October 3rd, 2017

Dear Arnold Foundation,

Thank you again for the generous gift to support Colorado’s Evaluation and Action Lab at the University of Denver’s Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise. In following with our grant agreement, our staff has developed and we have approved the following set of policy priorities for the Lab. The list was developed from a top down request for ideas from Cabinet, and bottoms up outreach to key program leaders across the state. Ideas were assessed for feasibility (support from Department, data availability, fit with Lab’s methods) and impact (Administration priority, population served). We know and appreciate that the final set of projects pursued will be based on this list after further vetting and due diligence has been completed.

Policy Priorities and Project Ideas

Recidivism Reduction
  • Recidivism reduction strategies for both adult and juvenile correctional systems
    ○ Project Idea: Determine what combination of parole reform programs is the best to offer to offenders to reduce recidivism (DOC)
    ○ Project Idea: Assess whether offering services that promote economic stability for families, such as TANF, WIC or Food Stamps, reduces likelihood that a youth will recidivate when exiting the juvenile justice system (DHS)

Affordable Housing
  • Project Idea: Advise Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), which recently received $15.3 million from Legislature to expand affordable housing programs, on how to build a rigorous evaluation of the outcomes from these efforts (DOLA)

Prevention and Early Intervention for System Involved Youth
  • Programs targeted towards youth in multiple systems, such as child welfare, behavioral health and juvenile justice, who are likely at risk of further future system involvement
    ○ Project Ideas: Three Pay for Success projects currently under internal review for viability: a Denver Wrap-Around services project, a Jefferson County School-Based Intervention, and a rural substance abuse pilot (DHS)
    ○ Project Idea: Examine which combination of prevention service options, including Colorado Community Response and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, is most effective (DHS)
Good Government and Efficiency Projects

- **Project Idea:** Partner with Governor's Office to review potential programs for future evaluations, using the Results First Program Inventories as a guide (OSPB)

Marijuana-Funded Programs

- Marijuana funded programs have a dedicated funding source for evaluation provided by the Legislature, but in some cases it may be beneficial to leverage Lab involvement, e.g. to streamline our statewide evaluation process, expand Lab footprint, etc.
  - Proposals are under review by the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB).
  - **Project Idea:** Three initiatives from the Department of Education to create evaluation plans may be a good fit for the Lab, although depending on procurement rules for these projects, the Lab may have to bid for funding.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Governor John W. Hickenlooper

[Signature]

Lt. Governor and Chief Operating Officer Donna Lynne