence are considered for funding before other applications. Applications for Title IV–A must meet at least one of Nevada’s three statewide priorities: focus on the lowest performing schools, data-driven decision making, and leadership development.

See 2019 State Standard of Excellence to read full example.

Promising Example

OREGON

A 2003 Oregon law (Senate Bill 267) provides a definition of evidence and states that the Oregon Department of Corrections, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Youth Development Division, and “the part of the Oregon Health Authority that deals with mental health and addiction issues” shall (1) “spend at least 75 percent of state moneys that the agency receives for programs on evidence-based programs;” (2) perform cost-benefit analyses; and (3) compile a biennial program inventory with results from funded programs. As of 2018, the Youth Authority spent “90 percent of General Funds and almost 92 percent of total funds subject to Oregon’s Senate Bill 267 (SB267) on evidence-based programming.”

(child welfare, criminal justice, health)

9 other promising examples

Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Tennessee
13. Innovation

Did the state or any of its agencies have staff, policies, and processes in place that encouraged innovation to improve outcomes?

Encouraging innovation allows state governments to implement new models that can improve programs and build new evidence about what works.

Leading Example

CALIFORNIA

The California Government Operations Agency (GovOps), which serves as an umbrella organization for the state’s innovation work, is designed to institutionalize policies, tools, and training that can drive its mission to modernize the processes of government through lean process improvement, data, leadership, and performance improvement. GovOps brings together statewide initiatives such as the Lean Academy, California Leadership Academy, the Office of Digital Innovation, and California’s Open Data Portal resources. Also, the California Health and Human Services Agency has an Office of Innovation that focuses on improving programs and services through the use of tools such as human centered design and data analytics.

Promising Example

OREGON

The Oregon Youth Authority has used predictive models to determine which interventions are most likely to succeed for at-risk and court-involved youth. These risk assessment tools are based on data and outcomes captured in the state’s Juvenile Justice Information System, which uses a risk/needs profile to “assist in decision making for appropriate supervision levels, service type and dosage, readiness for transition, and support program evaluation.” A 2019 report on recidivism outcomes was published using data captured by the Juvenile Justice Information System.

5 other promising examples

Missouri, Ohio, Rhode Island, Utah, Washington
## 14. Contracting for Outcomes

Did the state or any of its agencies enter into performance-based contracts and/or use active contract management (frequent use of data and regular communication with providers to monitor implementation and progress) to improve outcomes for publicly funded programs?

Performance contracting techniques allow state governments to get better results and value for each taxpayer dollar.

### Leading Example

**RHODE ISLAND**

Since 2015, Rhode Island’s Department of Children, Youth, and Families has worked to reform and restructure the department’s procurement processes in four areas: improving service delivery through strategic planning, embedding results-driven procurement in new contracts, improving performance through active contract management practices, and supporting results-driven contracting practices through technical resources, tools, and processes for staff. As part of this initiative, the department executed $90 million in 116 results-driven contracts that require providers to meet outcome goals rather than output metrics. As a result, DCYF has reduced the number of children in group care by over 20% since 2015, experienced a 50 percent expansion of foster care resources for the most challenging adolescents, doubled the capacity of high quality family visitation and reunification services, and made start-up investments of $1.2 million in nonprofit community organizations to support new and expanded programming.

In 2015, Rhode Island’s Department of Labor and Training launched Real Jobs Rhode Island, an innovative $14 million workforce program. To track the program’s success, Rhode Island created performance-based metrics and used frequent meetings with training providers to track results and make course corrections. As a result of this active contract management, Rhode Island was able to reconfigure the way it manages and evaluates its job training programs to capture meaningful long-term employment outcomes. The state also has created a Strategic Coaching Procurement Playbook, which includes specific strategies and sample language for using active contract management to get better results.

### No Oregon examples of this criteria

### 6 Promising Examples

Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Nevada, Tennessee, Various States
15. Repurpose for Results

Did the state or any of its agencies shift funds away from any practice, policy, or program which consistently failed to achieve desired outcomes?

Repurposing funds from programs that fail to consistently achieve results to programs that consistently achieve results is a key strategy for state governments to improve their performance while building knowledge about what works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Example</th>
<th>No Oregon examples of this criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PENNSYLVANIA</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 Promising Example</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Since 2013, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has <a href="#">set performance targets for its community corrections program</a> through <a href="#">performance-based contracts</a>. Providers that meet recidivism prevention goals receive a 1% increase in their rate while providers that fail to meet targets for two consecutive years can have their contracts terminated. Following the introduction of these performance goals, the program’s recidivism rate dropped by 11.3% in 2014, another 16% in 2015, and another 11% in 2016. In 2018, the Commonwealth Foundation’s report on criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania recommended <a href="#">expanding the program</a> to other areas based on these results.</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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Results for America

Results for America is helping decision-makers at all levels of government harness the power of evidence and data to solve our world’s greatest challenges.

Results for America’s mission is to make investing in what works the “new normal,” so that when policymakers make decisions, they start by seeking the best evidence and data available, then use what they find to get better results.

State Government Program

Results for America is hosting briefings and conference calls with senior government leaders to discuss strategies for building and using data and evidence to improve results for residents. To request a briefing or conference call, please contact info@results4america.org.

Local, State, and Federal Standards of Excellence

Results for America has developed standards of excellence—“north stars”—for local, state, and federal governments that highlight the data and evidence capacity governments need to invest in what works:

What Works Certification
The national standard of excellence for well-managed, data-driven local governments. In April 2019, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced seven cities to achieve 2019 What Works Cities Certification.

Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence
Sets a national standard — a “north star” — for how state governments can consistently and effectively use data and evidence in their budget, policy, and management decisions to achieve better outcomes for their residents.

Invest in What Works Federal Standard of Excellence
Highlights the extent to which nine U.S. federal agencies and departments have built the infrastructure necessary to be able to use data, evidence, and evaluation in their budget, policy, and management decisions.