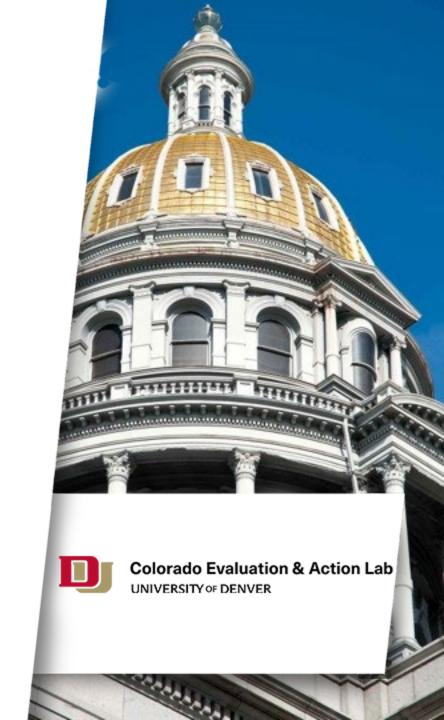
Advancing Evidence-Based Decision Making in Colorado: A 5-Year Vision

Last updated: August 2024





Driving goal: Understanding your role in Colorado's evolving Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) culture.

How we will achieve this:

- Review Colorado's 5-year vision for EBDM in state government
- Introduce the implementation strategy for bringing that vision to life over the next 3-5 years

Origins of the 5-Year Vision

- Accepted vision and framework for Colorado's approach to EBDM
- Build on state's strong foundation of evidencebased practice and policy
- Co-developed with executive and legislative branches as well as non-governmental partners

Outcomes-driven Using data to drive better outcomes

Shared Tenets of an EBDM **Culture** in **Policymaking**

Efficient and Effective Use of Resources

Using evidence to inform investment and resource decisions

Alignment and Integration Across Government

Using a collective approach to sustain change

Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM)



Core Principles

- The better the research evidence, the more confident we are in our decisions
- Research evidence alone is never sufficient to make decisions

EBDM is not the same as "evidence-based practice"

Measuring Success

Five Defining Features of an EBDM Culture

A common understanding of what EBDM is and how to achieve it.

Commit to and consistently participate in agreed-upon EBDM strategies.

Invest **resources**, **skills**, **and time** necessary to acquire, make meaning of, and apply the best available evidence.

Systemic and robust use of research evidence.

Engage in an iterative process of using existing research evidence and generating new research evidence.

Our Conceptual Logic is:

If

Colorado builds a common understanding of EBDM in state government

And

EBDM-supportive processes and resources exist and are used locally within state agencies

And

EBDM-supporting structures are in place globally across state government

Then

Effective use and generation of research evidence can become widespread and sustained

To Achieve

Smart state investments and improved outcomes for Coloradans

Four Strategic Goals





Align and Accelerate
EBDM in the State
Budgeting Process



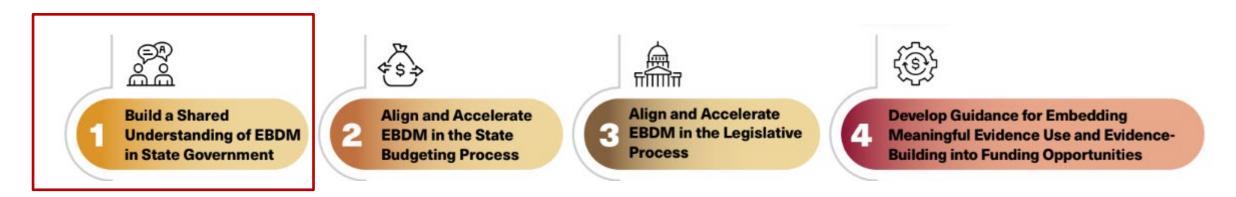
Align and Accelerate
EBDM in the Legislative
Process



Develop Guidance for Embedding

Meaningful Evidence Use and EvidenceBuilding into Funding Opportunities

Goal 1: Build a Shared Understanding of EBDM in State Government



Shared mental model for EBDM in state government.

- EBDM Trainings (like this one)
- Glossary of EBDM-related terms
- EBDM Ambassadors

Goal 2: Align and Accelerate EBDM in the State Budgeting Process



Tools to bring EBDM into budgeting process

- Evidence Portfolios for State Agencies
- Explore Opportunities to Align Evidence Portfolios with Budget Instructions
- Build on the Evidence Review Process of JBC Staff for HB24-1428

Evidence Portfolio Process



Align Strategy

Orient agency to Evidence-Based Decision Making approach

Review or develop organizational theory of change

Create inventory of programs/practices

Map programs/ practices to organizational theory of change



Assess and Learn

Identify where is most meaningful to focus evidence portfolio efforts

Understand organizational structure and key roles

Understand current approach to the budgeting process



Orient and Adapt

Orient staff to evidence portfolio process and tool

Adapt evidence portfolio process to agency's structure, roles, and function

Train leadership and staff on their responsibilities to create alignment across roles



