

March 8, 2018

Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Democratic Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey:

We are writing to request that you include the attached funding and language provisions in the FY'19 Appropriations Committees' bills and reports for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; the Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; and the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies.

Our nation continues to face severe budget constraints at all levels of government as well as enormous social and economic shifts. These factors, combined with an increasingly globally competitive workforce, require us to invest taxpayer dollars in the most effective and efficient manner possible. In past years, federal Appropriations Acts have included an unprecedented commitment to evidence-based, results-driven solutions, but much more needs to be done. We must increase the focus on data and evidence to ensure that scarce federal resources are invested in programs with proven track records.

We thank you for previous support and the positive steps you have taken toward building a strong evidence-based, results-driven federal policy agenda. We ask you again this year to reaffirm your commitment to improving outcomes for all Americans by incorporating the attached Invest in What Works recommendations in the FY'19 appropriations bills and committee reports.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles
Mayor Mike Rawlings, City of Dallas
County Executive Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County
City of Chula Vista, CA
City of Dallas, TX
City of Gilbert, AZ
City of Milwaukee, WI
City of Providence, RI
City of South Bend, IN
City of Tyler, TX

Achievement Network
America Forward
American School Health Association
America's Promise Alliance
AMTC & Associates

AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
(APPAM)
Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School
Boston Plan for Excellence
Bottom Line
Build Advisory
Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL)
California Association For Bilingual Education (CABE)
Cascade Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.
Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)
Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns
Hopkins University
Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins
University
Children's Aid

Chrysalis
 City Year, Inc.
 Civic Enterprises
 College Possible
 Communities In Schools National
 Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC)
 ConnCAN
 CSH
 Democracy Builders
 DREAM
 Education Analytics
 Education and Outreach Group, Sonoma State University
 Education Development Center
 Education Northwest
 EFFICACCITY, LLC
 Empirical Education Inc.
 ETR
 ETS
 Everyone Graduates Center
 First Place for Youth
 Forum for Youth Investment
 Friends of the Children
 Fund for Cities of Service
 FUSE Corps
 Goodwill of Silicon Valley
 Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
 Green Dot Public Schools
 GreenLight Fund
 Healthy Futures of Texas
 Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.
 Higher Achievement
 IDEA Public Schools
 Institute for Child Success
 Jobs for the Future
 JVS Boston
 King County, WA
 KIPP
 Knowledge Alliance
 Leading Educators
 Leading Inside Out
 Learning Forward
 LIFT
 Lift Louisiana
 Literacy Design Collaborative
 Louisville Metro Government
 Marzano Research
 McREL International
 Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas
 Mile High WorkShop
 Millionair Club Charity
 Montgomery County (NC) Schools
 National Coalition of Sexually Transmitted Disease
 Directors
 National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD)
 National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
 National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
 National Writing Project
 New Classrooms Innovation Partners
 New Leaders
 New Moms
 New Profit, Inc.
 New Teacher Center
 New York Hall of Science
 Nonprofit Finance Fund
 Northern Humboldt Union High School District
 Nurse-Family Partnership
 PACE Center for Girls
 Per Scholas, Inc.
 Power to Decide
 PowerMyLearning
 Project Evident
 REDF
 Research Institute for Key Indicators LLC
 Results for America
 RMC Research
 Roca
 Root Cause
 Saint Louis Effort for AIDS
 SHIFT NC
 Social Finance US
 Social Innovation Research Center
 South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
 Spurwink BARR Center
 Success for All Foundation
 Sunlight Foundation
 Teach For America
 Teach Plus
 Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education
 (SCORE)
 Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
 The Boston Foundation
 The Dibble Institute
 The Policy & Research Group
 TNTP
 U.S. Soccer Foundation
 uAspire
 United Way for Southeastern Michigan
 United Way of Greenville County
 Urban Alliance
 Urban Arts Partnership
 Venture Philanthropy Partners
 Voices for National Service
 Waterford Institute
 WestEd
 Women's Bean Project
 Wyman Center
 Year Up
 Youth Villages

