



# Promoting Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Colorado State Government: From Vision to Implementation

## The Vision

- Nationally, there is a movement for policy decisions to be informed by data.
- Colorado is positioned to continue leading in using and building evidence to unlock solutions to important social challenges.
- To accelerate progress, the Colorado Lab, in collaboration with partners, developed a five-year [Vision for Advancing Evidence-Based Decision-Making](#) (EBDM) in Colorado state government.

**EBDM is the intersection of the best available research evidence, decision-makers' expertise, and community needs and implementation context (Figure 1).**

EBDM recognizes that research evidence is not the only contributing factor to policy and budget decisions. Other equally important factors include resourcing, cultural values, community voice, professional experience, and feasibility of implementation.

Figure 1.  
Evidence-Based Decision-Making Approach



## From Vision to Implementation

Four strategic goals guide implementation of the EBDM vision over the next five years (State Fiscal Year 2024 through 2028):

1

### Build a Shared Understanding of EBDM in State Government

The first strategic goal lays the groundwork for culture-building and is focused on establishing a shared mental model for EBDM in state government.

2

### Align and Accelerate EBDM in the State Budgeting Process

The second strategic goal equips state agencies with tools to embed EBDM in their budgeting approach and creates EBDM-aligned structures at major points in the budget cycle, across both executive and legislative branches.

3

### Align and Accelerate EBDM in the Legislative Process

The third strategic goal equips members of the General Assembly with tools to activate EBDM during the legislative process and includes a focus on both effective evidence use and evidence-building.

4

### Develop Guidance for Embedding Meaningful Evidence Use and Evidence-Building into Funding Opportunities

The fourth strategic goal equips funders with guidance on how to incorporate data and evidence-building into requests for proposals (RFPs), to create more meaningful and aligned requirements that can be feasibly achieved by grantees.



One way to build shared understanding is through a widely used [glossary of EBDM-related terms](#).



One way to support state agencies is to provide tools like the [evidence portfolio process when preparing budgets](#).

## Establishing a Coordinating Entity for the EBDM Strategy

A stable coordinating entity is critical to realizing the EBDM strategy. Independent leadership will help to advance Colorado's EBDM culture and facilitate aligned structures across state government. The Colorado Lab serves as the coordinating entity and is activating the research community to support the work.

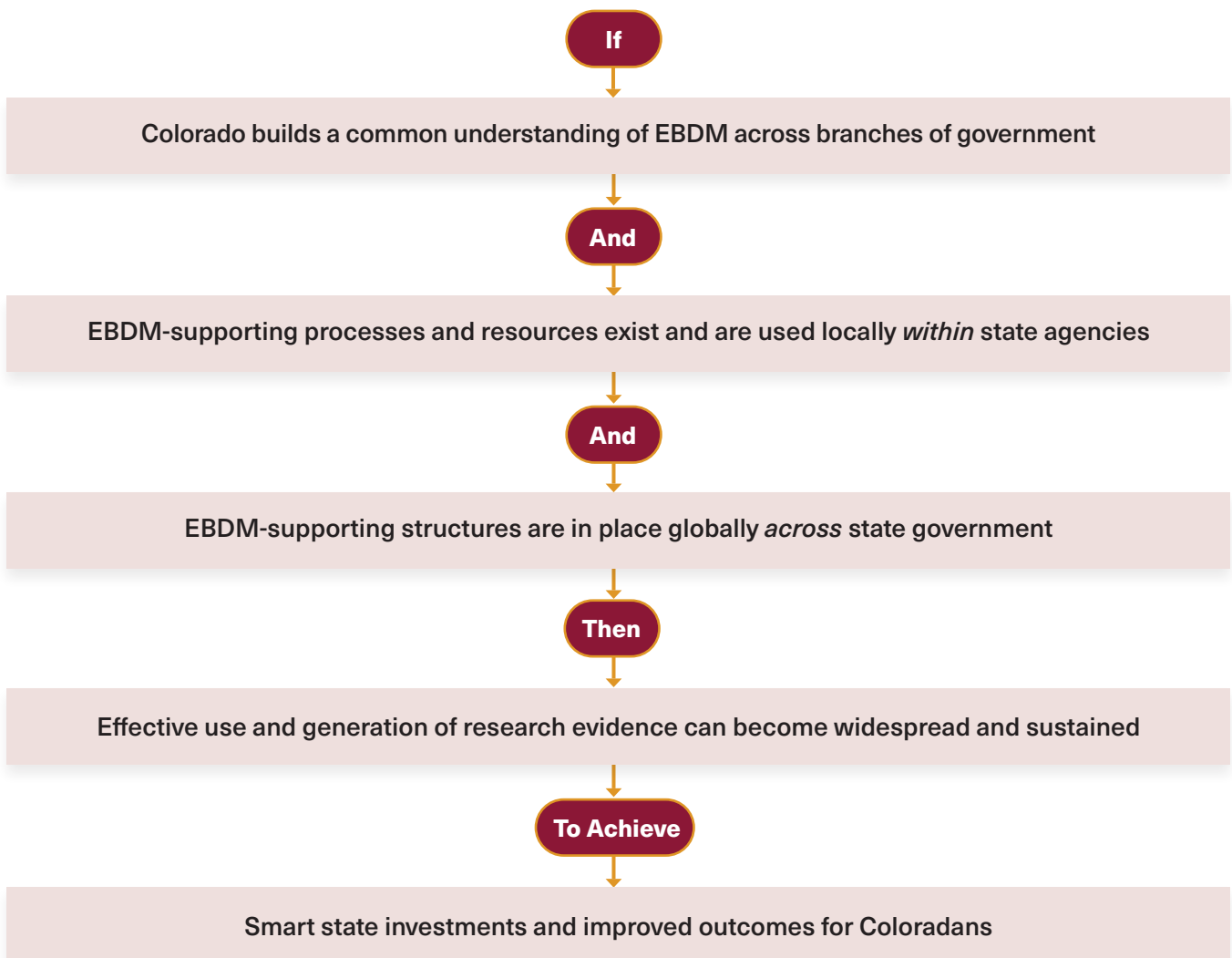
### Who is the Colorado Lab?

The Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab (Colorado Lab) was created under the leadership of the Governor's Office to unlock data-informed solutions to our most pressing social problems. As an independent, non-partisan research and policy lab, we work together across state government and community partners to leverage data for sustained change.

## Driving Sustained Solutions

The strategy for implementing EBDM in Colorado is organized around both the *culture* we are striving to achieve and the *structures* necessary to support that culture.

### The Conceptual Logic behind EBDM in Colorado Policymaking



Scan to read the full [EBDM strategy report](#) and role of the Colorado Lab

For more information and to get involved, contact Dr. Courtney Everson at [courtney@coloradolab.org](mailto:courtney@coloradolab.org)

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