



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHAPTER 13, ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVES, BUDGET OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FISCAL YEAR 2025, “BUILDING AND USING EVIDENCE TO IMPROVE GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS”

The President’s Budget for fiscal year 2025 demonstrates the Administration’s ongoing commitment to sustain and enhance investments in evidence-based programs. The Budget invests in agencies’ capacity-building activities and supports efforts to build and use evidence through targeted investments in key areas. [Chapter 13 of the Analytical Perspectives volume](#) details how the President’s Budget will:

### INVEST IN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

- **Invest in evidence-based approaches to improve the health and well-being of America’s families.** Improving the health and well-being of all Americans is an Administration priority. Investments in teen pregnancy prevention and home visits at HHS demonstrate the Administration’s commitment to using evidence to achieve this goal. The Budget includes \$101 million for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention which has been rigorously evaluated since 2010. The Budget also provides \$600 million for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program which implements evidence-based home visiting programs that improve outcomes in child development, school readiness, maternal health, child health, and reductions in treatment.
- **Prioritize proven and promising strategies to advance economic opportunity and good jobs for all Americans.** There is a rich and growing evidence base on the effectiveness of workforce development strategies, and the Budget makes investments in programs that show promise in moving Americans into good jobs. The Budget includes \$388 million for the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Grants program, a \$335 million investment in Registered Apprenticeships, and a \$50 million investment in the Sectoral Employment through Career Training for Occupational Readiness (SECTOR) program. The Budget also includes increased funding for the Department of Labor’s Strengthening Community College and Reentry Employment Opportunities.
- **Incentivize grantees to apply evidence-based strategies to address homelessness.** Over two decades of research and evaluation finds that the Housing First approach results in greater long-term housing stability. The Budget includes \$4 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Continuum of Care program. This funding encourages grantees to use the evidence-based Housing First approach, which emphasizes rapid placement and stabilization of people experiencing homelessness in permanent housing without imposing service participation requirements or pre-conditions.
- **Increase investments in evidence-based activities that improve student outcomes.** The success of America’s future workforce requires a strong and equitable education system, informed by the range of available evidence on interventions to improve student outcomes. The Budget doubles the investments in Post-Secondary Student Success Grants from \$50 million to \$100 million to implement, scale, and evaluate evidence-based activities that improve student outcomes. Funding can be used to expand evidence-based support services including academic advising, mentoring, and tutoring to increase overall attainment and completion rates. The Budget also increases funding for Full Service Community Schools which are found to advance academic achievement and improve student attendance.
- **Promote food security through evidence-based approaches.** An extensive body of evidence supports the benefits of WIC for maternal and health outcomes. The Budget includes \$7.7 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Recent efforts in outreach and

modernization of the program have contributed to increased enrollment and participation. To support unanticipated cost pressure, the Budget includes an emergency contingency fund.

## ADVANCE AGENCY CAPACITY TO BUILD AND USE EVIDENCE

- **Build and maintain capacity to support evidence-building.** The Budget includes investments to sustain and build capacity for evidence and evaluation in agencies. For example, the Budget includes funding for an Evidence Lead within the Justice Management Division to advance the Department's progress for implementation of Title I of the Evidence Act and associated evidence-building activities such as the Learning Agenda and Annual Evaluation Plans. The Budget includes funding for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to evaluate the Paid Parental Leave Program and Postal Service Health Benefits Program and to sustain funding to maintain qualified evaluators to execute evaluation activities.
- **Establish support for new opportunities to address evidence gaps.** The Budget includes \$2.6 million for a new independent program evaluation fund at the Department of Interior. These funds will allow the Agency to execute rigorous evaluations to build evidence in priority areas that currently lack a solid evidence base.
- **Invest in data infrastructure and capacity to support evidence-building activities.** The Budget supports efforts to more effectively use administrative data for evidence-building, including expanding secure access to critical data sources such as the National Directory of New Hires. At OPM, the budget sustains investments to build and enhance data systems and increase capacity to use Federal workforce data.
- **Pair investments into the expansion of services in existing programs with program evaluation.** The Budget expands Medicaid maternal health support by incentivizing States to reimburse a broad range of providers. This benefit is paired with rigorous program evaluation to assess the effect of these changes on maternal health and other key outcomes.
- **Support flexibility in funding for evaluation offices.** The Budget requests passage of an Evaluation Funding Flexibility general provision to provide some evidence-building offices with the ability to use evaluation funds over a greater period of time to support strategic, long-term, and flexible evaluation planning.

