Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Questions for Colorado State Legislators to Ask in SMART Act Hearings to Activate Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Introduction

This cue card provides legislators with a set of questions they can ask presenters during SMART Act Hearings. *SMART Act Hearings are a key opportunity to promote Colorado's approach to* evidence-based decision-making (EBDM) *in state government* (see visual).

The questions suggested below follow the flow of presentations by state agencies. Select the most relevant questions from the menu based on what is presented.

Agency Performance Goals (WIGs)

- What data informed the development of this WIG and the target you set?

- How does this WIG fit within your agency's strategic plan or mission/vision?

- What activities (e.g., specific programs/practices) is the department engaged in to drive change in this WIG?

- Why did you select these particular activities to drive the WIGs? What evidence do you have about their effectiveness?

Performance Management

- What data collection systems and collaborative processes do you use to measure progress on your WIGs and their associated activities?

- What are some examples of how you've used learnings from the performance management data to change how you implement the activities that drive the WIG?

Identify Opportunities to Build Evidence (to be asked after the sections on budget requests, legislative agenda, and EDI plan)

- How do you plan to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of activities in your budget, and/or legislative requests? How does your evaluation plan facilitate learning about whether/how the activities differentially affect marginalized populations?

- How do your budget and/or legislative requests support implementation of the activities that drive the WIGs?

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.

Best Available Research Evidence

Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Decision-Maker Expertise

Community Needs & Implementation Context