Allan C. Stam, Dean, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia
Bruce Reed, Co-Founder and CEO, Civic, and former Director, White House Domestic Policy Council (Pres. Clinton)
Diana Fishbein, Professor, Penn State University
Jason Furman, Professor of the Practice of Economic Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government
Jim Kohlmoos, Principal, EDGE Consulting LLC
Jim Shelton, Senior Fellow, Results for America, and former Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
John Bridgeland, CEO, Civic Enterprises, and former Director, White House Domestic Policy Council (Pres. G.W. Bush)
Joshua Ogburn, Director, University of Virginia Pay for Success Lab

Kevin Madden, Partner, Hamilton Place Strategies, and former Senior Advisor and Spokesman for Governor Mitt Romney (2012 and 2008 presidential campaigns)
Lauren Tingey, Associate Director, Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health
Linda Gibbs, Principal, Bloomberg Associates
Mark Greenberg, Professor, Penn State University
Matt Segneri, Director, Social Enterprise Initiative, Harvard Business School
Melody Barnes, Principal & Co-Founder, MB2 Solutions LLC, and former Director, White House Domestic Policy Council (Pres. Obama)
Michael A. Bailey, Interim Dean, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University
Rebecca Maynard, University Trustee Chair Professor of Education and Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania
Robert Shea, Principal, Grant Thornton

SUMMARY OF FY'19 INVEST IN WHAT WORKS REQUESTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Language - **WIOA Pay for Performance**: provide technical assistance for Pay for Performance.

Language - **Evaluation set-aside**: set aside 1% of discretionary funds for program evaluations.

\$10,000,000 – **Workforce Data Quality Initiative**: build state/local data capacity for tracking employment/educational outcomes of WIOA program participants.

\$88,000,000 - **Reentry Projects**: build on evidence-based interventions and practices that will lead to improved employment outcomes for young and older adults who have been incarcerated.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

\$25,000,000 - **Head Start Designation Renewal System (DRS)**: continue to use evidence to determine if Head Start and Early Head Start agencies deliver high-quality and comprehensive services.

\$116,800,000 - **Teen Pregnancy Prevention**: continue tiered-evidence approach and grants to scale-up proven programs and develop, test, and evaluate innovative programs, as well as evaluate teen pregnancy prevention approaches.

Language - **Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home visiting program**: continue to encourage HRSA and ACF to collaborate to improve outcomes for at-risk pregnant women and families through evidence-based home visiting programs.

Language - **Community Mental Health Services Block Grant**: continue setting aside 10% of funds to support evidence-based mental health prevention and treatment practices.

\$15,000,000 - **Children's Research and Technical Assistance**: continue developing and evaluating approaches to reducing welfare dependency and increasing well-being of minor children and their parents.

Language - **Statistical Access to National Directory for New Hires (NDNH)**: allow select access to the NDNH dataset for research purposes, consistent with strong privacy and confidentiality protections.

Language - **Departmental Management Evidence-Based Programming**: encourages the agency to assist operating divisions to adopt cost-effective approaches to building evidence through evaluations/innovative grant designs/partnerships.

\$400,000,000- **Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program**: extend and expand to permit states to provide voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to women during pregnancy and parents with young children.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Language - **Grants to Local Education Agencies**: direct the Department to encourage states and school districts to emphasize evidence-based interventions in school improvement plans.

Language - **Neglected and Delinquent**: provide technical assistance for Pay for Success.

\$180,000,000 – **Education Innovation and Research (EIR)**: support field-initiated, state and local efforts to develop, implement, and scale innovative and evidence-based projects.

\$150,000,000 – **Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools**: support competitive grants to charter management organizations with proven track records of success.

Language – **Evaluation set aside**: set aside 1% of all discretionary funds, except for Pell Grants, for program evaluations.

