

Agency Indicators, Data Collection and Data Storytelling

American Rescue Plan Funding
Evaluation + Impact Capacity Building

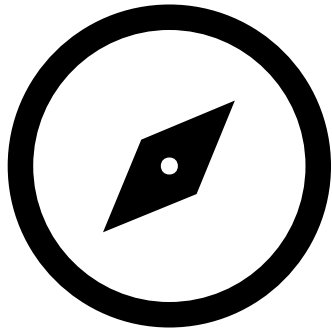


Goals for our workshop

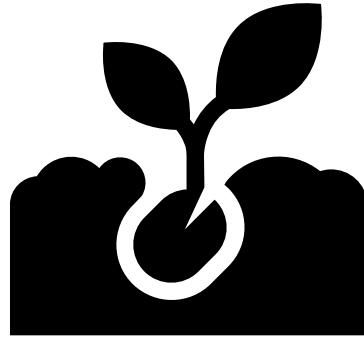
- Provide initial guidance for choosing indicators and metrics
- Identify ways to collect data for new and existing projects
- Lay the groundwork for using data to tell a story



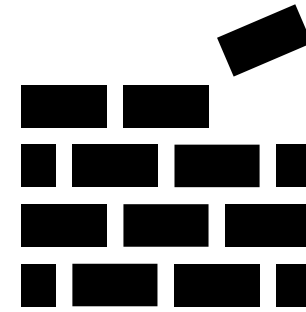
We know what you're thinking...



**Initial
Guidance**



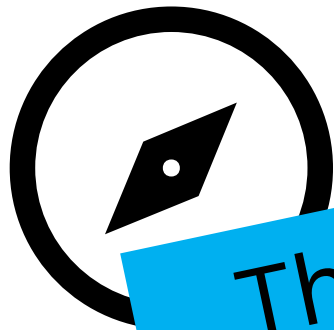
**New
strategies**



**Lay the
groundwork**



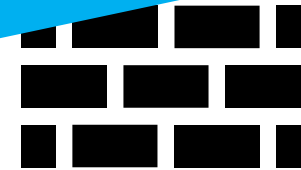
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**Initial
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**New
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**Lay the
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This is a work in progress....



A few caveats:

- We use a number of terms: Data, Analytics, Evidence, Research, Impact, Evaluation
- Becoming a data-informed organization takes time: we won't solve all of the data challenges today
- This work cannot be done alone
- The Data and Policy Analytics Unit is your partner in this work



Data and Policy Analytics (DAPA)

- We maintain the state's [Open Data Portal](#)
- We manage the state's longitudinal data system and data-sharing: [P20WIN](#)
- We house and manage the state's [mapping and geospatial assets](#)
- We provide analytical capacity to agencies
- We guide data [best practices and governance](#)



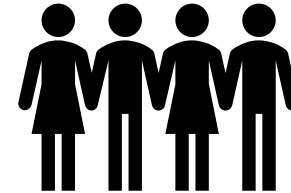
American Rescue Plan Act & Evidence



CT received \$2.8B from
US Treasury Dept. (UST)



UST building on
Evidence Based
Policymaking Act



Unprecedented
opportunity to
improve data culture



Choosing Indicators and Metrics



Indicators and metrics...

- Ways to measure progress towards achieving specific objectives and results
- Mandatory indicators: chosen by US Treasury
- Agency-selected indicators: determined by your agency



Where do I start?



Start where you are.



Mission



Questions



Evidence



Mine your project's goals

YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school.

Health Horizons will fund scholarships, faculty hires, and innovative programs in public and private institutions of higher education to increase the number of nursing and mental health professionals in the state of Connecticut.

In partnership with End Hunger CT! funds will enable SNAP participants who have faced an increase in food insecurity due to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to double the value of their SNAP benefits to purchase CT Grown farm products at participating Connecticut farmer stands, and at farm markets End Hunger CT!'s Full Shelves Pantry Program which supports food pantries and social service organizations with bulk purchases of food.



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Reverse engineering your research question

YouthBuild is a community-based pre-apprenticeship program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24 who have previously dropped out of high school.

What question will this project's work answer?

