Data & Policy Analytics
CT Office of Policy and Management

Learning Agendas & Data Storytelling

Evaluation and Impact, OPM

October 4, 2023

Agenda

1. (Re)Introductions
2. Quick review of Data and Policy Analytics
3. What are Learning Agendas?
4. Getting Learning Agendas started for your agency
5. Where we're going

Data & Policy Analytics Programs

Open Data

P20 WIN

GIS Office

State Data Plan

Evaluation & Impact

About Us

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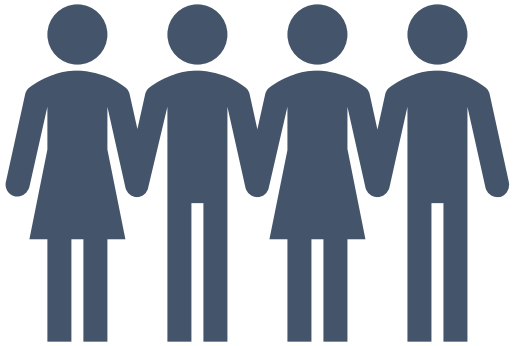
Why Evaluation & Impact?

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

UST building on Evidence-Based Policymaking Act



Unprecedented opportunity to improve data culture

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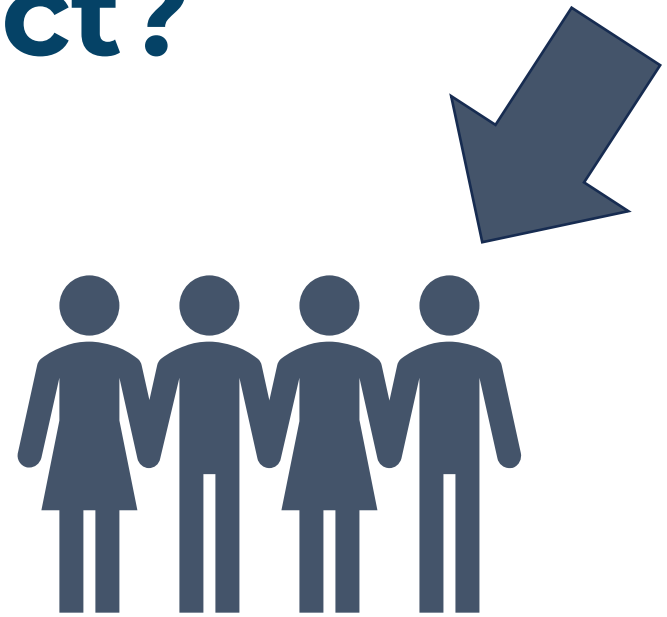

Unprecedented opportunity to improve data culture

Evaluation & Impact data allow agencies to:

- **Answer** questions from legislators, senior leadership and the public about their work
- **Make decisions** about their work grounded in evidence
- **Understand** impact of their work
- Provide **evidence** to the legislature about sustainability and scalability of their work

Evaluation & Impact data allow agencies to:

- **Answer** stakeholder questions about their work

  Who, What, When, Where, Why, How much, For how long, What next

- **Make decisions** about their work grounded in evidence

  Objectively evaluate what initiatives/methods work to better inform policies from a proactive vs. reactive vantage point

- **Understand** the impact of their work

  Measure progress towards achieving milestones for mission and vision statements

- Provide **evidence** to stakeholders about sustainability and scalability of their work

  Prioritization of investments, system building and adaptability in environment of diverse interests and finite resources

Evaluation & Impact data allow agencies to:

- **Answer** stakeholder questions about their work
  - Who, What, When, Where, Why, How much, For how long, What next
- **Make decisions** about their work grounded in evidence
  - Objectively evaluate what initiatives/methods work to better inform policies from a proactive vs. reactive vantage point
- **Understand** the impact of their work
  - Measure progress towards achieving milestones for each results statement
    - Results Statement – Families will actively engage in their children's learning and partner with their chil… educational excellence
- Provide **evidence** to stakeh… sustainability and scalab… their work
  - Prioritization of investments, system building and adaptability in environment of diverse interests and finite resources

Great data stories come from great evaluation work.

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What is a Learning Agenda?

Learning Agenda

- Systematic plan for answering your key questions
- Allows for use of performance metrics
- Requires continuous quality improvement of data collected by an organization
- Relies on routine use of data to generate insights and improve data quality
- Can be revised and edited iteratively as work changes and insights or priorities change

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Where do I start?

