



For Immediate Release

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Twelve Cities Join What Works Cities, Expanding Wave of Local Government Leaders Accelerating Their Use of Data and Evidence to Improve Lives

Bloomberg Philanthropies' Initiative Helps Cities Use Data and Evidence to Make Better Decisions

Toolkit Puts Powerful Resources in Hands of City Leaders

NEW YORK – June 13, 2016 –Today, Results for America announced 12 new cities selected to join the national What Works Cities initiative, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The addition of the new cities demonstrates the growing interest by local government leaders to use data and evidence to make better decisions and improve results for city residents. Additionally, Results for America and other What Works Cities partners today released [a toolkit of resources](#) to support cities' work in the areas of open data, performance management, low-cost evaluations, and results-driven contracting.

The new [What Works Cities Resource Toolkit](#)– available to the public – includes best practices in designing open data policies and creating robust open data portals, advancing performance management programs by setting stronger targets, utilizing behavioral insights to run randomized control trials and strategically managing city contracts. What Works Cities partners will continue to develop resources and best practice guides, which are available to all city leaders around the country. What Works Cities resources can be found [here](#).

The newest What Works Cities are:

- Baltimore, Maryland
- Buffalo, New York
- Cape Coral, Florida
- Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- Greensboro, North Carolina
- Gresham, Oregon
- Kansas City, Kansas
- Naperville, Illinois
- Providence, Rhode Island
- Scottsdale, Arizona
- Topeka, Kansas
- Wichita, Kansas

With the addition of these new cities, 39 cities in 25 states are now part of the initiative. As What Works Cities, they receive technical assistance and join a network of fellow city leaders who are

sharing best practices and advancing each other's work. The cities have a combined population of 14 million Americans, with annual budgets exceeding \$48 billion.

“These city leaders are committed to utilizing data to make better decisions, engage residents and hold themselves accountable,” said James Anderson, the head of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Government Innovation program. “Bloomberg Philanthropies is excited to support these cities and help them to achieve their ambitions.”

The initiative collaborates with participating municipalities to review their current use of data and evidence, understand where they are utilizing best practices, and identify areas for growth. Through its expert partners, the initiative then develops customized approaches to help cities expand their use of data and evidence. For example:

- Buffalo, NY; Cape Coral, FL; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Greensboro, NC; Kansas City, KS; Naperville, IL; Providence, RI; Scottsdale, AZ; Topeka, KS, and Wichita, KS, will work with the Sunlight Foundation and the Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University (GovEx) to establish and improve open data practices in order to make their cities' data more accessible to city managers and the public, engage residents around government priorities and services, and increase transparency and accountability.
- Baltimore, MD; Buffalo, NY; Cape Coral, FL; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Greensboro, NC; Gresham, OR; Kansas City, KS; Naperville, IL; Topeka, KS; Scottsdale, AZ, and Wichita, KS, will work with GovEx to establish and improve performance management programs to set, track, and share progress toward priority goals, strengthen accountability, and achieve better results.
- Gresham, OR, and Scottsdale, AZ, will work with the Behavioral Insights Team to develop the capacity to conduct low-cost, rapid evaluations of their programs so that managers have better information to make adjustments and improve results.
- Wichita, KS, will work with the Government Performance Lab at the Harvard Kennedy School to shift contracting practices to focus on structuring and managing contracts to deliver better results, bringing greater accountability to how public funds are spent.

Results for America is the campaign manager for What Works Cities. The initiative celebrated the success of its first year in April 2016 with a Summit involving 200 city leaders and practitioners from over 50 cities focused on the topic “[Transforming Data into Action](#).”

About What Works Cities:

What Work Cities, launched in April 2015, is one of the largest-ever philanthropic efforts to enhance cities' use of data and evidence. The initiative will provide technical assistance to 100 cities on a rolling basis through 2018 and offer cities around the country tools and resources they need to succeed. What Works Cities was named by Forbes as “one of the biggest philanthropic bets on social change from 2015.” For more information, visit whatworkscities.bloomberg.org.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies:

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in over 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting

change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving. In 2015, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed over half a billion dollars. For more information, visit bloomberg.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat: Bloombergdotorg and Twitter @BloombergDotOrg.

About Results for America:

Results for America (RFA) is improving outcomes for young people, their families, and communities by shifting public resources toward evidence-based, results-driven solutions. RFA is working to achieve this goal by building a strong bipartisan "Invest in What Works" coalition; developing and advancing the next generation of evidence-based, results-driven practices, policies, and programs; and supporting leaders at all levels of government to invest in what works. For more information, visit results4america.org.

Contact:

Results for America/What Works Cities, Sharman Stein, (646) 854-5420
sharman@results4america.org

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