\$675,000,000 - **Institute of Education Sciences**: support research and evaluation to meet educator and policymaker needs.

\$94,000,000 - **Supporting Effective Educator Development Grants (SEED)**: support evidence-based preparation and development opportunities for educators.

Language - **Student Support and Academic Enrichment**: provide technical assistance for Pay for Success.

Language – **Evidence-Based Grantmaking**: direct the Secretary to use evidence of effectiveness in awarding ten largest competitive grants.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

\$536,600,000 - **AmeriCorps State and National**: support community-based organizations and programs that implement evidence-informed and evidence-based solutions.

\$6,000,000 - **Evaluation**: continue the research and evaluation agenda to implement the most effective policies, practices, programs and initiatives to build strong evidence to improve outcomes.

GENERAL PROVISIONS – Departments of Labor, HHS and Education

Language - **Performance Partnership Pilots (P3)**: support establishing up to 10 P3's to provide greater flexibility to federal grantees in exchange for greater focus on outcomes.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Language - **Second Chance Act Offender Re-entry Programs**: set aside \$20,000,000 for Pay for Success, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for implementing the Permanent Supportive Housing Model.

Language - **Performance Partnership Pilots (P3)**: allow participation with other agencies to partner in P3's.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Language – **Performance Partnership Pilots (P3)**: allow HUD to partner with other federal agencies in P3's.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

\$22,400,000 - **USAID - Development Innovation Ventures**: support a tiered-evidence approach to testing, developing, implementing, scaling-up, and evaluating global development solutions.

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS FY'19 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

Pay for Performance. - The Committee continues to believe that the Pay for Performance authority under WIOA is a promising, innovative approach to using data, evidence, and evaluation to improve workforce development outcomes for the most vulnerable citizens. The Committee directs the Department to continue to provide technical assistance to states and localities to help them utilize Pay for Performance strategies.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative. - The Committee has included \$10,000,000 for competitive grants to support the development and enhancement of longitudinal data systems that integrate education and workforce data. This initiative will help build state and local capacity to track employment and educational outcomes of WIOA program participants, including those with disabilities, and provide information about job success rates and training programs.

Reentry Employment Opportunities (REO). - The Committee has included \$88,000,000 for competitive grants to provide funding opportunities to build projects built on evidence-based interventions or promising practices that will lead to improved employment outcomes for either young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 who have been involved in either the juvenile or adult justice system or adults ages 25 or older who have been incarcerated in the adult criminal justice system.

GENERAL PROVISION

Evaluation set-aside. - The bill continues to use a set-aside funding mechanism to support the evaluation of employment and training programs. Instead of directly providing funds for evaluation, the Committee recommendation supports evaluation activities, and has increased the set aside from 0.75 percent to 1.0 percent for all training and employment programs, including the WIOA formula programs, Job Corps, Community Service Employment for Older Americans, the Employment Service, and others. The set-aside approach ensures that sufficient funding is available to carry out comprehensive evaluation and applied research activities. ETA will continue to conduct evaluation and applied research activities in consultation with the Department's chief evaluation officer, who oversees the evaluation program. Results will continue to inform policy, advance the Department's mission, and improve its performance-based management initiatives.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. - The Committee continues to encourage HRSA and the Administration for Children and Families to continue their collaboration and partnerships to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk pregnant women, parents, and young children through evidence-based home visiting programs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. - The Committee continues bill language setting aside at least 10 percent of the funds for the MHBG program for evidence-based programs to address the needs of individuals with early serious mental illness, including psychotic disorders. The Committee continues to direct SAMHSA to work in collaboration with NIMH to ensure that funds from the set-aside are only used for programs showing strong evidence of effectiveness.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HEADSTART

Head Start Designation Renewal System. - Within the total for Head Start, the Committee recommendation includes \$25,000,000 for the Head Start Designation Renewal System. The Committee also directs the Department to continue the use of evidence in determining if head start and early head start are delivering high-quality and comprehensive services.