What do you want to know?

What do you want to know?

Brainstorm your questions

- General Analytics
- What-if questions
- Wish List questions
- Did it matter?

What do you want to know?

Gather your team:

Think together

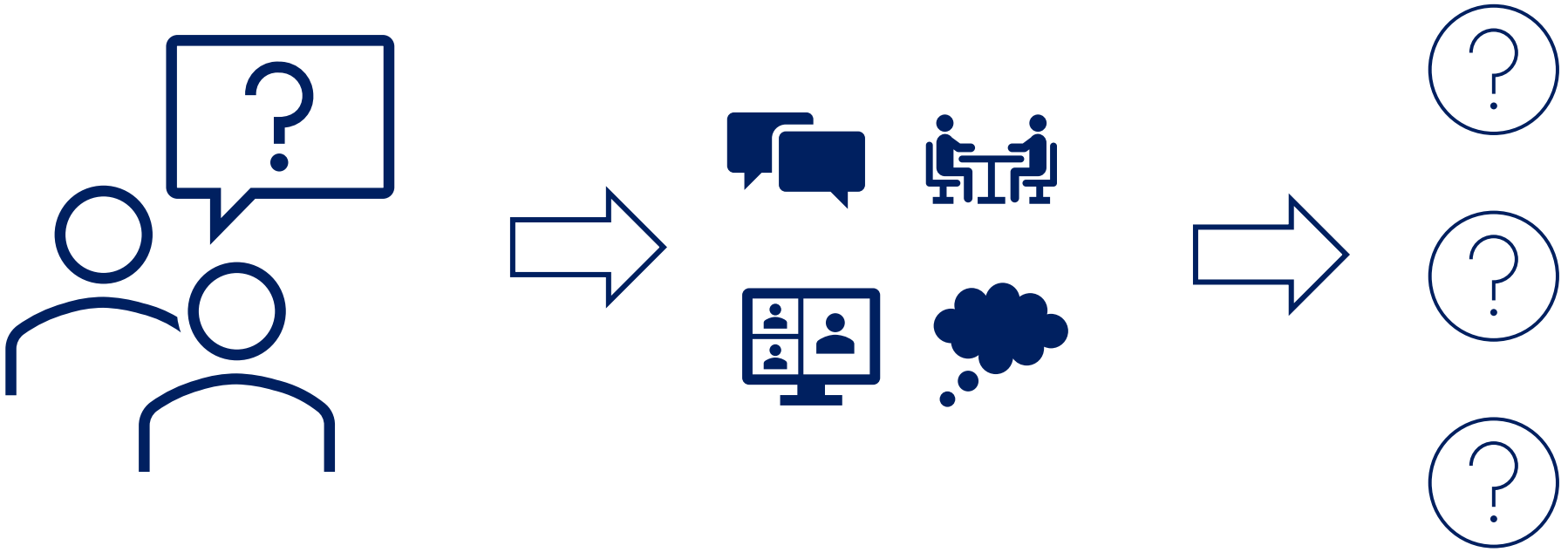
- Chat, meet, talk
- Consider your audience
- Write everything down
- Reflect, revise, revisit

What do you want to know?