Go to [Slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and add your thoughts with code **#8193700**



Reverse engineering your research question

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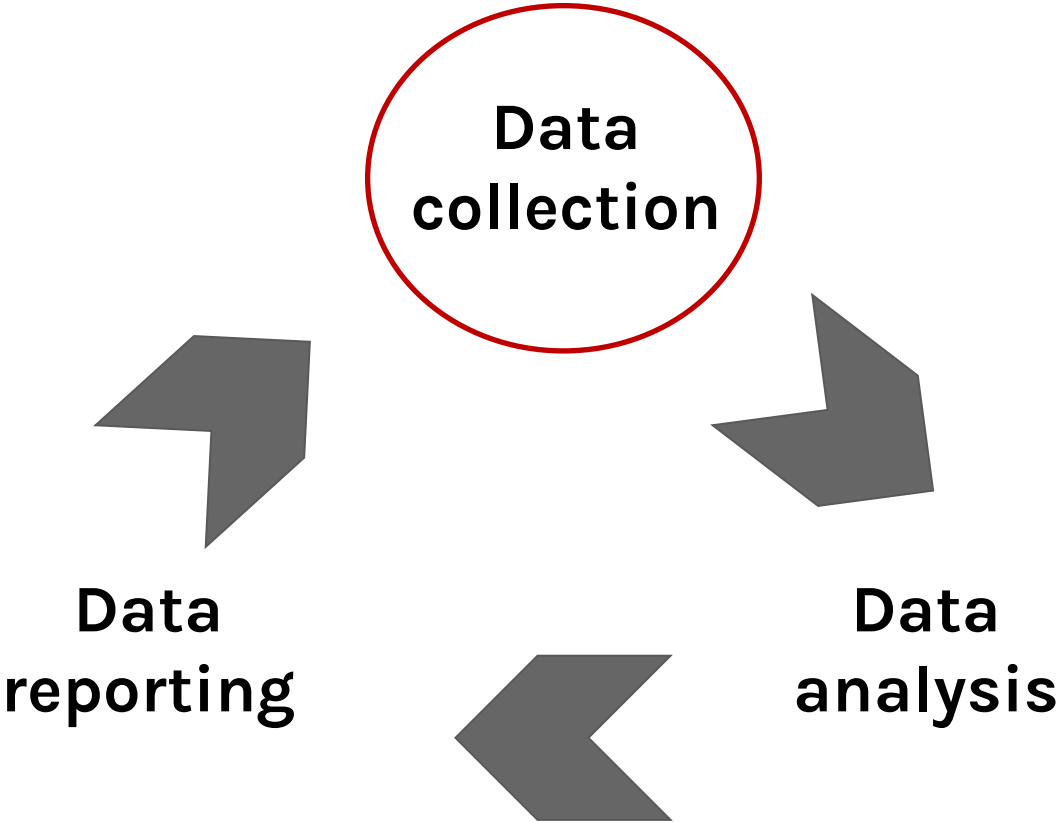
How do job training and education opportunities for at-risk youth impact high school completion?



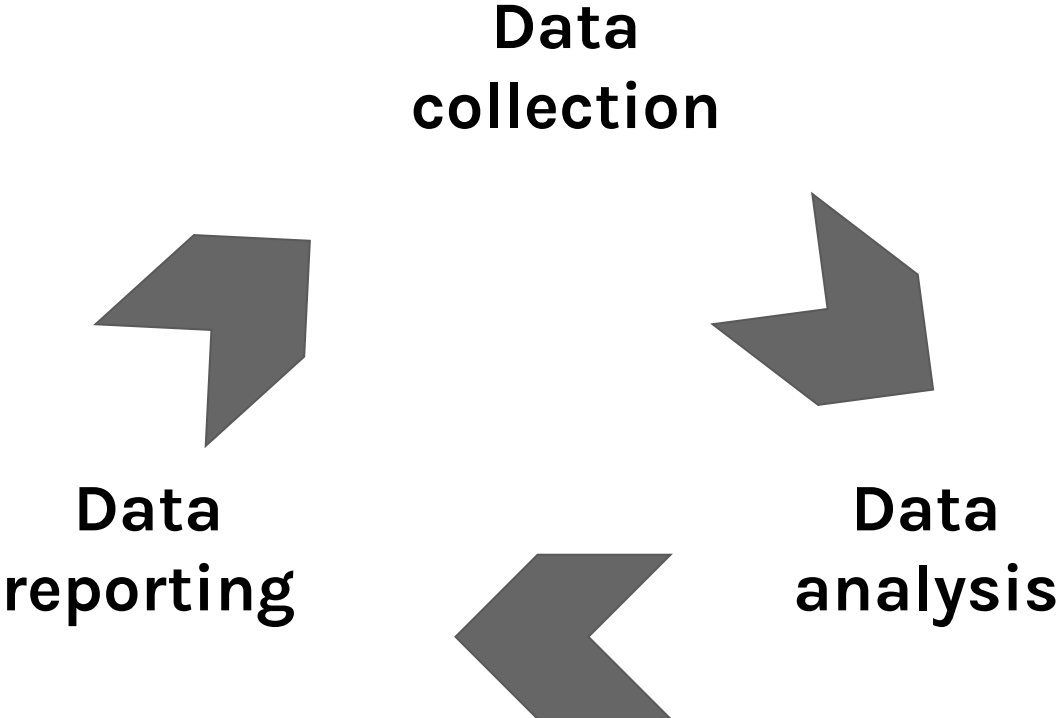
Data Collection



Data come from somewhere



Data come from somewhere



Data come in many forms...

