



Linked Information Network of Colorado (LINC)

GOAL

LINC is a state collaborative that supports timely and cost-efficient research, evaluation, and analytics using integrated data across state agencies. LINC is designed to securely share data to a centralized linking hub in state government to produce anonymized datasets for approved end users. LINC development is partially supported by seed funds and staff commitment from the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

- Frontloads the legal and data security decisions so they aren't revisited for each use case
- Allows agencies to answer questions to improve policies and programs with cross-system data
- Limits transfer of personal identifiers to a centralized linking hub in state government
- Relieves burden on agency staff to coordinate cross-agency responses to data requests
- Relies on a fee-for-use model where agencies recoup costs associated with data contribution

Supported by the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab

Contact:
Whitney LeBoeuf
Director of Data Integration and Analytics

Email:
whitney.leboeuf@du.edu

Phone:
303-871-6445

ANTICIPATED USE CASES

- Finding early opportunities to support the prevention of youth suicides in the Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice systems.
- Increase college success by identifying ways to better support student parents in the higher education system
- Targeting housing vouchers to vulnerable multisystem utilizers who would benefit most from housing stability
- Uplifting unemployed Coloradans by strategically targeting those who would benefit most from reemployment program services

ANTICIPATED PROGRESS BY THE END OF 2019:

- At least 5-7 government partners
- At least 1 completed and 5-7 active LINC projects
- Sustainable funding strategy identified



LINC DESIGN

- LINC data providers maintain LINC-approved data extracts that can be reused for all approved LINC projects.
- Data are only sent to the linking hub in OIT once a project is approved.
- After data are integrated, reduced to those approved for the project, anonymized, and provided to the end user, the data in the linking hub are destroyed.
- LINC is supported by a three-tier legal framework that includes:
 1. *Enterprise Memorandum of Understanding (EMOU)*: LINC vision, mission, and governance process. The EMOU will be signed once by all participating data providers as they enter into the LINC collaboration.
 2. *Data Sharing Agreement (DSA)*: Terms and conditions for how the linking hub will secure, handle, and anonymize data for all approved LINC projects according to the requirements and expectations of the data provider. The DSA should be signed once between each data provider and OIT.
 3. *Data Use License (DUL)*: Roles and responsibilities of the end users of LINC project data. A standard DUL will be used for all projects and populated with the approved projects information. This is signed by the end user of each LINC project.