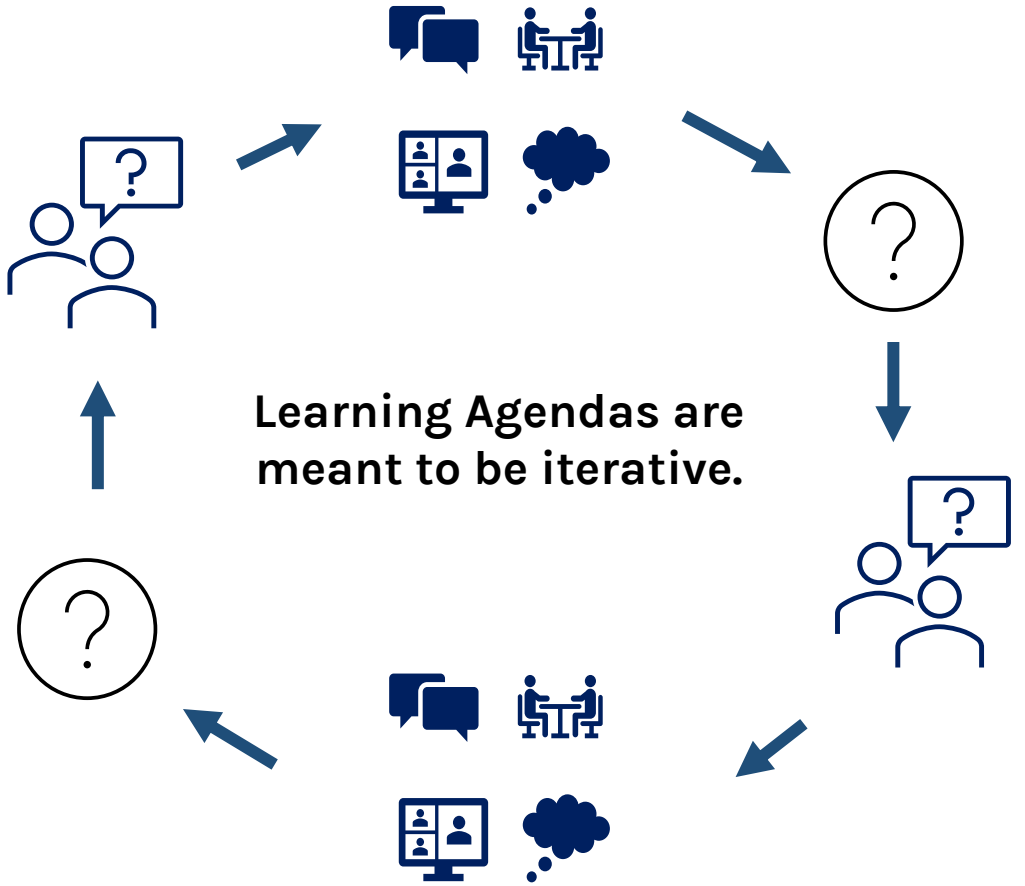
Prioritize for now

- Identify data gaps
- Document, document, document
- Revisit, revise

What do you want to know?



What do you want to know?



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Why do we need a Learning Agenda?

Learning agendas help agencies to:

- **Answer** questions from legislators, senior leadership and the public about their work
- **Make decisions** about their work grounded in evidence
- **Understand** impact of their work
- Provide **evidence** to the legislature about sustainability and scalability of their work

Sample Learning Agenda: P20WIN

The **P20 WIN Learning Agenda** reflects the priority issues and burning questions of the State of Connecticut and P20 WIN Participating Agencies.

The topics and questions in the Learning Agenda are used to prioritize and inform data requests.

- **College and Career Success**: to support placement decisions at colleges and universities
- **Student Readiness**: to analyze transitions between early childhood and K-12 schools, to include social services, child welfare, housing, family life and adult education
- **Financial Aid**: the dynamics and outcomes for state financial aid grant recipients
- **Workforce Training**: measuring the net impact and return on investment for public workforce training programs
- **Overcoming Barriers to Success**: using data to help individuals who face barriers to success due to factors like homelessness or engagement with the child welfare system

P20·WIN

OUR Learning Agenda

- Who is being served and supported by American Rescue Plan funded projects?
- How is the work funded by the American Rescue Plan connected across state agencies?
- How can we incorporate evidence into making policy decisions (that we continue to measure)?
- What have we learned about the impact of the work?
- What work should be scaled and supported by the general fund when the American Rescue Plan funding concludes?

