

March 11, 2020

Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
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 Kay Granger
Ranking Republican Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS COALITION FY 2021 REQUESTS

Dear Chairs Shelby and Lowey, Vice Chair Leahy, and Ranking Member Granger:

Over the past eight years, with your continued support, local, state, and federal government agencies and their grantees have made great strides in driving taxpayer dollars toward evidence-based, results-driven solutions.

As members of this Coalition, we are once again requesting that you help drive federal funds toward what works by including the attached funding and language provisions in the following FY 2021 appropriations bills and reports: Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; and Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies.

Your Appropriations Committees have demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to evidence-based, results-driven solutions to date, but much more needs to be done. According to the 2019 Invest in What Works Federal Standard of Excellence, 35 federal grant programs at 14 of the largest federal social services and international development agencies prioritized evidence of effectiveness in some way last year, but 81 of the largest grant programs at these same agencies did not. The attached funding and language provisions would help strengthen both the willingness and ability of federal agencies to continue harnessing the power of evidence and data to improve outcomes at the pace and scale our country needs.

We thank you for your past support and the positive steps you have taken toward building a strong evidence-based, results-driven federal policy agenda. We request that you reaffirm your commitment to improving outcomes for all Americans by incorporating the attached recommendations in the relevant FY 2021 appropriations bills and committee reports.

Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

(organizations listed in alphabetical order)

America Forward
American Educational Research Association
Appletree Institute for Education Innovation
BellXcel
Campaign for Youth Justice
Cascade Philanthropy Advisors
Children and Family Futures
City Year Inc.
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
College Possible
Communities In Schools
Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC)
Education Analytics
EFFICACITY
Forum for Youth Investment
Friends of the Children
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
GreenLight Fund
Healthy Teens Coalition
Higher Achievement
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
JFF
Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative
KIPP Foundation
Knowledge Alliance
Leading Educators
Marzano Research
McREL International
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Crittenton
National Employment Law Project
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
New Leaders
New Moms
New Teacher Center
New York Hall of Science
Nurse-Family Partnership

Pace Center for Girls
Per Scholas, Inc.
Power to Decide
Reading & Math, Inc.
REDF
Research Institute for Key Indicators (RIKILLC)
Results for America
ServeMinnesota
Social Innovation Research Center
StriveTogether
Success for all Foundation
Teach For America
Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
The Achievement Network (ANet)
The Center for Employment Opportunities
The Dibble Institute
The Policy & Research Group
Third Sector
Voices for National Service
Waterford.org
Way to Grow
Wyman Center
Youth Villages
Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor, City of Chula Vista
Katharine Abraham, Former Chair, U.S. Commission on Evidence-
Based Policymaking
Melody Barnes, Former Director, White House Domestic Policy
Counsel (Obama)
John Bridgeland, Former Assistant to the President and Director of the
White House Domestic Policy Council (G.W. Bush Administration),
Member, White House Council for Community Solutions (Obama
Administration)
Lynn Cominsky, Professor, Sonoma State University
Michael, Greenstone, Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor
of Economics, University of Chicago
Ben Harris, KPPI Executive Director, Kellogg School of Management,
Northwestern University
Hilary Hoynes, Economics Professor, University of California,
Berkeley
Jim Kohlmoos, Former Executive Director, National Association of
State Boards of Education
Rebecca Maynard, University Trustee Professor of Education and
Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania

Cecilia Munoz, Former Director, White House Domestic Policy Council (Obama)

Bruce Reed, Former Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to Vice President Joe Biden (Obama Administration); Former Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council (Clinton Administration)

Matt Segneri, Director, Harvard Business School Social Enterprise Initiative

Diane Schanzenbach, Professor, Northwestern University

Robert Shea, Former Associate Director for the U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Kathy Stack, Former Deputy Associate Director, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Kenneth Troske, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Kentucky

