

MEMORANDUM



JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

TO Members of the Joint Budget Committee
FROM Robin J. Smart, JBC Staff (303-866-4955)
DATE May 12, 2021
SUBJECT Potential legislation LLS 21-0795 (Evidence-based evaluations for budget)

LLS 21-0795 codifies definitions concerning levels of evidence to be used in the analysis of the annual state budget. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and Office of State Planning and Budgeting staff have discussed modifications to the definitions in the current draft of the bill. JBC staff recommends the following changes:

- “Proven program or practice” means a program or practice that reflects a high or well-supported level of confidence of effectiveness, ineffectiveness, or harmfulness as determined by ~~two ONE OR MORE~~ high-quality ~~random-RANDOMIZED control trials-TRIALS~~, MULTIPLE EVALUATIONS WITH STRONG COMPARISON GROUPS, or an equivalent measure.
- “Evidence-informed program or practice” means a program or practice that reflects a moderate, supported, or promising level of confidence of effectiveness, ineffectiveness, or harmfulness as determined by ~~one high-quality random control trial, two quasi-experimental designed studies~~, AN EVALUATION WITH A COMPARISON GROUP, MULTIPLE PRE- AND POST-EVALUATIONS, OR AN EQUIVALENT MEASURE.
- “Theory-informed program or practice” means a program or practice that reflects a moderate to low or promising level of confidence of effectiveness, ineffectiveness, or harmfulness as determined by ~~one quasi-experimental designed study or evaluations with no control or comparison group or an equivalent measure~~. TRACKING AND EVALUATING PERFORMANCE MEASURES INCLUDING PRE- AND POST-INTERVENTION EVALUATION OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES; EVALUATION OF PROGRAM OUTPUTS; OR IDENTIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A THEORY OF CHANGE; OR EQUIVALENT MEASURES.
- “Opinion-based program or practice” means a ~~policy~~ PROGRAM or practice that reflects a low level of confidence of effectiveness, ineffectiveness, or harmfulness, as based on satisfaction surveys, personal experience, or ~~testimonials~~. OR FOR WHICH THERE IS NO EXISTING EVIDENCE ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS, INEFFECTIVENESS, OR HARMFULNESS OF THE PROGRAM OR PRACTICE.
- ~~Evaluation investment program or practice or not~~ “NOT applicable” means a program or practice for which ~~there is no existing evidence about the effectiveness, ineffectiveness, or harmfulness and quality evaluation is planned, or that such evaluation is~~ THE DEFINITIONS IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTIONS (2)(c), (2)(d), AND (2)(g) ARE NOT APPLICABLE.