



Innovative Federal Program Designs to Increase Evidence-Based Practice

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Evolution of Evidence-Based Policy

- GPRA (1993 to present)
- PART (2001-2009)
- Obama Administration Evidence-Based Program Initiatives (2009 to present)

Key Features of New Program Designs

- Developed through **partnerships** of research, evaluation and program officials
 - Relationships mirrored at grantee level
- Strong **financial incentives** for applicants to:
 - Review and utilize existing research on what works and how to implement with fidelity
 - Conduct or participate in **rigorous evaluations** to build evidence
- Changes to agency **grants** processes
- Better utilization of administrative **data**

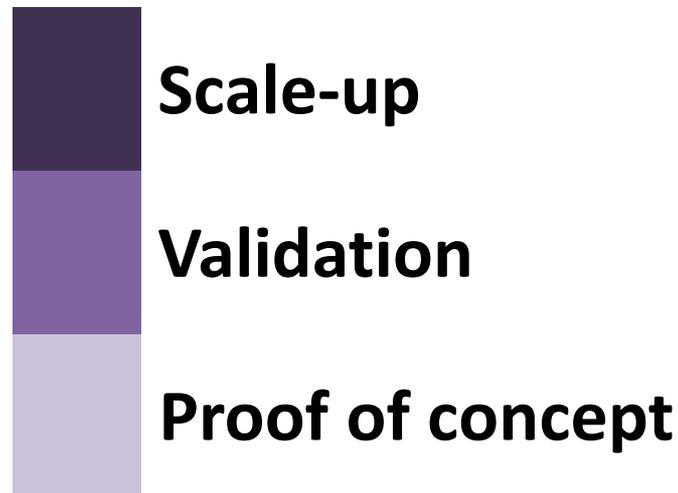
Tiered Evidence Grant Programs

- **Two-tier models**
 - For mature evidence base
 - Goals: validate promising practices and scale up effective practices
 - Examples: Home Visiting & Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Tiered Evidence Grant Programs

- **Three-tier models**

- Structure: Proof-of-Concept, Validation, Scale-up
- Example: Investing in Innovation (i3) at ED
- Used by HHS, DOL, ED, CNCS, and USAID



Pay for Success

- **Private investors** provide working capital for evidence-based prevention services
- **Government** pays only after results are achieved
- Impacts measured with rigorous **evaluation** and administrative data
- **Federal** projects underway: DOL and DOJ
- **State** initiatives underway: recidivism, home visiting, pre-K, asthma/diabetes prevention

Performance Partnerships

- 2014 appropriations authority for pilots serving **disconnected youth**
- Up to 10 pilots may blend funds and receive waivers of statutory provisions to implement a **cross-program strategy** to improve education, employment and other outcomes
- Test improved **systems coordination** and service delivery approaches in high-capacity communities

2015 Medicaid-Foster Care Demo

- **Research** shows certain psychosocial interventions can yield better outcomes than psychotropic medications
- 2015 President's Budget proposal would encourage States to use **evidence-based alternatives to medication** to treat behavioral and mental health conditions of youth in foster care
- Evaluation will examine reductions in over-prescription of psychotropic medications and other **outcomes** for foster care youth

Strategies for Accelerating Progress

- Identify **other promising program areas** for evidence-based designs
- Improve researcher access to and utilization of high quality administrative **data**
- Improve **knowledge dissemination** and **technical assistance** on evidence-based practices and effective implementation
- Build **coalitions** across programs/levels of gov't