



April 23, 2025

Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS COALITION FY 2026 REQUESTS

Dear Chairs Collins, Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We want to thank you for your continued steadfast support and commitment to ensuring that the use of evidence and data is at the forefront of investing federal dollars in what works. Under your leadership, the federal government has made great strides in driving taxpayer dollars toward evidence-based, results-driven solutions. Americans care about results. The requests for FY'26 focus on delivering results for the American people. These programs are spurring innovation, promoting continuous learning, and providing solutions with proven track records that work all across the country.

Our funding and language recommendations will continue to help harness the power of evidence and data to improve outcomes for the American people at the: Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; Departments of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; Department of Financial Services and General Government; and Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies.

We thank you, once again, for your continued commitment to getting better results for young people, their families, and communities through evidence-based policymaking.

Sincerely,

Aligned Impact Muscatine County
Alliance for Learning Innovation
Austin Aspires
BluePrint Geneva
Bold Goals Coalition
Braven
Bridgeport Prospers
The Children's Agenda
Coleridge Initiative
Cradle 2 Career Minnesota
Cradle to Career Fresno County
Cradle to Career Partnership
CT Cradle to Career Coalition
Danbury Collective
Data Quality Campaign (DQC)
E3 Alliance
EDGE Consulting Partners
Education Partnerships Coalition of Minnesota (EPC)
Enterprise Muskingum
Friends of the Children
Geneva2030
GreenLight Fund
Healthy Community Initiative
ImpactTulsa
InnovateEDU
Institute for Higher Education Policy
KABOOM!
Knowledge Alliance
Leading Educators
Milwaukee Succeeds
Mission Economic Development Agency
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
New America Higher Education Program
New Moms
New York State Place Based Coalition
The Northside Achievement Zone
Norwalk ACTS
Oakland Promise
Promise Partnership Utah
REDF
Research Institute for Key Indicators Data Lab
Results for America
RiseUp Partnership
Roc the Future Alliance
Saint Paul Promise
ServeMinnesota
South Bay Community Services (SBCS)
Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM)
Stamford Cradle to Career
Stanislaus Cradle to Career Partnership

StriveTogether
Summit Education Initiative
Teach for America
Toledo Tomorrow
Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative
United for Brownsville
United Way of Central Minnesota
United Way Muscatine Iowa
United Way of North Central New Mexico
United Way of Salt Lake
Waterbury Bridge to Success Partnership, Inc
Worksystems
Yakima Valley Partners for Education

Lynn Cominsky, Professor, Physics & Astronomy,
Sonoma State University
Gary Glickman, Former Coordinator, Partnership
Fund for Program Integrity Innovation, White
House Office of Management and Budget
Donya Sartor, Mayor, City of Jonesboro
Robert Shea, Fellow, National Academy of Public
Administration

FY 2026 SUMMARY OF INVEST IN WHAT WORKS COALITION REQUESTS

INVESTING IN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Report language, where applicable, to require Federal agencies to:

