



ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE
FOR SOCIAL POLICY

AISP Newsletter: March 2015

Special Interest Section



[Rachel Zinn, Director of the Workforce Data Quality Campaign \(WDQC\), Answers Questions from the AISP Team in Regards to President Obama's Budget and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#)

AISP: You are likely aware of the Administrative Data chapter in President Obama's 2016 budget. What was your impression of its focus on "improving access to workforce data," and what do you think we can expect from this statement?

Rachel Zinn: "We were thrilled to see that the 2016 President's Budget includes proposals to expand the use of federal data. These proposals

Additional Information

[Julia Stasch Chosen to Lead the MacArthur Foundation](#)

Click [here](#) for the full press release.

[WIOA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)
Please click [here](#) for the NPRM update from

includes proposals to expand the use of wage data. These proposals would help to assess the effectiveness of education and training programs, making sure they are really helping people succeed in the labor market. WDQC supports the legislative change requested in the budget to allow the National Directory of New Hires, which contains wage data collected by states, to be used by federal agencies for evaluating education and training. That legislation was approved by the Senate Finance Committee last year, and hopefully we'll see it introduced again in this Congress."

Click [here](#) to access the full interview on AISP's website. You can also read Rachel's blog posts on the WDQC website by clicking on [2016 Budget](#) and [WIOA](#).

Administrative Data in the News

[TANF and WIA Programs Develop](#)



[Shared Data Systems in Site Study of TANF/WIA Coordination: Initiated by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation](#)

"The similarities between the TANF and WIA programs have generated interest in the coordination and integration of services across the two programs since their inception in the late 1990s. The experiences in coordinating TANF and WIA services in the sites included in this study may be useful as federal, state, and local policy-makers plan the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), signed into law in July 2014." Please click [here](#) for the full policy brief.

January 2015.

[The Foundation for Excellence in Education and The Data Quality Campaign are Co-Sponsoring a Free Online Course "Data Privacy? Get Schooled" Which Begins on March 23rd](#)

"Learn about the value data brings to improve education and evaluate recommendations for addressing privacy concerns while promoting effective data use."

[Selected Websites for Federal Administrative Data Compiled by COPAFS](#)

The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) compiled a list of 128 federal administrative data sets that can be utilized to conduct economic and business analysis or program evaluation.

OMB's Kathy Stack's Impact on Government Shouldn't be Overlooked

“Kathy Stack retired after 34 years in government on Feb. 20. Most people probably never heard of her, saw her speak or even understand the impact she had on the management of government.”

“But Stack, who spent the last 28 years at the Office of Management and Budget, was the quiet leader behind the move toward evidence-based decision making over the last few years.” Click [here](#) to access the full article.

Big Government Is Getting In The Way Of Big Data



“‘Big data’ may have revolutionized industries from advertising to transportation, but many of our most vital economic statistics are still based on methods that are decidedly, well, small.”

“Now economists both inside and outside government are trying to change that. They are working to open up access to government records, make better use of private-sector data and use modern statistical techniques to link together different sources — steps, they believe, that could allow for economic statistics to become more accurate, more detailed and perhaps available more quickly.” Click [here](#) to access the full article.

AISP in the news

The Penn School of Social Policy and Practice's Masters of Science in Social Policy Program is Offering a New Course: Democratizing Data: Analytics for Social Change, in the Fall of 2015

Please click [here](#) for more information.



HUD Article, [Housing as a Portal to Better Educational and Life Outcomes, Highlights Data Sharing Pilot Project with AISP](#)

“The recognition that stable, affordable housing is needed to achieve good educational outcomes — and that better educational outcomes are needed for improving the life trajectories of low-income

children — provides the ideal mission alignment between affordable housing providers and schools. The recent Summit on Affordable Housing and Education convened by the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities and other nonprofit and philanthropic partners gathered some of the most innovative partnerships in this nexus — those between public housing agencies and school systems. The conversation at the summit and HUD’s work in this area confirmed three key points.”

“Data infrastructure and data sharing agreements. Each of the partnerships discussed the primacy of data and data sharing in its work. Privacy rules, however, can inhibit such sharing, preventing school districts from sharing student records with public housing agencies and limiting the ability to collect data, understand student trends and needs, and measure performance. Formal data agreements are needed, but they are not always simple to establish.”

“This is an area in which federal partners can be helpful. HUD is currently involved in a housing and data matching pilot project (run by [Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania](#)) through which HUD used data licensing agreements to provide data on assisted households to six jurisdictions, to be matched with educational data and used by local researchers. This project will shed light on educational

outcomes for children in assisted housing over time, and it also tests the feasibility of partnering between HUD and jurisdictions on data-matching efforts.” Click [here](#) to access the full article.

[HUD’s Office of Policy Development and Research \(PD&R\) now has the Authority to Enter into Data License Agreements with Research Organizations](#)

“Policy Development & Research has the authority to enter into a Data License Agreement with research organizations for the explicit purpose of conducting innovative research projects that inform HUD’s policies and programs. Such licenses are appropriate when (1) important policy-relevant research questions can only be answered by using, among other resources, personally identifiable information in the possession of HUD; (2) the research organization can offer adequate safeguards for the confidentiality of the data if HUD shares the data with that organization; (3) the research organization does not need funding or other resources from HUD to carry out the research project; (4) the research organization will destroy all personally identifiable information received from HUD at the expiration of the license.” Click [here](#) to access more information.

[Data-Smart City Solutions: Bridging the Gap between People and Public Services](#)

“The Department of Human Services in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which includes the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, began developing its [Data](#)

[Warehouse](#) in 1999, which was recently updated to include a “client matching



algorithm” designed to help improve human services administration by [assessing clients’ needs](#) and matching them to the appropriate programs. The Data Warehouse currently holds an impressive 15 million client records and can report data in real time, making user analysis far easier than it once was for service administrators.” Click [here](#) to access the full article.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Laura Kitson at lckitson@sp2.upenn.edu
Visit us at www.aisp.upenn.edu

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