The Evidence-Based Grantmaking Act

H.R. 7025 — Rep. Rudy Yakym III (R-IN)

Co-sponsors: Reps. Brittany Pettersen (D-CO), Don Bacon (R-NE), Blake Moore (R-UT), William Timmons (R-SC), Deborah Ross (D-NC), Greg Landsman (D-OH), Max Miller (R-OH)

Each year, the federal government awards more than $150 billion in grants intended to improve economic outcomes for Americans across the country, yet less than one-quarter of this funding is directed towards interventions that are proven to be effective[1]. Meanwhile, program evaluation at federal agencies is lackluster, with just around 42% of federal managers reporting that their agencies' performance information and program evaluations are of sufficient quality.

If taxpayers are footing the bill for a program, there should be proof that it actually delivers results. This requires putting in place strong requirements for federal agencies to allocate funding towards evidence-based approaches, as well as implement robust evaluation provisions to gauge program effectiveness and promote continuous improvement.

The **Evidence-Based Grantmaking Act** seeks to achieve these goals by tying dollars to results. Specifically, agencies would be required to define "evidence-based" and prioritize funding for grant applicants that use approaches that are proven to be effective. Agencies would also be required to define and track outcomes, as well as regularly evaluate results — bringing accountability, transparency, and fiscal stewardship to federal spending.

The **Evidence-Based Grantmaking Act** would:

- Require federal grantmaking agencies to prioritize grant funding for programs that use evidence-based practices and have a proven track record of achieving results;

- Promote accountability for outcomes by requiring agencies to set measurable goals, evaluate results, and publicly report performance so taxpayers know their dollars are achieving real impact;

- Bring greater transparency and discipline to federal spending by directing federal agencies to use clear, consistent definitions of "evidence-based";

- Promote technical assistance from federal agencies to help grantees deliver results;

- Improve oversight of federal grants by requiring regular reporting to Congress on how agencies use evidence to award projects — ensuring the government spends on what works.

Ultimately, this legislation would help restore a sense of accountability in Washington when it comes to how hard-earned taxpayer dollars are being spent. That means using evidence and data to guide federal spending decisions, and evaluate which federal programs are working efficiently as intended, and just as importantly, which aren't.

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[1] Reflects analysis of grant awards from www.usaspending.gov issued by the following federal agencies from 2023 to 2025: Education, Health and Human Services, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Treasury, Transportation, Justice, and AmeriCorps.

The Evidence-Based Grantmaking Act
Statements of Support

Rep. Rudy Yakym
R-IN

"Congress has an obligation to the American people to spend taxpayer dollars smartly. Using impartial data and evidence to guide federal investments will allow Congress to make more informed decisions that actually deliver results. There is broad, bipartisan consensus that federal programs should be more accountable and results-driven, and this bill is a vital step in that direction."

Rep. Brittany Pettersen
D-CO

"Our federal dollars go towards so many programs that support families, enhance innovation, and strengthen our economy. I'm proud to support the Evidence-Based Grantmaking Act, which helps communities draw down federal funding while ensuring dollars are being spent on evidence-proven programming that puts value right back in Americans' pockets. This bipartisan bill is a commonsense measure to make our government more efficient."

Rep. Blake Moore
R-UT

"Americans expect accountability when they entrust their tax dollars to the federal government. This bill is a step toward ensuring federal grantmaking agencies only award funds to outcomes-based programs, providing measurable results and prioritizing government efficiency."

Rep. Don Bacon
R-NE

"Improving government efficiency isn't as simple as eliminating entire programs or downsizing federal agencies to save a quick buck. It requires careful, impartial consideration of what's actually performing, and leaning on data and evidence. We should be looking at what's delivering results for taxpayers, and this bill helps Congress and the federal government take an important step in that direction."

For more information or to co-sponsor H.R. 7025, please contact:
Matthew Wells in Rep. Yakym's office
matthew.wells@mail.house.gov