Kim Wallin, Former State Controller, State of Nevada

Neil Wollman, Senior Fellow, Bentley Service-Learning Center, Bentley University

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS FY'21 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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. These funds ensure that sufficient funding is available to carry out comprehensive evaluation and applied research activities in consultation with the Department’s chief evaluation officer, who oversees the evaluation program. Results will inform policy, advance the Department’s mission, and improve its performance-based management initiatives.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs. Non-competitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. – The Committee continues to believe that the execution of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act will enhance the evidence-building capacity of Federal agencies, strengthen privacy protections, improve secure access to data, and provide more and higher quality evidence to policymakers. Therefore the Committee directs the Department to continue to include in the fiscal year 2022 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Department-Wide Evidence Participation. – The Committee directs the Secretary to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the Department-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in Department-led evaluations.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

WIOA 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.

YouthBuild. – The Committee recommends \$127,500,000 to support grants to community-based organizations and agencies, with an emphasis on evidence-informed and evidence-based solutions, for vocational and workforce training to provide pathways to

employment for unemployed, out-of-school opportunity youth ages 16-24. In making grant awards the Committee supports a priority on evidence of effectiveness.

Reintegration of Ex-Offenders. – The Committee has included \$105,000,000 for the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders program which provides workforce development and reentry services for individuals with criminal records or who have been justice-system involved. This competitive grant program provides funding opportunities for evidence-based interventions or promising practices that lead to improved training and employment outcomes for both young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 as well as adults ages 25 and older.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative. – The Committee has included \$10,000,000 for the Workforce Data Initiative to support competitive grants to develop and enhance 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.

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA). – The Committee includes \$117,000,000 for the RESEA program, with an additional \$83,000,000 made available pursuant to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (PL 115– 123). The Committee continues to support the RESEA program and urges the Department to focus its efforts on requiring states to submit a plan with a description of evidence-based interventions and policies to help the unemployed find work and reduce the rate of improper payments in the UI system.

National Directory of New Hires. – The Committee continues to encourage the Department to permit select Federal statistical and evaluation units to access the HHS’s National Directory of New Hires dataset of Unemployment Insurance earnings for statistical purposes, consistent with privacy and confidentiality protections. The Committee also includes bill language providing that the Department may make payments on behalf of States for the use of the National Directory of New Hires.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GENERAL PROVISION

Evaluation Set-aside. – The bill includes a new provision that provides a set-aside funding mechanism to support the evaluation of Department programs. The provision sets aside 1.0 percent for all Department programs. These funds will ensure that sufficient funding is available to carry out comprehensive evaluation activities. The Committee believes that these evaluation results will inform policy, advance the Department’s mission, and improve its performance-based management initiatives.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs. Non-competitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. – The Committee continues to believe that the execution of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act will enhance the evidence-building capacity of Federal agencies, strengthen privacy protections, improve secure access to data, and provide more and higher quality evidence to policymakers. Therefore the Committee directs the Department to continue to include in the fiscal year 2022 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Department-Wide Evidence Participation. – The Committee directs the Secretary to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the Department-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in Department-led evaluations.

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Maternal Mortality. – The Committee continues to be concerned regarding the rising maternal mortality rate in the U.S. To address this concern the Committee has included \$53,000,000 within Special Projects of Regional and National Significance [SPRANS] for State Maternal Health Innovation Grants to establish demonstrations to implement evidence-based interventions to address critical gaps in maternity care service delivery and reduce and prevent maternal mortality.

Bureau of Primary Health Care. – The Committee supports HRSA’s continued promotion of expanded partnerships between Health Centers and evidence-based home visiting programs to improve maternal and child health outcomes in high-need communities. The Committee urges the Bureau of Primary Health Care to identify how these partnerships may fit within Health Centers’ scope of practice, ways home visiting programs can provide cost-effective benefits, care coordination and service referral to help Health Centers achieve community health goals.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

BIRTH DEFECTS, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, DISABILITIES AND HEALTH

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. – The Committee has included \$3,000,000 to support collaborative efforts to improve birth outcomes and guidance for infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome and their families, including innovative or evidenced-based payment models for prevention, screening, and treatment plans.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

MENTAL HEALTH

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 commends SAMHSA for their collaboration with NIMH on the implementation of this set-aside and directs SAMHSA to continue to ensure that funds from this set-aside are only used for programs showing strong evidence of effectiveness and that target the first episode of psychosis.

