

Activating Evidence-Based Decision Making in Legislative Hearings

Introduction

This cue card provides legislators with a menu of questions they can ask presenters during legislative hearings about a proposed policy or practice. Hearings are a key opportunity to promote Colorado's approach to [evidence-based decision making \(EBDM\)](#) in state government. A separate set of questions specific to SMART Act hearings can be found [here](#).

Questions are not in any particular order. Select the most relevant from the menu based on what is presented.

What is Evidence-Based Decision Making?

Research evidence is not the only contributing factor to policy and budget decisions. EBDM is the intersection of the best available research evidence, decision-makers' expertise, and community needs and implementation context.



Assess the Strength of Existing Evidence

- What research is available about this program or practice? What are the sources of this evidence, and why are they credible?
- Are there studies that have found something different from what you're presenting today about the effectiveness of this program or practice?
- What outcomes is this program or practice shown to improve? How will this program or practice drive change in these outcomes in Colorado?
- With whom and where was the research about this program or practice conducted? How similar is this to where the program or practice would be implemented in Colorado?
- How well does this program or practice align with family needs and community priorities in the areas targeted for implementation? How do you know?
- What is needed to support effective implementation of this program or practice in Colorado? For example, do we have the necessary workforce?

Identify Opportunities to Build Evidence

- How do you plan to build evidence or evaluate this program or practice? What do you need to make this happen?
- What systems can be used to collect data on implementation and outcomes? What is your plan for making meaning out of this data?
- How are you involving the community and other affected stakeholders in building evidence on this program or practice?
- What are the target outcomes you hope to impact with this program or practice?