- Include in all NOFOs/RFPs, and guidance making evidence of program effectiveness one of the priority selection criteria for all competitive grant awards; and
- Include evidence-based language to improve outcomes for all populations, including:
 - Evidence-Based Grant-Making: requires evidence of effectiveness for grants.
 - Strengthening Data Capacity/Infrastructure: adds allowable uses for grants.
 - Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act: directs the Secretary to report on the progress.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- Evaluation Set-Aside: directs that 1% of discretionary funds be set-aside for program evaluations.
- Strengthening Data Privacy: requests DOL/ED Secretaries to develop guidance on data/student/worker privacy.
- \$40,000,000 – Workforce Data Quality Initiative: provides funds to state/local governments for employment/educational outcomes.
- \$550,000,000 – Reemployment Services/Eligibility Assessments: requires state plans for evidence-based interventions.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- 10 percent - set-aside of MHBG for evidence-based programs to address the needs of early serious mental illness.
- \$225,000,000 – Children’s Mental Health Services: prepares children/youth for successful transition to adulthood.
- \$2,000,000,000 – State Opioid Response Grants: addresses the public health crisis caused by opioid/substance abuse.
- 5 percent set- aside within the MHBG for evidence-based, crisis care to address the needs of individuals in crisis.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Evaluation Set-Aside: sets aside 1% of discretionary funds for evaluations with the exception of Pell Grants.
- Strengthening Data Privacy: requests DOL/ED Secretaries for guidance on data/student/worker privacy.
- \$194,000,000 – Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants: supports grants for disadvantaged/low-income children.
- \$284,000,000 – Education Innovation and Research: supports field-initiated efforts for evidence-based projects.
- \$601,000,000 – School Safety and National Activities: supports school safety and expanding mental health services.
- \$93,000,000 – Promise Neighborhoods: supports youth education in distressed communities/evidence interventions
- \$443,000,000 – Full-Service Community Schools: supports evidence-based models to children and family’s needs.
- \$900,000,000 – Institute of Education Sciences: supports research and evaluation to meet educator and policymaker needs.
- \$100,000,000 – Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems: supports state longitudinal data systems.
- \$246,500,000 – Hispanic-Serving Institutions: supports improving academic/career/evidence-based professional development.
- \$400,000,000 – Gaining Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduates: supports students pursuing postsecondary education.
- \$100,000,000 – Postsecondary Student Success Grants: helps students complete higher ed.
- 0.5 percent - for evaluation of programs authorized under the HEA, except for the Pell Grant program.

RELATED AGENCY – CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- \$557,094,000 – AmeriCorps State/National Grants/Eval: supports evidence-informed solutions for CBOs.

GENERAL PROVISION – DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HHS AND EDUCATION

- Improving Data Reporting: directs the DOL/ED to report on how to improve data reporting systems.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

- Evaluation Set-Aside; Evidence-Based Grantmaking; Strengthening Data Capacity; and Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- Guidance on Evidence of Effectiveness: requires all Federal departments/agencies to include these provisions in NOFOs, RFPs, and grant announcements.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- Evaluation Set-Aside: sets aside 1% of discretionary funds for evaluations.
- \$450,000,000 – Choice Neighborhoods Initiative: supports evidence-based approaches to community/economic needs.

INVESTING IN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS. - The Committee is committed to increasing investments in evidence-based programs; rigorous program evaluations; and enhanced access to integrated data. The Committee has included language throughout the bills encouraging agencies to define and prioritize evidence of effectiveness in its practices, policies, and programs to help improve outcomes for all populations.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

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 and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs and to provide enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities for applicants. Noncompetitive 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.

Strengthening Data Capacity - The Committee is pleased that the Office of Management and Budget has revised the Uniform Grants Guidance to clarify that grant funds may be spent on data, evaluation, and integrated data systems as direct or indirect costs and also on community engagement, which can play a critical role in data collection and analysis as well as evaluation. To ensure grantees receive consistent guidance from agencies, the Committee directs the Secretary to coordinate with OMB to communicate this new guidance and best practices for implementation.

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 2027 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Strengthening Data Privacy. – The Committee directs the Secretary of Labor in conjunction with the Secretary of Education to provide guidance and technical assistance on integrated data systems and student and worker privacy. This guidance should build on and expand the guidance issued by the Privacy Technical Assistance Center in January 2017 (PTAC-IB-4).

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Workforce Data Quality Initiative. – The Committee has included \$40,000,000 for the Workforce Data Quality 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 and coordinate with organizations to track employment and educational outcomes of Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (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 recommends \$550,000,000 for the RESEA program, \$117,000,000 in base funding and an additional \$433,000,000 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 unemployment insurance system.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-Based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs and to provide enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities for applicants. Noncompetitive 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.