Complete Evidence Portfolios

Collaboratively complete evidence portfolios for each program/practice in the inventory

Verify that documentation in each evidence portfolio supports claims

Summarize results and make recommendations



Inform Decision Making

Map results and recommendations to decision-making criteria

Discuss results using a systems lens to make transparent trade-offs and dependencies

Communicate results within agency to promote transparency and accountability

EBDM Domain: Best Available Research Evidence

Criteria	Documentation	1	2	3	4
	Links and/or short narratives	(Does not exist)	(Present, but needs improvement)	(Present and adequate)	(Present and exemplary)
Has a clear theory of change (or conceptual framework) for driving change.					
Step 1.					
Has materials to support basic delivery and replicability (i.e., expansion with fidelity to the model).					
Step 1.					
Systems are in place for routinely collecting data on outputs and relevant outcomes.					
Step 2.					

EBDM Domain: Community Needs and Implementation Context

This is about community/constituent needs and implementation context (external/outward-facing).

Criteria	Documentation	1	2	3	4
	Links and/or short narratives	(Does not exist)	(Present, but needs improvement)	(Present and adequate)	(Present and exemplary)
State-level staff have the skills, resources, and desire to continue implementation (workforce) AND Local-level implementation partners have the skills, resources/systems, and desire to continue implementation (workforce)					
Note: need both to get to a 4.					
Has a strong administrative system in place to support continued delivery (infrastructure) at: a) the state level; and b) the local level					
Note: need both to get at a four.					

EBDM Domain: Decision-Maker Expertise

This is about professional viewpoints and perspectives (internal/inward-facing)

Criteria	Documentation	1	2	3	4
	Links and/or short narratives	(Does not exist)	(Present, but needs improvement)	(Present and adequate)	(Present and exemplary)
Has internal agency leadership to champion the work into the future					
The agency is uniquely situated to have ownership (i.e., another agency / organization could not absorb this program/practice)					
Is aligned with agency and/or division strategic goals [make clear where it shows up]					
Is aligned with the agency's WIGs (Wildly Important Goals) [make clear where it shows up]					

Agency Pipeline for the Evidence Portfolio Process

Onboarding (Phase 1)

- Adapt portfolio template for agency-specific use
- Guide agencies through first use case with a select number of programs/practices
- As needed, support alignment with performance management and strategic planning

(Phase 3)

- Elicit and apply learnings from first use case to improve process
- Guide agencies in expanding use case to all programs/practices
- As needed, continue providing support to align budgeting, performance management, and strategic planning

Building Fluency (Phase 2) Document roles and responsibilities in the evidence portfolio process

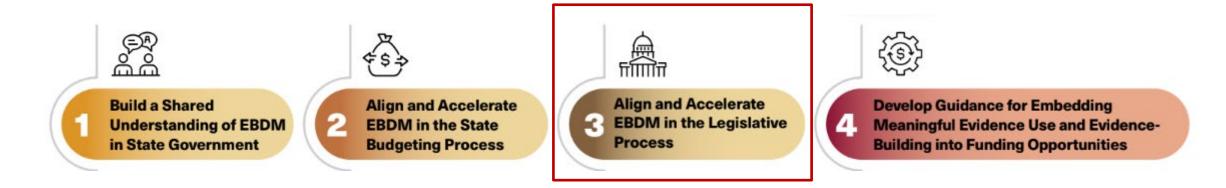
Sustaining

- Make transparent how evidence portfolios are embedded into organizational operations
- Develop processes for accountability and incentives to support ongoing use





Goal 3: Align and Accelerate EBDM in the Legislative Process



Provide General Assembly with EBDM tools for the legislative process.

- Bill Template Language
- Fluency and Support for Legislators
- <u>Cue Card</u> for SMART Act Hearings
- Legislative Hearing <u>Cue Card</u>

Goal 4: Develop Guidance for Embedding Meaningful Evidence Use and Evidence Building into Funding Opportunities



Help philanthropic and state funders create expectations for using data in grant programs

- Funder's guides for using and generating evidence
- Template bill language to create state-funded grant programs
- Funder's toolkit for building grantee data and learning capacity

Establishing a Coordinating Entity for the EBDM Strategy

- 1. Holds the shared **EBDM vision**
- 2. Coordinates and prioritizes EBDM activities
- 3. Helps align roles to responsibilities to EBDM structure
- 4. Co-develops reusable tools and processes for EBDM implementation
- 5. Collaborates with external research partners to build rigorous research evidence
- 6. Promotes **EBDM sustainability and cohesion** across branches of government
- 7. Measures progress in developing and executing the EBDM vision over time

Please reach out! We're here to help.

Courtney@ColoradoLab.org

Kristin@ColoradoLab.org

Subscribe to the Colorado Lab's newsletter to stay up to date on EBDM!

ColoradoLab.org