Quantitative



Qualitative



There is no one way to collect data!



Which one is best?

It depends on...

Do you have questions you want to answer using data?

Will data analysis get you answers to your questions?

Do you have enough data?

Can you break your data into groups to make comparisons?

Do you have data collected over many points in time?



Do these data already exist?



Listening



Forms



Observations



Surveys

So, what data do we need?

How do job training and education opportunities for at-risk youth impact high school completion?

What data will we need?

Go to [Slido.com](https://www.slido.com) and add your thoughts with code #8193700



What data do we need?

Project/Program Data

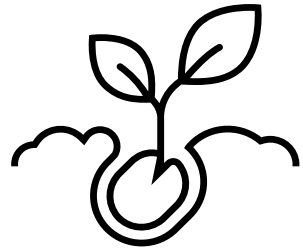
- Number of job training slots
- Type of job training
- High school graduation rates
- Follow-up data

Demographic Data

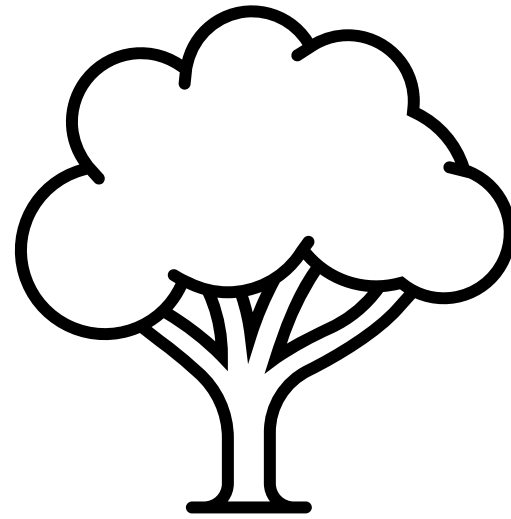
- Age
- Gender
- School grade
- Location



Are you...



Starting out...



Tending...



If you're.....

Starting out...

- Look at your mission
- What do you SAY you'll do
- HOW will you show your work
- Do you have an existing data collection system

Tending...

- Look at your mission
- How is this work new or different from the existing work
- Is there a way to modify the existing data collection system



How do you get started?

- ✓ Gather the program/project team to review the mission and goals
- ✓ Brainstorm and document the questions about your work
- ✓ Think about the larger story you are trying to tell
- ✓ Explore your data collection resources
- ✓ Consider your audience for the data storytelling

This kind of strategic planning takes time.



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Laying the groundwork for data storytelling...



**Data storytelling is difficult
with bad data...**



Data stories could.....

make you think.

build empathy for others.

inspire you.

help you escape.

change minds.

BUT....

**Data and statistics are not
standalone stories.**

People love stories.



Setting



**Characters &
Plot**



Conflict



Resolution

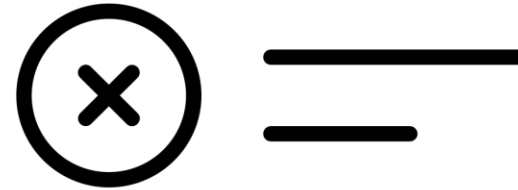
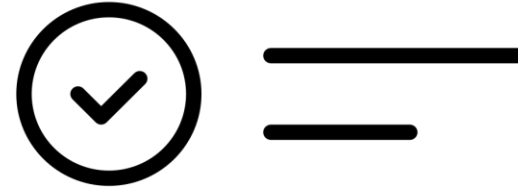
Stories have structure.

A data story *should* have structure.



Methods

**Sample &
Analysis**



Findings

**Implications &
Recommendations**



Data stories have structure, too.

Questions and Data go together



What comes next...

Quarterly reporting this month

Annual Report comes next!

What do YOU need?



In the future...

- Building analytical skills
- Advancing analytical skills
- Survey and form design
- Data Storytelling
- Creating data visualizations in Excel
- Creating data visualizations in Datawrapper



Stay in touch...

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+ Data and Policy Analytics team