Strengthening Data Capacity - The Committee is pleased that the Office of Management and Budget has revised the Uniform Grants Guidance to clarify that grant funds may be spent on data, evaluation, and integrated data systems as direct or indirect costs and also on community engagement, which can play a critical role in data collection and analysis as well as evaluation. To ensure grantees receive consistent guidance from agencies, the Committee directs the Secretary to coordinate with OMB to communicate this new guidance and best practices for implementation.

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 2027 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION MENTAL HEALTH

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. – The Committee recommends 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 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.

Children’s Mental Health Program.-The Committee recommends \$225,000,000 for services to help prepare children and youth for successful transition to adulthood and assume adult roles and responsibilities by delivering services in the least restrictive environment with evidence-supported treatments and interventions.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

State Opioid Response Grants. – The Committee recommends \$2,000,000,000 for grants to address the public health crisis caused by opioid misuse and substance use disorder. Grantees are required to use epidemiological data to demonstrate the critical gaps in availability of treatment and utilize evidence-based implementation strategies to identify which system design models will most rapidly and adequately address the gaps in their systems.

MENTAL HEALTH

Crisis Set-Aside.—The Committee continues the 5 percent set- aside within the MHBG for States to implement evidence-based, crisis care programs to address the needs of individuals in crisis including those with

serious mental illnesses and children with serious mental and emotional distress. The Committee directs SAMHSA to continue to use the set-aside to fund, at the discretion of eligible States and Territories, some or all of a set of core crisis care elements including 24/7 mobile crisis units, local and Statewide call centers with the capacity to respond to distressed or suicidal individuals, and other programs that allow the development of systems where individuals can always receive assistance during a crisis.

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.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-Based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs and to provide enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities for applicants. 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.

Strengthening Data Capacity - The Committee is pleased that the Office of Management and Budget has revised the Uniform Grants Guidance to clarify that grant funds may be spent on data, evaluation, and integrated data systems as direct or indirect costs and also on community engagement, which can play a critical role in data collection and analysis as well as evaluation. To ensure grantees receive consistent guidance from agencies, the Committee directs the Secretary to coordinate with OMB to communicate this new guidance and best practices for implementation, including easy-to-use cost allocation approaches for integrated data systems funded by multiple federal programs and agencies.

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 2027 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

Strengthening Data Privacy. – The Committee directs the Secretary in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor to provide guidance and technical assistance on integrated data systems and student and worker privacy. This guidance should build on and expand the guidance issued by the Privacy Technical Assistance Center in January 2017.

EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants. - The Committee recommends \$194,000,000 for this program that provides competitive grants to SEAs that then subgrant at least 95 percent of such funds to eligible entities to support efforts to improve the literacy skills of children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need

schools and early education programs in a State for each of several age bands through implementation of evidence-based practices and interventions.

INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Education Innovation and Research (EIR). – The Committee recommends \$284,000,000 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.

SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZEN EDUCATION

School Safety and National Activities. – The Committee has included \$601,000,000 for activities to improve students' safety and well-being. Funding is also included to continue and expand Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration Grants that support innovative partnerships and evidence-based approaches to address the shortage of school-based mental health providers by training such providers for employment in high-need schools and LEAs.

SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZEN EDUCATION

Promise Neighborhoods. – The Committee recommends \$93,000,000 for the Promise Neighborhoods program for competitive grants to not-for-profit, community-based organizations for the development of comprehensive neighborhood programs designed to combat the effects of poverty and improve educational and life outcomes for children and youth, from birth through college. The committee urges the Department to prioritize the use of evidence-based practices and interventions, built on the particular needs of the community, to improve the academic and developmental outcomes of children living in the most distressed communities.

SCHOOL SAFETY NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Full-Service Community Schools. – The Committee has included \$443,000,000 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 \$900,000,000 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.

Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems. – The Committee recommends \$100,000,000 for Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) for competitive grants to support the development, maintenance, and expansions of State longitudinal data systems. Increased support for the SLDS program will further strengthen State data infrastructure and linkages, contribute to improved data access, and use for evidence-based policymaking, and build capacity in States to secure and protect data.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Hispanic-Serving Institutions.—The Committee recommends \$246,500,000 for competitive grants to institutions at which Hispanic students make up at least 25 percent of enrollment. Projects are designed to improve students' social, emotional, academic, and career development, with a focus on underserved students and provide evidence-based professional development opportunities.

Gaining Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). – The Committee recommends

\$400,000,000 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. The Committee continues to urge the Department to include an evidence-based priority during grant competitions.

Postsecondary Student Success Grants. – The Committee has included \$100,000,000 for grants to support individuals, who have started but not completed postsecondary education, provide essential wrap-around services, increase postsecondary degree attainment, and career success for high-need students. The Committee further directs the Department to carry out this program as a tiered-evidence competition, in the same structure as EIR, and require rigorous independent evaluations of grantee projects.

GENERAL PROVISION

Higher Education Evaluation Set Aside. – The Committee continues a provision allowing up to 0.5 percent of funds appropriated in this Act for programs authorized under the HEA, except for the Pell Grant program, to be used for evaluation of any HEA program.

RELATED AGENCY

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

AmeriCorps State and National Grants. – The Committee recommends \$557,094,000 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 \$6,250,000 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.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

GENERAL PROVISION

Improving Data Reporting. – The Committee directs the Departments of Labor and Education to submit a report to Congress within 180 days of enactment on how to improve data reporting systems across the Departments including required data collections under IDEA, WIOA, and other variables. The Committee seeks to understand the barriers and opportunities to improving data systems, including those that have been or could be supported through programs in this act, that can be used to inform transition outcomes for students with disabilities, and that improve program outcomes for participants served under such programs and the overall customer experience of State grantees and substate subgrantees.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL PROVISION

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 of 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.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-Based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs and to provide enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities for applicants.

Strengthening Data Capacity - The Committee is pleased that the Office of Management and Budget has revised the Uniform Grants Guidance to clarify that grant funds may be spent on data, evaluation, and integrated data systems as direct or indirect costs and also on community engagement, which can play a critical role in data collection and analysis as well as evaluation. To ensure grantees receive consistent guidance from agencies, the Committee directs the Secretary to coordinate with OMB to communicate this new guidance and best practices for implementation.

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 2027 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Guidance on Evidence of Effectiveness. - The Committee includes a new general provision that applies to all Federal departments and agencies funded through the appropriations process. The provision requires that all Notice of Funding Opportunities, Requests for Proposals, and grant announcements, where applicable, shall include guidance making evidence of program effectiveness one of the priority selection criteria for all competitive grant awards.

Bill Language: SEC. ___ All Federal departments and agencies, funded through this Act or any other appropriations Act, shall (a) require that all Notice of Funding Awards, Requests for Proposals, and grant announcements, where applicable, shall include guidance making evidence of program effectiveness one of the priority selection criteria for all competitive grant awards.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL PROVISION

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 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.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Evidence-Based Grant Making. – The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that evidence of effectiveness and evidence building is part of the selection criteria for all competitive grant programs and to provide enhancements to its technical assistance and support activities for applicants. Noncompetitive 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.

Strengthening Data Capacity - The Committee is pleased that the Office of Management and Budget has revised the Uniform Grants Guidance to clarify that grant funds may be spent on data, evaluation, and integrated data systems as direct or indirect costs and also on community engagement, which can play a critical role in data collection and analysis as well as evaluation. To ensure grantees receive consistent guidance from agencies, the Committee directs the Secretary to coordinate with OMB to communicate this new guidance and best practices for implementation.

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 2027 and future Congressional Justifications an update on the implementation of such Act for the current and future budget years.

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND

Choice Neighborhood Initiative. – The Committee includes \$450,000,000 for competitive grants to address community and economic development needs through evidence-based approaches to public safety, early learning, and 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.