Fact sheet: CSAC Support Hub for Criminal Justice Programs
How the hub can provide support, assistance to counties

Overview

California counties play a critical, front-line role in our state's criminal justice system. Counties manage high risk offender populations, deliver services, and are required to make complex investments decisions about their criminal justice programming across a variety of service areas to reduce recidivism, manage offender populations, and support re-entry. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is working alongside counties to help them use data and evidence to make informed decisions about programs that work and will be cost-beneficial in the long run.

To assist county leaders in these efforts, the CSAC Support Hub for Criminal Justice Programming seeks to meet counties where they are with a mix of support options and levels of engagement for improving California county criminal justice programs. Services range from light research assistance to intensive county engagements focused on building a culture of evidence-informed decision making. In more intensive engagements, the Support Hub helps counties use the Results First Approach to build an evidence-informed program investment strategy in 4 key steps: Create an inventory of currently funded programs; Identify what programs work; Use cost-benefit analysis to predict likely return on investment; and Use evidence to inform program decisions. Through the use of research and analytics, counties can better assess the costs, performance, and impact of their criminal justice programs.

Resources for evidence-based policymaking

The CSAC Support Hub is a joint effort of the California State Association of Counties and the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative, with support from the California Health Care Foundation. This partnership focuses on increasing the understanding of evidence-based practices among county leaders who seek to invest in programs that will produce the best outcomes for residents at the highest rate of return on county investments.

Here are some resources on evidence-based policymaking:

- **CSAC Support Hub for Criminal Justice Programming**
- **How Counties Can Use Evidence-Based Policymaking To Achieve Better Outcomes** (A joint report from NACo and the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative)
- Results First **Evidence-Based Policymaking Resource Center**
- **Results First at the Local Level**
- **The Results First Clearinghouse Database**
The CSAC Support Hub for Criminal Justice Programming provides a spectrum of services to support counties' needs at different levels of engagement, ranging from research and training (low) to a comprehensive application of the Results First Approach (high).

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<th>Intensity of Engagement (Low to High)</th>
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| Low                                 | Evidence-Based Programming (EBP) Help Desk | - CSAC’s Help Desk provides assistance to counties in navigating and using the Results First Clearinghouse Database (CHDB).
- Length of Engagement: one-time assistance |
| Medium                              | Outreach/Educational Workshops | - Evidence-based policymaking trainings and CHDB Tour: CSAC offers trainings to associations and counties on evidence-based practices and navigating the Results First Clearinghouse Database.
- Length of Engagement: 1 day |
| High                                | Analytic Tools | - Recidivism Analytics Tool: CSAC offers a tool to help counties conduct recidivism analysis. Counties upload a file with a unique identifier; the Recidivism Analytics Tool generates a recidivism analysis to help identify high-utilizers of their system.
- Length of Engagement: 1-3 months |
|                                     | Program Inventory Only | - CSAC partners with a county or agency to develop an inventory of currently funded programs. County staff learn to inventory and assess their programs for evidence of effectiveness.
- Length of Engagement: 6 months
- Considerations/Capacity Need: dedicated project lead, detailed program and budget information |
|                                     | Results First Approach | - CSAC partners with the county to implement the Results First Approach to better understand criminal justice programs and plan for future investments.
- Length of Engagement: nine months – one year
- Considerations/Capacity Need: data sharing capabilities, program cost, dedicated project lead |

For more information on use of the CSAC Support Hub for Criminal Justice Programming, please contact Diana Medina, CSAC Project Manager at dmedina@counties.org, (916) 650-8128.