The Role of Administrative Data in Evidence-Based Policy and Innovation

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Past Policy Priorities that Spurred Data Solutions

• 1990s: Deadbeat Dads: NDNH
• 1990s: Student loan requirements: National Student (Loan) Clearinghouse
• 2000s: No Child Left Behind: State Longitudinal Data Systems
• 2011: ED’s Gainful Employment Rule: ED-SSA earnings match
• 2011: ACA implementation: A-87 waivers
Emerging Priorities: Evidence-Based Policy and Innovation

- Tiered Evidence Grants
- Pay for Success Initiatives
- Performance Partnership Pilots
- House Ways and Means Welfare Reform Discussion Draft
- Ryan-Murray Evidence-Based Policy Commission
Who Benefits from Integrated Data?

- Federal, State, and local policymakers
- Government program managers
- Service providers and practitioners
- Consumers
- Researchers
- Philanthropic funders
- General public
Challenges to Integrating Data

• Leadership vacuum
• Organizational silos and cultural barriers
• Outdated and unclear privacy rules
• Political barriers
• Technology lag
• Accountability for compliance rather than results
• Unfunded costs
A Path Forward

• Create a shared vision for integrating data to answer a broad range of important questions, building on existing models
• Foster development of common standards
• Implement exciting prototypes under current law
• Provide education and technical assistance to overcome myths and encourage widespread adoption of integrated data systems
• Identify remaining barriers requiring legislative change
Predictive Analytics: Who will benefit from what services?

Coordination: How can services be coordinated to achieve greater impact?

Outcome Measurement: What are outcomes for program participants in multiple domains over the long term?

Impact Evaluation: What are the impacts of alternative strategies?

Burden Reduction: How can we reuse data that’s already been collected for another purpose?
• Utilize the National Academy of Sciences and other forums to convene experts from academia, government, and the private sector to vet model standards for integrating data (e.g., NIEM, AISP)

• Ensure standards allow for future innovation that will further lower cost and maximize security
Create Incentives for States and Localities to Integrate Data

• Through competitions, encourage governors and local government executives to implement integrated data systems to achieve important objectives.
  – Philanthropy: Target resources to jurisdictions using integrated data to tackle problems
  – Federal agencies: Give preference to applicants that will measure outcomes and analyze data from multiple programs
Devise New Prototypes

• Create data matching portals for national data sets
  – Link State, local government, or nonprofit organization data to the National Student Clearinghouse’s (NSC’s) post-secondary education data and SSA’s or IRS’s earnings data to measure college enrollment, graduation, and earnings.

• Embed researchers inside agencies with high-value data sets
• Apply new technologies developed by other sectors
• Encourage private sector vendors who manage State and local data sets to develop low-cost solutions for linking and analyzing data
Provide Education and Technical Assistance

• Debunk widespread myths impeding data and analytical capacity
  – Federal agencies should provide proactive technical assistance to State and local governments explaining how data can be shared without violating privacy statutes and regulations
  – OMB and agencies should clarify rules governing what funds grantees can use to finance data infrastructure and analytical capacity
    – Clarify that data capacity and analysis is a core function of a well-run program that can be financed with “program funds,” thus providing a stable source of funding
• Through focused efforts to develop and implement data solutions that are consistent with current law, identify remaining legal and financial obstacles the Congress will need to address.

• This work can inform, rather than wait for, the Ryan-Murray Evidence-Based Policy Commission.
If you have ideas for building capacity to integrate data . . .

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