CHILDREN'S RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Children's Research and Technical Assistance. – The Committee bill includes language which provides \$15,000,000 for welfare research to support the cost of developing and evaluating innovative approaches for reducing welfare dependency and increasing the well-being of minor children.

NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR NEW HIRES

National Directory of New Hires. - The Committee recommends permitting select Federal statistical and evaluation units to access the HHS's National Directory of New Hires dataset of Unemployment Insurance earnings data for statistical purposes, consistent with privacy and confidentiality protections.

GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Teen Pregnancy Prevention. - The Committee includes \$110,000,000 for making competitive contracts and to continue funding grants to public and private entities to the same extent and in the same manner as those grants were funded in fiscal year 2016 to fund medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teen pregnancy and for the Federal costs associated with administering and evaluating such contracts and grants, of which not more than 10 percent of the available funds shall be for training and technical assistance, evaluation, outreach, and additional program support activities, and of the remaining amount 75 percent shall be for replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors, and 25 percent shall be available for research and demonstration grants to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act, \$6,800,000 shall be available to carry out evaluations (including longitudinal evaluations) of teenage pregnancy prevention approaches"

Evidence-Based Programming. - The Committee urges HHS operating divisions to apply and to build evidence that will improve program effectiveness. The Committee believes that the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation [ASPE] can play a central role in improving evaluation and evidence-based policymaking across the Department by helping all HHS components develop capacity to meet the standards set forth in ACF's Evaluation Policy. The Committee encourages ASPE to help operating divisions adopt innovative approaches to support partnerships between service delivery projects and researchers; by leveraging emerging opportunities to use linked data to measure performance and conduct comprehensive, rigorous evaluations at a reasonable cost; and by improving the use of rigorous research to inform policy.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

Grants to Local Education Agencies. – The Committee has included language, as outlined in ESSA, that requires states to set aside 7% of the funds for Title I, Part A, for activities to help school districts improve low-performing schools and improvement plans that must include evidence-based interventions that demonstrate strong, moderate, or promising levels of evidence. Further, the Committee directs the Department to provide technical assistance and support to states and school districts to help them carry out this requirement.

Neglected and Delinquent. – The Committee encourages the Department to include technical assistance to grantees for using funds for Pay for Success.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT (SEED) GRANTS

Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant. - The Committee has included \$94,000,000 for SEED to expand support for grants to national nonprofit organizations that provide evidence-based professional development activities for teachers, principals, and school leaders.

Student Support and Academic Enrichment. – The Committee encourages the Department to include technical assistance to grantees for using funds for Pay for Success.

INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Education Innovation and Research (EIR). - The Committee recommends \$180,000,000 for EIR grants that support field initiated state and local efforts to develop and implement innovative evidence-based projects. Funds will support new and ongoing projects that will refine innovative new practices with the potential for future scaling-up as well as expansion grants that will require more rigorous levels of evidence in order to justify further replication and scaling.

HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools. - The Committee includes \$150,000,000 for competitive grants to charter management organizations (CMOs) with proven track records of success. The programs goal is to significantly increase academic achievement and attainment for all students, as well as CMO ability to provide sound financial and business management plans, and their willingness to offer transparent plans for closing schools that do not meet high standards of performance.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

Institute of Education Sciences. – The Committee includes \$675,000,000 to support research, statistics and evaluation to study and provide policymakers, educators, teachers and students with the necessary tools to meet the problems and challenges faced by today’s schools.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-Based Grant Making. – The Committee is pleased with the Department’s efforts to use evidence of effectiveness as a priority when making competitive grant awards and urges the Department to do so in the ten largest competitive grant programs. The Committee is concerned that some grant applicants, in the past, have been given competitive preference points for minor aspects of proposed activities that are evidence-based rather than for significant or multiple activities. The Committee urges the Department to ensure that grant applicants demonstrate evidence of effectiveness for significant portions of proposed grant activities.