National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative. – The Committee has included \$69,000,000 to continue the initiative to improve behavioral health services and interventions for children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events. Grants support community-based mental health clinics through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, promote effective community practices and evidence-based interventions with collaborative efforts with mental health and other systems.

Substance Abuse Treatment for Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults. – The Committee has included \$10,000,000 for communities to support evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorders for children, adolescents, and young adults.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

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 grant recipients are delivering high-quality and comprehensive services.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Infant Plans of Safe Care. – The agreement continues \$60,000,000 to help States develop and implement plans of safe care as required by section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The agreement directs ACF to enhance its coordination with States, especially those with high or increasing rates of neonatal abstinence syndrome, and to brief the Committees on such effort within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

Kinship Navigator. – The Committee recommendation includes \$20,000,000 for the Kinship Navigator Programs to help build the evidence base in order for programs to become eligible for mandatory funding available under the Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA).

Regional Partnership Grants. – The Committee recommendation includes \$10,000,000 for Regional Partnership Grants and strongly encourages ACF to prioritize applicants that will focus on preparing programs to qualify as evidence-based foster care prevention services under FFPSA, including family-focused, residential treatment programs and programs that mitigate the traumatic impact of parental incarceration.

Healthy Marriage Promotion and Responsible Fatherhood. – The Committee has included \$150,000,000 to provide low-income couples and individuals with the tools needed to form and sustain healthy marriages and relationships and evidence-based services that promote strong, healthy, and economically secure families and responsible parenting skills and fatherhood.

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative. – The Committee recommends \$47,000,000 for the initiative that provides competitive matching grants to a limited number of States to encourage program innovation and coordination of public and private services for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families. The program supports evidence-based services that prevent and treat Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. – The Committee has included \$112,000,000 to support programs with evidence of efficiency, effectiveness, and strategies to ensure widespread use of evidence-based findings. The program enhances the abilities of people with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community and to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities for its citizens with disabilities.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Teen Pregnancy Prevention. – The Committee includes \$101,000,000 to support competitive grants to public and private entities to fund high-quality, evidence-based, and medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teen pregnancy. Funds are also used for the Federal costs associated with administering and evaluating such contracts and grants. The Committee has included bill language which sets aside not more than 10 percent of the available funds for training and technical assistance, evaluation, outreach, and additional program support activities. 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 rigorously test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy. Of the funds provided under section 241 of the PHS Act, \$6,800,000 shall be available to carry out evaluations of teenage pregnancy prevention approaches, of which \$600,000 shall be to maintain and continue to update the existing Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GENERAL PROVISION

Evaluation Set-aside. – The Committee recommendation includes bill language that provides the Department with authority to use 1 percent of all discretionary appropriations provided in this Act for the Department of Education agencies, with the exception of Pell Grants, for evaluation purposes consistent with the terms and conditions of the Act applicable to such office. The funds are in addition to other dollars that are specifically designated for evaluation purposes. 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 directs that the Department provide an evaluation plan to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees no later than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds.

Higher Education Pooled Evaluation Authority. – The Committee encourages the Secretary to reserve 0.5 percent of higher education program funding except funding for the Pell Grant program for rigorous program evaluation, data collection, and analysis of outcome data.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to use demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as part of the selection criteria through its Education Department General Administrative Regulations, consistent with authorizations, for all competitive grant programs. Non-competitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. – The Committee continues to believe that the execution of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act will enhance the evidence-building capacity of Federal agencies, strengthen privacy protections, improve secure access to data, and provide more and higher quality evidence to policymakers. Therefore the Committee directs the Department to continue to include in the fiscal year 2022 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Department-Wide Evidence Participation. – The Committee directs the Secretary to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the Department-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in Department-led evaluations.

