AISP Newsletter: March 2017

Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy

Request for Applications (RFA) - AISP Learning Community: Integrated Data System Training and Technical Assistance Program

AISP is pleased to announce an RFA for participation in our inaugural Learning Community cohort. Through funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Learning Community will provide 18-months of intensive training and technical assistance (TTA) and travel funding to help each participating jurisdiction develop an integrated data systems (IDS). Successful applicants will receive in-depth guidance on the core components of IDS infrastructure: governance, legal agreements, data integration/linking procedures, and identifying and carrying out research priorities.

Engagement in the AISP Learning Community will provide participating sites with the opportunity to directly work with a cohort of other developing IDS sites in a hands-on environment. The first Learning Community cohort will be composed of five to seven developing IDS sites that have a basic appreciation of the value that an IDS brings to government operations, and are ready to develop and refine partnerships within their jurisdiction in order to best meet the priorities of the specific government agencies their IDS will serve.

Additional Information

AISP Releases a New IDS Uses Video on the AISP Website

WDQC's Analysis of Trump's "Skinny Budget" that Praises Data

APPAM Fall Research Conference: Measurement Matters: Better Data for Better Decisions – Call for Proposals Due: April 5th, 2017

DQC - Roadmap for Foster Care and K–12 Data Linkages: Key Focus Areas to Ensure Quality

Informational webinar: April 19, 2017 at 4pm ET

Register for the Webinar

Audio: Dial +1(408)638-0968, Passcode 496623134#

Application due date: May 31, 5pm ET

Access Application

The AISP Learning Community is funded by a generous grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

AISP Network Sites in the News

AISP Releases Expert Panel Reports

On March 6, 2017 AISP released four expert panel reports as part of its Laura and John Arnold Foundation-funded AISP Innovation initiative. The reports, developed over a one year period of intensive study, detail innovative solutions to common integrated data system (IDS) challenges.

The results were presented at a public forum at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C. Staff from the Evidence Based Policy Commission, as well as several other members of the federal evidence-based policy community, attended the event. Access the **Expert Panel Reports**.

CIDI: New York City Releases Study on Housing for Transition-Age Youth - Effort Concentrates on Changing Trajectory of Youth at Risk

"The New York City Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI), in partnership with CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) announced the

results of **Housing Trajectories of Transition-Age Youth**, a study designed to help policymakers prevent at-risk youth from falling into homelessness. This study was underwritten by the New York Community Trust, and unveiled by a panel of experts at a forum hosted by Deutsche Bank. The study found that a range of housing and shelter resources exist in New York City for youth facing homelessness including independent living, shelters, and supportive housing, which combines housing with more intensive programming and social services. But because there are limited resources, it is important to effectively match youths' needs with the available placements that are likely to improve their outcomes."

"Through the data, the City and CSH are seeking to better understand the housing trajectories of particularly vulnerable groups -- those who exit foster care and other residential programs for homeless young adults, including emergency shelters and transitional living programs. By following these young adults via administrative data, the study forms an understanding of what housing resources they utilize and assesses who should be prioritized for specific resources, such as supportive housing, in order to help them avoid homelessness in the future. The findings of the study will be incorporated into current efforts in the City to coordinate service delivery and prioritize youth for supportive housing." Access the **complete report**.

Administrative Data in the News

ADRN Case Study on Tackling Homelessness in the U.S. Using Linked Administrative Data

"Over a two-year period, Los Angeles County in the US witnessed a 12 per cent rise in the homeless population. A "humanitarian

crisis" was declared and the cost of homelessness put at $1 billion. Research linking data from six social services agencies provided a clear picture of homelessness and was used, with public support, to draw up a $2 billion dollar programme to build 10,000 houses for homeless people with mental health problems."

How the research helped

"This approach enabled a thorough and systematic inquiry that could incrementally improve the government's ability to understand and aid a vulnerable population in a financially responsible manner, while remaining accountable and transparent to the public."

"The process produced the actionable intelligence that is currently informing the County's homelessness strategy with public support." Access the **complete article**. Listen to ADRN's Data Points **Podcast Interview with Dennis Culhane**.

Pew Charitable Trusts - How States Engage in Evidence-Based Policymaking - A National Assessment

"Evidence-based policymaking is the systematic use of findings from program evaluations and outcome analyses ("evidence") to guide government policy and funding decisions. By focusing limited resources on public services and programs that have been shown to produce positive results, governments can expand their investments in more cost-effective options, consider reducing funding for ineffective programs, and improve the outcomes of services funded by taxpayer dollars."

"While the term "evidence-based policymaking" is growing in popularity in state capitols, there is limited information about the extent to which states employ

the approach. This report seeks to address this gap by: 1) identifying six distinct actions that states can use to incorporate research findings into their decisions, 2) assessing the prevalence and level of these actions within four human service policy areas across 50 states and the District of Columbia, and 3) categorizing each state based on the final results."

The study finds:

- Five states lead the way in evidence-based policymaking
- Most states have taken some evidence-based policymaking actions in at least one human service policy area, but advanced application is less common.

"Although many states are embracing evidence-based policymaking, leaders often face challenges in embedding this approach into the decision-making process of state and local governments. This report identifies how staff and stakeholder education, strong data infrastructure, and analytical and technical capacity can help leaders build and sustain support for this work and achieve better outcomes for their communities." Access the **complete article**.

Georgia's Legislature Establishes the Joint Transparency and Open Access in Government Study Committee

On Friday, March 24, 2017 the Georgia Legislature passed the Joint Transparency and Open Access in Government Study Committee Resolution. If enacted by the governor, the resolution will create a 15-person committee charged with investigating best practices around the maintenance and use of state data. The committee will be tasked with developing recommendations for more effective, efficient, and safe methods of data sharing both within and across government agencies. The hope is that this will lead to quicker, more impactful cross-agency

data analysis that provides policymakers with the information necessary to make more informed decisions. The overarching goal of this resolution is to ensure that Georgia uses its vast amounts of data to thoughtfully inform data-driven decision making and best serve the public.

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If you have any questions or comments or comments about the AISP Newsletter or AISP, please contact **Laura Kitson**.
Visit us at **www.aisp.upenn.edu**

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