GENERAL PROVISION

EVALUATIONS

Evaluations. - The Committee recommends bill language that provides the Department with authority to use 1% of all discretionary appropriations provided in this Act for Department of Education agencies, with the exception of Pell Grants, for evaluation purposes consistent with the terms and conditions in this Act applicable to such office. The funds are in addition to other dollars that are specifically designated for evaluation purpose. The Committee also includes language that permits funds to be pooled across all education agencies to conduct evaluations without respect to the source of funds for those activities. The Committee further recommends that the Department provide an evaluation plan to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL GRANTS

AmeriCorps State and National Grants. – The Committee recommends \$536,600,000 to support grants to community-based organizations and agencies to address local needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. These funds will also continue to support and invest in evidence-informed and evidence-based community solutions, providing a critical source of human capital to meet pressing needs across the country and a pathway to economic and educational opportunities for AmeriCorps members. The Committee also supports the use of evidence in the making of grant awards. Further, the Committee supports efforts to increase the number of AmeriCorps to 100,000 members each year.

Evaluation. – The Committee has included \$6,000,000 for the Corporation to continue the agencies research and evaluation agenda and to implement the most effective policies, practices, and program initiatives to build strong evidence and improve outcomes.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

GENERAL PROVISION

PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOTS

Performance Partnership Pilots. - The Committee continues a general provision establishing up to 10 performance partnership pilots to improve outcomes and provide greater flexibility to grantees. These pilots may be used to prevent youth from disconnecting from school or work, provide education, training, employment, and other related social services. All federal agencies throughout this Act may use a portion of their discretionary funds to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SECOND CHANCE ACT OFFENDER RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

PAY FOR SUCCESS

Second Chance Act Pay for Success. – The Committee recommends bill language raising the set-aside for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects under Second Chance Act Offender Re-entry program, from \$7,500,000 to \$20,000,000 and permits \$10,000,000 of those funds to be used to help implement the Permanent Supportive Housing Model, an increase of \$5,000,000 over last year's level.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - GENERAL PROVISION

PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOTS

Performance Partnership Pilots Report Language. - The Committee recommends bill language which permits the Department to use federal discretionary funds through the Office of Justice Programs to participate with other Federal agencies in carrying out Performance Partnership Pilots.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – GENERAL PROVISION

Performance Partnership Pilots. - The Committee has included language permitting HUD to partner with other Federal agencies in the Performance Partnership Pilot program, a cross-Federal agency initiative serving disconnected youth through innovative, cost-effective, and outcome-focused strategies.

Evaluation and Evidence-Building. – The Committee urges HUD operating divisions to build and apply evidence that will improve program effectiveness. The Committee believes that the Office of Policy Development and Research [PD&R] can play a central role in improving evaluation and evidence-based policymaking across the Department and encourages PD&R to help operating divisions adopt a policy to conduct evaluations across all competitive grant programs; to use evidence of effectiveness as a priority when awarding competitive grants; to adopt cost-effective approaches to building evidence through use of innovative grant designs that support partnerships between service delivery projects and researchers; by leveraging emerging opportunities to use linked data to measure performance and conduct comprehensive, rigorous evaluations at a reasonable cost; and by partnering with philanthropic organizations that focus on improving the use of rigorous research to inform policy.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES (DIV)

Development Innovation Ventures. - The Committee includes \$22,400,000 for DIV to invest in Innovative programs and support a tiered-evidence approach to testing, developing, implementing, scaling-up and evaluating global development solutions that have the potential to change millions of lives in developing countries.

SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY PROGRAMS

To provide you with a complete picture of our evidence and evaluation requests, the Invest in What Works Coalition also supports the following mandatory program, while recognizing it falls outside the purview of your committee.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). – We support \$400,000,000 in mandatory funding in FY'19 to extend and expand MIECHV, which permits states to provide voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to women during pregnancy and to parents with young children.