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.

STATE AGENCY PROGRAMS

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

Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants. – The Committee has included \$192,000,000 to support literacy grants for disadvantaged and low-income children, English learners, and those with disabilities with intensive instruction in evidence-based literacy methods.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Student Support and Academic Enrichment. – The Committee also expects funds reserved for technical assistance and capacity building to be used strictly to support state education agencies and local education agencies in carrying out authorized activities under this program. In the fiscal year 2022 Budget Justification, the Committee expects the Department to provide current and planned expenditures, and include a plan for how resources will be spent to build the capacity of state education agencies and local education agencies and provide technical assistance. The plan should include how resources will be spent helping state education agencies and local education agencies vet evidence, implement evidence-based interventions, and incorporate evidence-based Student Support and Academic Enrichment activities into school

improvement strategies. The Committee also 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 \$190,000,000 for EIR grants to 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.

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.

Teacher and Leader Incentive Grants. – The Committee recommends \$200,000,000 for the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants program to provide grants to States, school districts, and partnerships to develop, implement, improve, or expand human capital management systems or performance-based compensation systems in schools.

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.

SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZEN EDUCATION

Full-Service Community Schools. – The Committee has included \$40,000,000 for Full-Service Community Schools for competitive grants to support school-based comprehensive services for students, families, and communities and evidence-based models to meet the holistic needs of children and families.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

Institute of Education Sciences. – The Committee includes \$670,000,000 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.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Federal TRIO Programs. – The Committee recommends \$1,090,000,000 to support programs to encourage low-income, first-generation college students to enter and complete college. The Committee continues to urge the Department to include an evidence-based priority during grant competitions.

Gaining Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). – The Committee recommends \$365,000,000 to support State grants and partnerships with low-income schools and community organizations to provide students with skills and scholarships to pursue postsecondary education. The program includes an evaluation set-aside for data collection.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Evaluation. – The Committee has included \$4,000,000 for the Corporation to continue its research and evaluation agenda and to implement the most effective policies, practices, and program initiatives to build strong evidence and improve outcomes.

Evidence-based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that evidence of effectiveness is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs. Non-competitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Corporation is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Agency-Wide Evidence Participation. – The Committee directs the Chief Executive Officer to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the agency-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in agency-led evaluations.

AmeriCorps State and National Grants. – The Committee recommends \$545,000,000 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.

National Service Trust. – The Committee recommends \$276,000,000 for the National Service Trust that provides Education Awards for eligible AmeriCorps members who successfully complete their terms of service in an AmeriCorps program.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL PROVISION

Evaluation Set-aside. – The bill includes a new provision that provides a set-aside of 1.0 percent from administrative funds to carry out comprehensive evaluation activities. The Committee believes that these evaluation results will inform policy, advance the Agency’s mission, and improve performance-based management initiatives.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

GENERAL PROVISION

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 FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence of Effectiveness. – The Committee directs the Secretary to work with the Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget to evaluate the extent to which tax expenditures are achieving their intended policy goals and cost efficiencies.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evaluation Set-aside. – The Committee has included bill language to set-aside funding to support the evaluation of programs within the Department of Justice. Instead of directly providing funds for evaluation, the Committee recommendation supports evaluation activities, and has included a set aside of 1.0 percent for programs within the Department. These funds will ensure that sufficient funding is available to carry out comprehensive evaluation and Department programs. The results would inform policy, advance the Department’s mission, and improve its performance-based management initiatives.

Evidence-based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Attorney General to ensure that evidence of effectiveness is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs. Non-competitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. – The Committee continues to believe that the execution of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act will enhance the evidence-building capacity of Federal agencies, strengthen privacy protections, improve secure access to data, and provide more and higher quality evidence to policymakers. Therefore the Committee directs the Department to continue to include in the fiscal year 2022 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Department-Wide Evidence Participation. – The Committee directs the Attorney General to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the agency-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in Department-led evaluations.