## INCREASE EFFORTS TO BOLSTER THE EVIDENCE AND EVALUATION LANDSCAPE

- **Broaden the Federal Government's reach to connect with external researchers.** The recent development of the Evidence Project Portal facilitates opportunities for external researchers to work alongside Federal agencies to support Learning Agenda activities and other key evidence needs.
- **Develop new partnerships to meet critical evaluation needs.** The OMB Evidence Team and GSA created a Program Evaluation Services Subgroup to strengthen Federal infrastructure for high-quality program evaluation. The subgroup connects agencies with qualified contractors for evaluations and related studies to bolster Federal evidence-building needs.
- **Generate and disseminate resources and tools on evidence-building.** OMB launched the Federal Evaluation Toolkit to help Federal agency staff better understand why evaluation can help them execute

their programs and operations more effectively. The Toolkit pulls together a single set of curated, high-quality resources across Federal agencies and external entities.

- **Increase the evaluation capacity of the Federal workforce through knowledge sharing.** The Evaluation Officer Council is a forum for agencies to share ideas and develop solutions to common challenges. OMB's Evidence and Evaluation Community of Practice Workshop series and ICEP workshop series provide agencies the opportunity to share findings from recent evaluation studies, demonstrate new analytic tools and methods, and discuss agency evaluation policies and practices.
- **Provide Senior Federal leaders with the requisite skills to support evaluation efforts.** The OMB Evidence Team has partnered with the Federal Executive Institute at OPM to lead the new Evidence-Based Decision-Making Leadership Academy for Senior Executives. Upon completion of the Academy, Senior Executives will have developed an action plan to advance evidence-based decision-making in their respective agencies.
- **Recruit qualified evaluators into the Federal Government.** The Administration supports efforts to recruit, hire, and retain staff with program evaluation experience. The OMB Evidence Team is developing a compendium of resources and examples to help agencies recruit skilled evaluators to design, oversee, and execute program evaluation activities.
- **Support efforts to share evidence-building activities.** Evidence Spring Briefings are an annual process that brings together agencies and OMB to discuss the status of activities on agency evidence-building plans, review progress and challenges, and share the results of evaluations or other activities.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE FEDERAL EVIDENCE AGENDA

- **Build and use evidence to advance emerging priorities.** The Administration has embarked on a series of priority investments through its Invest in America agenda. Across areas like semiconductor manufacturing, infrastructure, and job creation, there is an unprecedented opportunity to use available evidence to guide these investments, while strategically building evidence on their effectiveness in delivering for the American people.
- **Assess the effectiveness of using artificial intelligence (AI) to deliver for the American people.** As Government-wide efforts to promote the responsible and safe use of AI take shape, it is critically important to assess the extent to which the Federal Government's uses of AI achieve their intended outcomes. Using program evaluation, agencies must ask and answer questions about whether and how using AI tools is helping to meet Government's goals.
- **Promote a culture of experimentation and learning.** An evidence-based government is one that fully embraces widespread experimentation and learning, while being open to new ideas, questioning the status quo by asking hard questions, and using findings to change course when needed. While experimentation thrives in some pockets of Government, many agencies are reluctant to experiment and embed evaluation in their activities. To serve communities and the American public better, agencies must understand what is working well, what is not, and how to improve, which necessarily requires an openness to experimentation and learning.