



# 2022 Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence

## Instructions and Guidance

### Instructions for Updating Your State’s 2022 Invest in What Works Standard of Excellence Responses

Below are instructions, guidance, and suggestions to support completing your state’s submission for the 2022 *Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence*.




#### Results for America has provided instructions on the following:

- [2022 Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence](#)
- [Honor Roll Opportunity: Nominating Evidence-Based Grant Programs](#)
- [Publication Timeline and Deadlines](#)
- [2022 Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence Criteria and Sub-criteria](#)  
(No changes from 2021)

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Results for America team at [states@results4america.org](mailto:states@results4america.org).

**Results for America’s Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence**

The [Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence](#) (State Standard of Excellence) sets a national standard – a “north star” – for how state governments can consistently and effectively use evidence and data in budget, policy, and management decisions to achieve better, more equitable outcomes for their residents. Annually, Results for

	<p><b>Create a National Standard</b> which defines the data and evidence infrastructure state governments need to have in place in order to invest in what works.</p>
	<p><b>Showcase Examples</b> of results-driven and evidence-based practices, policies, programs, and systems within state governments.</p>
	<p><b>Provide a Road Map</b> for state government leaders committed to investing in what works.</p>

America encourages and welcomes all 50 states to submit practices.

The State Standard of Excellence recognizes states for their evidence-based and data-driven efforts to advance more equitable outcomes in workforce, education, health, criminal justice, child welfare, and economic mobility sectors, among others.

Each year, states are recognized by Results for America publicly for their

significant progress and leadership at a [virtual event](#) and in a [press release](#) as well as other [media](#) and [outlets](#).

The 2021 State Standard of Excellence compiled 202 data-driven and evidence-based examples from 36 states, including 34 COVID-19 examples and 32 equity in government examples.

The 2021 State Standard of Excellence identified eight leading states (Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington), and three honor roll states (Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) for their data-driven and evidence-based practices, policies, programs, and systems.

### Instructions for the 2022 Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence

For the 2022 State Standard of Excellence, Results for America has provided guidance for [updating content featured in last year's 2021 State Standard of Excellence](#) as well as an opportunity to [submit state grant programs that define and prioritize evidence](#) for public recognition. As a part of the State Standard of Excellence process, Results for America will provide states with following materials:

#### **2022 Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence Spotlight**

**Action:** States provide optional, track change updates to their 2021 State Standard of Excellence content to reflect activities since September 2021.

#### **Honor Roll of State Grant Programs that Define and Prioritize Evidence**

**Action:** States may [submit nominations](#) for evidence-based grant programs for [public recognition](#).

#### **2022 State Standard of Excellence Instructions**

**Action:** States read through these instructions prior to completing their 2022 State Standard of Excellence.

### ***2022 State Standard of Excellence Updates (optional, not required)***

Results for America invites all states to participate by updating their examples featured in 2021. States may also submit new examples for criteria, but it is not required. As you are considering to update existing or submit new example(s) please consider the following:

#### **A. American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (or other federal recovery funds): Five data-driven and evidence-based ways to leverage these funds**

- ***Data and evidence capacity***  
Examples of ARP SLFRF used to build and strengthen the state's capacity to use and leverage data and evidence (i.e. data systems, evaluation and research functions in state agencies)
- ***Evidence-based practices, programs, and activities***  
Examples of ARP SLFRF used to invest in evidence-based solutions backed by strong, moderate, or preliminary evidence, as defined by the U.S. Department of Treasury's (provided [here](#)).
- ***Evaluation(s)***  
Examples of ARP SLRF used for evaluation and evaluation-activities that are designed to build evidence (i.e. rigorous program evaluations)
- ***Community engagement strategies***  
Examples of ARP SLRF used to incorporate diverse community feedback from constituents, community based organizations, and the communities themselves in planning efforts of evidence-based programs and activities.
- ***Equitable outcomes***  
Examples of ARP SLRF used to achieve more equitable outcomes and advance economic mobility through evidence-based strategies.

**B. A new equity data and evidence practice that has been implemented since September 2021 and reflects the following:**

- Embed equity in setting of strategic goals and outcomes, led by the governor and executive branch
- Collect, use, and report disaggregated data, evidence, and results to deepen understanding impacts of policies, programs, and processes
- Build inclusive processes that provide meaningful decision-making opportunities for communities and stakeholder groups when decisions are being made that affect them
- Analyze impact of budget, policy, and management decisions through an equity lens to achieve more equitable outcomes and results for residents

#### **Note on Equity:**

Please refer to the White House Office of Management and Budget [definition of equity](#) which is provided below.

*The term “equity” means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.*

*The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity.”*

#### **C. Other updates or revisions your state would like to include in 2022**

(i.e. factual update; new information based on the fiscal year; or more information to add because it is a priority for the state to include)



# 2022 Invest in What Works State Standard of Excellence

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### ***New 2022 Opportunity in State Standard of Excellence: Defining and Prioritizing Evidence in Grantmaking***

States are encouraged to [nominate grant programs](#) that define and prioritize evidence for [public recognition on a new honor roll](#). This recognition gives states and their agencies the opportunity to demonstrate how their investments through grants and contracts are designed to get better results for communities and residents.

More instructions are available [here](#) and the existing list of 2022 evidence-based grants programs featured in the Honor Roll are available [here](#).

### **2022 State Standard of Excellence Publication Timeline and Deadlines**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
Mid-April	2022 State Standard of Excellence Guidelines provided to states
June 9	2022 State Standard of Excellence recommended changes/additions due from states
July 7	2022 State Standard of Excellence draft update shared with states
August 1	2022 State Standard of Excellence revised drafts due from states
September 9	2022 State Standard of Excellence results shared with states
Fall 2022	Public launch of 2022 State Standard of Excellence