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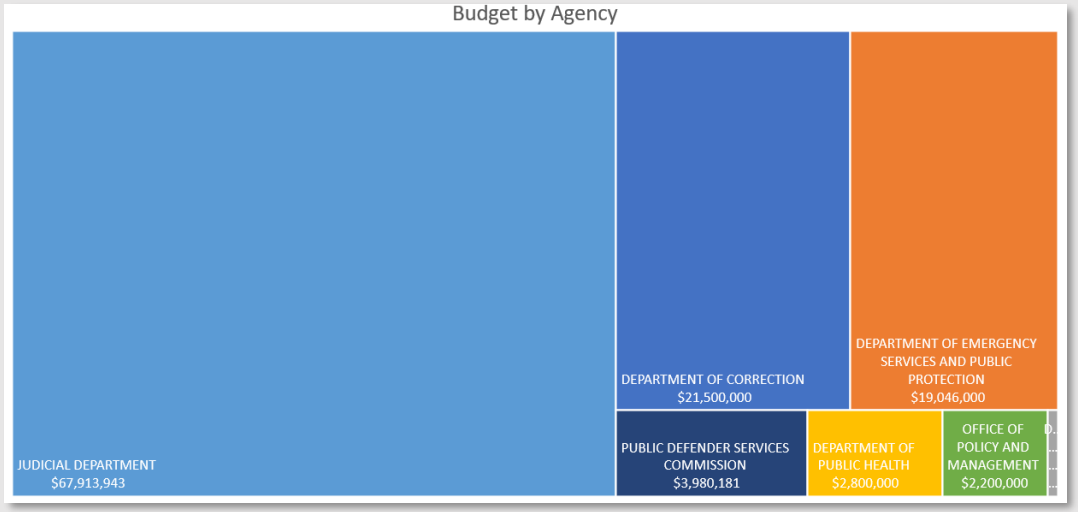
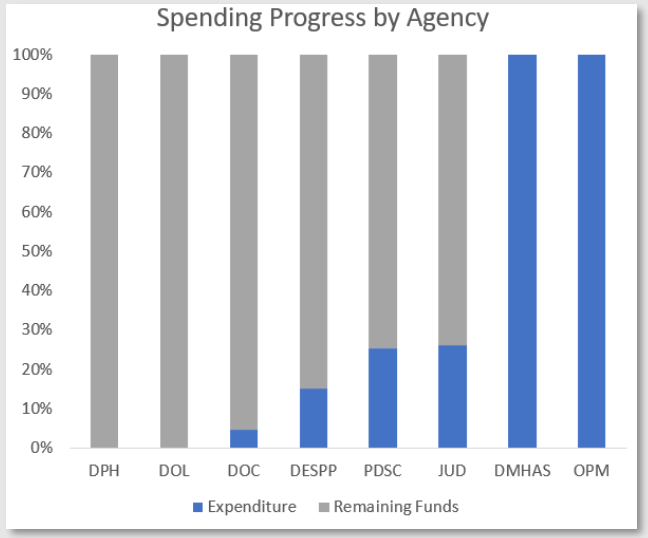
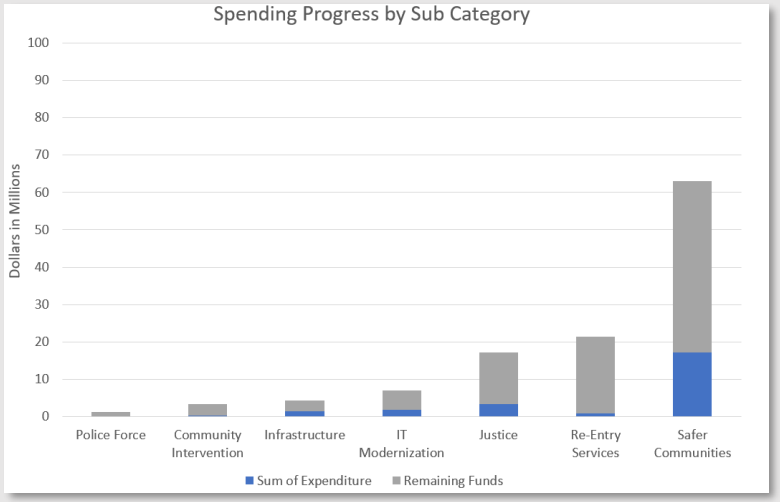
Learning Agendas help you tell great data stories.