GENERAL PROVISION

Performance Partnership Pilots Report Language. – The Committee recommends bill language that 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.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

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 the 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.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants (Title II). – The Committee has included \$80,000,000, for grants to implement comprehensive State juvenile justice plans, including community-based prevention and intervention programs and activities for juvenile offenders. Funds are used to establish effective education, training, and research and evaluation, including an emphasis on the use of data and evidence in policy making and program development.

Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants (Title V). – The Committee has included \$97,000,000 for grants to local communities to implement delinquency prevention programs, including incentive grants for prison reduction, mentoring, intervention, education, developing data-driven, evidence-based prevention plans and strategies, and conducting program evaluations to determine the impact and effectiveness for juveniles who have had, or are likely to have contact with the juvenile justice system. The program seeks to support at-risk youth through a continuum of evidence-based programs.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

First Step Act (FSA). – The Committee directs the Department and the Bureau of Prisons to expedite and fully implement the FSA. The Committee has provided \$75,000,000 in dedicated funding for this purpose and to expand and develop opportunities for incarcerated individuals to participate in evidence-based, recidivism-reducing programming and productive activities.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Evidence-based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs. Non-competitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Evaluation Set-aside. – The Committee has included bill language to set-aside funding to support the evaluation of programs within the Department. Instead of directly providing funds for evaluation, the Committee recommendation supports evaluation activities, and has included a set aside of 1.0 percent for programs within the Department. These funds will ensure that sufficient funding is available to carry out comprehensive evaluations of Department programs. The results will be used to inform policy, advance the Department’s mission, and improve its performance-based management initiatives.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. – The Committee continues to believe that the execution of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act will enhance the evidence-building capacity of Federal agencies, strengthen privacy protections, improve secure access to data, and provide more and higher quality evidence to policymakers. Therefore the Committee directs the Department to continue to include in the fiscal year 2022 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Department-Wide Evidence Participation. – The Committee directs the Secretary to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the Department-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in Department-led evaluations.

GENERAL PROVISION

Performance Partnership Pilots. – The Committee has continued 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. The Committee believes there is a critical role HUD can play in this pilot, especially as communities seek to address the housing and self-sufficiency needs of disconnected youth.

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. – The Committee includes \$175,000,000 for competitive grants to address community and economic development needs through evidence-based approaches to public safety, early learning, after-school education, to transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. Grants are provided to local governments, assisted housing owners, community development corporations, non- and for-profit entities as well as public housing and tribally designated housing entities.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Continuum of Care (COC). – The Committee recommends \$2,486,000,000 for the COC program to address homelessness, with a particular emphasis on chronic homelessness, vulnerable individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Grants are awarded to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services with a preference for grantees demonstrating positive performance and outcomes.

LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes. – The Committee includes \$10,000,000 for grants to identify and reduce lead-based paint hazards with a focus on low-income neighborhoods. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to include during the grant competitions, a requirement to use evidence-based lead hazard control methods.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Evidence-based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Administrator to ensure that evidence of effectiveness is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs. Non-competitive formula grant funds have a range of evidence requirements and preferences which the Department is directed to support through enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities.

Evaluation Set-aside. – The Committee has included bill language to set-aside funding to support the evaluation of programs within USAID. Instead of directly providing funds for evaluation, the Committee recommendation supports evaluation activities, and has included a set aside of 1.0 percent for programs within the agency. These funds will ensure that sufficient funding is available to carry out comprehensive evaluations of agency programs. The results will be used to inform policy, advance the agency’s mission, and improve its performance-based management initiatives.

Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act. – The Committee continues to believe that the execution of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act will enhance the evidence-building capacity of Federal agencies, strengthen privacy protections, improve secure access to data, and provide more and higher quality evidence to policymakers. Therefore the Committee directs the agency to continue to include in the fiscal year 2022 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Agency-Wide Evidence Participation. – The Committee directs the Administrator to develop guidance to ensure that all relevant participants and grantees are involved in the agency-wide process of prioritizing evidence needs, including participating in agency-led evaluations.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS

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.