

NYC

Mayor's Office of Operations



Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

Washington, DC – November 4, 2016

Cities are in a unique position to pursue evidence-based policymaking and foster innovation.

Cities are **closer to problems and to the people affected** – which makes them better able to innovate.

- Responsible for design, delivery and execution of services
- Receive immediate feedback from residents who viscerally experience their engagement with local government

Cities are both the **creators and consumers of evidence**.

- Provide funding and real-world data for research
- Use evaluation to inform effective policy making that ensures accountability

The Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) helps New York City government reduce poverty by advancing the use of evidence and data in program and policy design, service delivery, and budget decisions.

 Research	 Design	 Program Management
 Evaluation	 Data Integration	 Digital Products

- **Poverty Measure:** produces an annual NYC CEO Poverty Measure
- **Innovation Fund:** designs and oversees ~ \$85 million portfolio of ongoing early-stage program models
- **Evaluation:** manages evaluations using 8 outside firms
 - Examples of past CEO evaluations that have led to large-scale change include:
 - CUNY ASAP
 - Jobs Plus
 - Sector-focused workforce initiatives

NYC is already using administrative data to improve citywide services and outcomes for New Yorkers.

- **Citywide Data Integration** is the commitment to making data accessible for data sharing among multiple agencies.
- **Worker Connect** enhances the ability of front-line staff to access client information held by different agencies.
- **Common Metrics Initiative** seeks to create uniform metrics across funding streams and city agencies to make relative comparisons of programs possible.

Recommendations: Continue to build on existing, effective strategies at the federal level.

1. **Encourage more federal funding to be allocated to evidence-based strategies** and to grantees who are committed to building evidence through programs.
2. **Continue developing federal Common Metrics** to ensure everyone can make relative assessments and direct funds to the most effective programming to make funding allocations more impactful.
3. **Amend federal laws to give local governments more freedom to share client data** among its own divisions and employees.
 - a) Amend HIPAA regulations to create a new legal exception that clearly authorizes city agencies to share information with each other, without requiring client consent, when providing or coordinating benefits, services, and care.
 - b) Clarify additional ways consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that cities can engage in outreach and support to vulnerable students.
 - c) Update privacy related laws and regulations to accommodate the application of technology used to support data integration.

For more information: www.nyc.gov/ceo

The screenshot shows the website for the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'NYC Resources', '311', and 'Office of the Mayor'. Below this is a search bar with a 'GO' button. A secondary navigation bar includes links for 'Printer Friendly', 'Newsletter Sign-Up', 'Email a Friend', 'Translate This Page', and 'Text Size: A A'. The main content area features a large image of a group of people celebrating, with a banner for 'Per Scholas August 25, 2011'. To the right of the image is a 'Join a Program' section with the text 'Find local innovative programs throughout New York City. Learn more'. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with links: 'Home', 'About CEO', 'Join a CEO Program', 'Ongoing Initiatives/Past Programs', 'Poverty Data & Research', 'Data & Evaluation', 'News & Reports', and 'Contact CEO'. Below the menu is a 'Share Us' section with Facebook and Twitter icons. At the bottom, there are four featured articles: 'CEO Data', 'Young Men's Initiative', 'Food Policy Coordinator', and 'Social Innovation Fund', each with a small image and a brief description.

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