Early Findings: Dashboard 2.0

Justice & Public Safety







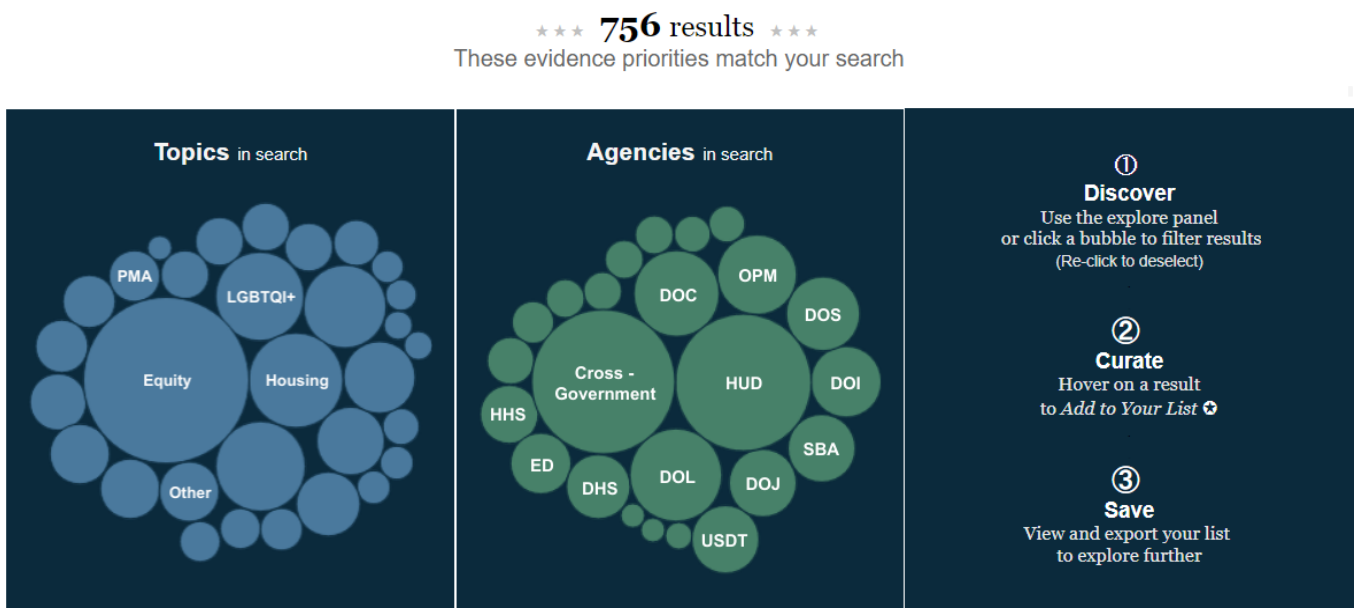
Justice and Public Safety Project List

SID	Title	Project Description	Implementing Agency	Budget	Expenditure
28120	Provide Funding for a Mobile Crime Laboratory	To improve forensic services in support of the criminal justic..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$995,000	$591,192
28121	Provide Funding for the Gun Tracing Task Force	The mission of the GTTF is to combat illegal firearms traffick..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$2,500,000	$488,400
28122	Provide Funding to State and Local Police Departments to A..	The purpose of theses funds will be to reduce auto theft and..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$5,200,000	$0
28123	Upgrade Forensic Technology at the State Crime Lab	The DSS forensic laboratory has come up with the following ..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$2,843,000	$632,530
28124	Rural Roads Speed Enforcement	Since the onset of COVID, there has been a rise in aggressive..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$2,600,000	$104,788
28125	Expand Violent Crimes Task Force	The Violent Crimes Task Force(VCTF), under the command of..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$1,108,000	$1,082,818
28126	Online Abuse Grant SB 5	DESPP in consultation with the Statewide Hate Crimes Advi..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$500,000	$0
28127	Fire Data Collection	Establish and administer a three year pilot program to colle..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$300,000	$0
28128	P.O.S.T High School Recruitment Program for Police	Enable the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$200,000	$0
28129	Poquetanuck Volunteer Fire Department	Funding to support the Poquetanuck Volunteer Fire Depart..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$150,000	$0
28130	Preston City Volunteer Fire Department	Funding to support the Preston City Volunteer Fire Departm..	DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTI..	$150,000	$0
28153	United Services Pilot on Crisis Intervention	This funding will extend the United Services Pilot of the CRI..	DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES	$200,000	$200,000
28158	Community Violence Prevention Programs	The purpose of this project is to put infrastructure in place t..	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	$1,000,000	$0
28160	Provide Funding to Address and Respond to an Increase in H..	The purpose of this project is to fund up to seven (7) commu..	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	$1,500,000	$0

How do we 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

Resouces: Evaluation.gov



Learning Agenda Questions Dashboard:

- Created and hosted by evaluation.gov
- Federal Agency priority questions organized by agency and topic area
- Source of inspiration for state agencies creating Learning Agendas
- Check out the dashboard

What we're working on now

Establishing partnerships with applied researchers and evaluators

Improving transparency with dashboard updates and upgrades

Continuing to build capacity and learn from evidence created through the work

Stay in touch...

Data and Policy Analytics on the web

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