

Evidence Portfolios for State Agencies

Background

The Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) collaborates with executive branch agencies to develop the Governor’s annual budget proposal, which it submits to the legislature’s Joint Budget Committee every year on November 1. Colorado is a leader in using data to inform decision-making and smart state investments. To accelerate progress and build on the good work that has come before, the Colorado Lab released a [5-year Vision for Evidence-Based Decision-Making \(EBDM\)](#) in state government (Nov. 2022). The Evidence portfolio process was developed to further implementation of this vision by supporting agencies in using and building evidence as part of the state budgeting process.

The Value of Evidence Portfolios

Evidence portfolios can support state agencies in applying evidence to drive outcomes, leveraging data to inform learning and action, and building evidence on what works and for whom, while promoting innovation. Figure 1 shows the benefits of evidence portfolios for agencies and systems.

Evidence Portfolio Principles and Structure

The evidence portfolio process is anchored in the following principles:

- **EBDM:** the process will align with the [defining features](#) of a successful EBDM culture.
- **Proactive:** the process will help state agencies take a proactive approach to innovating, sustaining, and scaling practices/programs and infrastructure needs.
- **Learning Mindset:** the process will inform state agencies as learning organizations, to facilitate decision-making today and tomorrow.
- **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI):** the process will embed EDI considerations into the process and make transparent how the decision may affect different communities.

Evidence portfolios use a set of criteria tied to the three major domains in evidence-based decision-making: best available research evidence, community needs and implementation context, and decision-maker expertise. The tool intentionally blends guiding questions for reflection with a numeric scoring approach. Figure 2 illustrates the process an agency undertakes to develop evidence portfolios and apply insights for action.

Figure 1. Evidence Portfolio Benefits

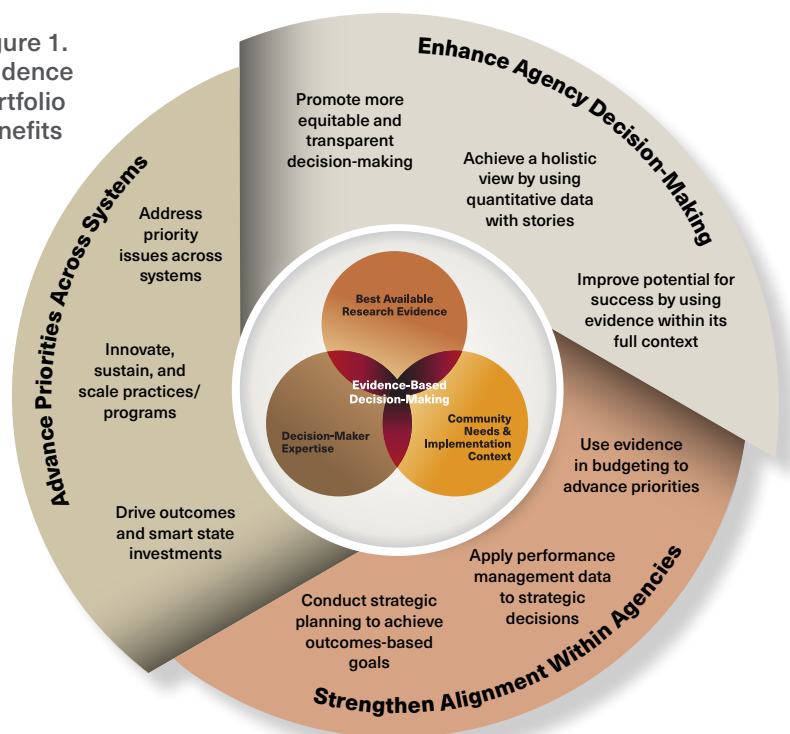


Figure 2. Evidence Portfolio Process

