Request for Ideas:
Cross System, Actionable Social or Health Policy Research

The mission of the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab (Colorado Lab) is to improve the lives of Colorado residents by partnering with state and local governments to strengthen coordinated and efficient person-centered services. Examples of how Governor Hickenlooper's priorities for the Lab are being actualized can be found **here**. During the transition to the next administration, the Colorado Lab will be funding cross system social policy and heath research[1]. The Colorado Lab is soliciting great ideas for cross system actionable research from Colorado state agency staff members.

> Governor Hickenlooper's priorities for the Colorado Lab are:
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> * Affordable Housing
> * Reducing Recidivism
> * Prevention and Early Intervention for System Involved Youth
> * Good Government and Efficiency Projects
>
> Cross system research ideas that reflect these priorities are encouraged, but all cross system social policy and health research ideas will be given full consideration.

Goal of this Request for Ideas:

Our goal is to create a pathway for state agency staff members to get answers to their most pressing cross system questions. Agency staff members are experts in policy and practice, and the Colorado Lab seeks to help them answer pressing questions to improve the lives of Colorado residents. The Colorado Lab will partner with state agency staff members to better understand the key questions, identify expert research teams, and fund studies that can be conducted in 2019 and/or 2020.

The Colorado Lab is committing up to $1 million in funding for research conducted during the 2019 calendar year! Additional funding is anticipated to be available to continue some projects into 2020.

Great Ideas Defined:

State agency staff members' best thinking for cross system research that can directly inform policy or practice. These ideas can be well formulated or seeds of great ideas. We are especially interested in research ideas that actively benefit multiple systems (in contrast to ideas that require data from multiple systems but benefit just one).

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[1] The Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab's advisory group is comprised of representatives from state agencies. The advisory group prioritized the Lab's focus on cross system research.

Cross System Defined:

- Involves two or more state agencies
  OR
- Involves at least one state agency and one or more local government partner(s) (e.g., judicial district, county, public housing authority, school district)

Great Ideas Submission Process:

Step 1: State agency staff members submit their great ideas by **October 15th, 2018**

The goal of this process is to surface great ideas in all phases of germination that would not happen, but for this call for cross system research ideas.

Complete the online survey linked HERE.

- Provide the name, title, and email/phone number for the primary contact person for this great idea. Must be a state agency staff member.
- In a few sentences, describe the idea and why having the information matters across systems.
- In a few sentences, tell us why Colorado Lab resources are needed to take make this great idea a reality. In other words, why isn't your agency already doing this (e.g., partnerships, data sharing/linking, research expertise, time, funding, etc.)?
- In a few sentences, what if anything, has already been accomplished to lay the groundwork for this great research idea?
- Optional: In a few sentences, tell us anything else we should know before scheduling a call with you.

Step 2: Colorado Lab will schedule a call or meeting to better understand your goals and discuss feasibility and potential timeline.

Step 3: Colorado Lab, in consultation with the Governor's Office and the Colorado Lab's advisory board, will prioritize great cross system research ideas and invite agency staff to continue in this process.

Step 4: Colorado Lab will partner with the state agency staff member who submitted the idea and to determine what partnerships and approvals would be needed to determine if the great idea can be actualized. This is a "Go, No Go" initial decision-making point for state agencies.

Step 5: The Colorado Lab will work with state partners to translate the idea into a scope of work, identify a research team, fund and execute the project.

We anticipate communicating Colorado Lab recommendations for funding by December 31st, 2018 with the expectations that contracts will be fully executed and projects could start by March 1, 2019.

FAQS

If I submit an idea, what am I or my agency committing to? One conversation with the Colorado Lab to learn more about your goals. That's it!

Will Colorado Lab Staff Conduct These Studies? In most cases the research team will be members of the Colorado Applied Research and Action Network. The Colorado Lab will serve as a connector and stay involved through the life of the project to ensure mutualism and effective communication.

What is the Colorado Applied Research and Action Network? Researchers-- primarily at Colorado institutions of higher education-- that the Lab has identified because of their strong commitment to mutualism and generating actionable research. The Colorado Lab's role is as a connector between state agencies and research teams. The Colorado Lab's role is also to facilitate the development of a communications plan to guide the process and final outputs of the research project.

What if I already know researchers I want to work with? Great! Instead of submitting a "great idea" please submit to the simultaneous call for research proposals, found **HERE**.

If "selected," will the Colorado Lab fully fund my researching idea? The Colorado Lab seeks to elevate projects that would not happen "but for" the Lab. Colorado Lab in kind and financial resources will be applied to fill in the gaps or in some cases fully fund research projects.

Some level of in-kind and/or financial match is expected from state agencies. This can come in many forms and will be guided by the goal of "mutualism" where each partner brings resources to a project that benefit the whole.

Are there types of research ideas the Colorado Lab can't or won't fund? The Colorado Lab cannot fund direct services, policy or program implementation. The Lab will not fund, through this mechanism, projects that are relevant to only one agency. Projects must be "cross system."

What if my great idea is not selected? The Colorado Lab staff will do our best to offer resources, referrals, or consultation on how you and your agency might take the next steps.

All great ideas must be submitted **HERE** by October 15th, 2018.

Questions? Contact Dr. Elysia Clemens, Deputy Director of the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, elysia.clemens@du.edu or 303-871-6262.

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

THERE IS A SIMULTENOUS CALL FOR RESEARCHERS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO CONDUCT CROSS SYSTEM, SOCIAL OR HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.