

Grant-Making & Evidence-Based Practices

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Evidence-Based Grantmaking

- Past grantmaking has been based on the text of a grant application and the compelling nature of the story told...times have changed.
- Today's grantmaking, especially institutional grantmaking, has moved towards utilizing data-driven and the principles of evidence-based programming to steer their investments. This has resulted in what we now consider "evidence-based grantmaking."
- The trend toward evidence-based grantmaking is part of a larger movement, enabled by better tools for managing data, toward evidence-based policymaking. The federal government has been leading the charge with its focus on evidence-based programming and investments in Pay for Success models. Many private foundations are following suit.¹

¹ Innovations in Grantmaking. Grantcraft, 2016.

Why is Evidence-Based Grantmaking Important?

- **Cost Savings** – evidence-based grantmaking helps funders avoid funding duplicative services and inefficiency. Many times can encourage collaboration of services.
- **Entrepreneurial Innovation** – “tiered grantmaking” where increasing amounts of evidence proving effectiveness can yield to increased amounts of funding can help unproven or “promising” practices scale up while providing incentives for sharing evidence as they progress?

Types of Evidence-Based Programs

The “Invest in What Works” Model

Scale-up grants fund expansion or replication of *practices for which there is already strong evidence*. These grants receive the most funding, including in some cases support for program evaluations.

Validation grants fund *promising practices for which there is currently only moderate evidence*. These grants receive more limited funding and support for program evaluations.

Development grants fund *high-potential and relatively untested practices*. These receive the least funding, and support for program evaluations.









Goal: Grantees with practices shown to be effective move up tiers over time

Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency & Prevention (OJJDP) Model Programs Guide

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Model Programs Guide (MPG) contains information about evidence-based juvenile justice and youth prevention, intervention, and reentry programs. It is a resource for practitioners and communities about what works, what is promising, and what does not work in juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and child protection and safety.

MPG uses expert study reviewers and CrimeSolutions.gov's program review process, scoring instrument, and evidence ratings. The two sites also share a common database of juvenile-related programs.

Evidence Ratings			
Evidence Rating	Icon*		Description
	One Study	More than One Study	
Effective			Programs have strong evidence indicating they achieve their intended outcomes when implemented with fidelity.
Promising			Programs have some evidence indicating they achieve their intended outcomes. Additional research is recommended.
No Effects			Programs have strong evidence indicating that they did not achieve their intended outcomes when implemented with fidelity.

Aligning Probation's Investments with Evidence-Based Programming

- Probation seeks to invest in data-driven and/or evidence-based programs to ensure that clients are receiving effective services that meet their actual needs.
- We are working to integrate practices like Results Based Accountability (RBA) into our contracting processes so that we can accurately measure impact on a client-level across providers and track those indicators over time.
- For providers seeking to partner with Probation, we ask that they provide data on how their program is effective for the target population and how the model they utilize is informed by evidence.

Evidence-Based Practices & Programs

- What is an Evidence-Based, Effective, or Promising Practice or Program (EBP)?
- Why does Probation prefer to partner with and utilize EBPs for their clients?
- How can my organization identify whether we are utilizing an Evidence-Based, Effective, or Promising Practice or Program?
- What data should I provide to the Probation Department about my EBP when attempting to partner on a grant?

Questions?

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