

To: White House Office of Management and Budget
From: Invest in What Works Coalition
Date: November 16, 2016
Subject: Invest in What Works: FY18 Budget Request

We are writing to urge you to include the attached Invest in What Works priorities in President-Elect Trump's FY18 budget request. We are hopeful that the first federal budget developed by the incoming Administration will prioritize the use of data and evidence to improve outcomes for our nation's young people, families, and communities.

America continues to face severe budget constraints at all levels of government as well as enormous social and economic shifts. These factors, combined with an increasingly globally competitive workforce, require us to invest taxpayer dollars in the most effective and efficient manner possible. While many efforts are underway to improve the impact of federal spending, we know that more can and should be done. We must continue to ensure that scarce federal resources are invested in policies and programs that work.

Achievement Network (ANet)	New Teacher Center
America Forward	Nurse Family Partnership
American School Health Association	Opportunity Nation
AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation	Paul Carttar, Former Director, Social Innovation Fund and Senior Advisor, The Bridgespan Group
BARR Center	REDF
Be the Change	Results for America
CASA de Maryland	Richard Fiene, Research Psychologist, Research Institute for Key Indicators
Cascade Philanthropy Advisors	RMC Research Corporation
Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University	Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood
Children's Literacy Initiative	Salt Lake County
Citizen Schools	SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
City of Albuquerque	Seneca Family of Agencies
City of Boise	Social Enterprise Initiative
City of Las Vegas	Social Finance
City Year	Social Innovation Research Center
Communities In Schools	Sorenson Impact Center
Community Training and Assistance Center	Spurwink Services
CSH	StriveTogether
Education and Outreach Group, Sonoma State University	Success for All Foundation
Forum for Youth Investment	Teach For America
Greater Southwest Development Corporation	The Dibble Institute
Green and Healthy Homes Initiative	The Hamilton Project, The Brookings Institution
IDEA Public Schools	The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative	The Policy & Research Group
KIPP	Third Sector Capital Partners
Leading Educators	U.S. Soccer Foundation
Leaps and Bounds Family Services	United Way for Southeastern Michigan
LIFT	Urban Alliance
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)	Venture Philanthropy Partners
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas	Voices for National Service
Mile High United Way	Wyman Center
National Center for Teacher Residencies	YES Prep Public Schools
National Council on Crime and Delinquency	Youth Villages
National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform	
National Prevention Science Coalition	

INVEST IN WHAT WORKS

FY18 BUDGET REQUEST RECOMMENDATIONS

We strongly encourage you to include the following funding and language provisions in your FY18 budget request:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

Pay for Performance. - The Pay for Performance authority under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a promising, innovative approach to using data, evidence, and evaluation to improve workforce development outcomes for the most vulnerable citizens. The Department will continue to provide technical assistance to states and localities to help them utilize Pay for Performance strategies.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative. - Request \$40,000,000 for competitive grants to support the development and enhancement of longitudinal data systems that integrate education and workforce data. This initiative will help build state and local capacity to track employment and educational outcomes of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program participants, including those with disabilities, and provide information about job success rates and training programs.

GENERAL PROVISION

Evaluation set-aside. - Request bill language increasing the transfer authority for the Office of Chief Evaluation Officer from 0.75 percent to 1.0 percent in order to carry out evaluations of the programs and activities within the Department, and continue language which requires that funds only be available if the Chief Evaluation Officer submits a plan describing the evaluations to be carried out 15 days prior to any transfer to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

MATERNAL, INFANT, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. - Request language that would once again encourage HRSA and the Administration for Children and Families to continue their collaboration and partnerships to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk pregnant women, parents, and young children through evidence-based home visiting programs.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. - Request bill language that would once again set aside 10 percent of the funds for evidence-based programs to address the needs of individuals with early serious mental illness, including psychotic disorders and also include language directing SAMHSA to work in collaboration with NIMH to ensure that funds from the set-aside are only used for programs showing strong evidence of effectiveness.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HEADSTART

Head Start Designation Renewal System. - Within the total for Head Start, request \$25,000,000 for the Head Start Designation Renewal System.

CHILDREN'S RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Children's Research and Technical Assistance. - Request language which provides \$15,000,000 for welfare research to support the cost of developing and evaluating innovative approaches for reducing welfare dependency and increasing the well-being of minor children.

GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Teen Pregnancy Prevention. - Request \$130,000,000 for competitive grants to public and private entities to fund medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teen pregnancy and for the Federal costs associated with administering and evaluating such contracts and grants. Request bill language which sets aside not more than 10 percent of the available funds for training and technical assistance, evaluation, outreach, and additional program support activities. Of the remaining amount, 75 percent, funds should be for replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors and 25 percent should be available for research and demonstration grants to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy.

NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR NEW HIRES

National Directory of New Hires. – Request language permitting select Federal statistical and evaluation units to access the HHS's National Directory of New Hires dataset of Unemployment Insurance earnings data for statistical purposes, consistent with privacy and confidentiality protections.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT (SEED) GRANTS

Supporting Effective Educator Development grant. - Request \$100,000,000 for SEED to expand support for grants to national nonprofit organizations for projects that provide evidence-based professional development activities for teachers, principals, and school leaders.

INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

Education Innovation and Research Program. - Request \$180,000,000 for the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, modeled on the Small Business Innovation Research program, to support early phase, mid-phase, and expansion grants for successful innovations at the state and local level using a tiered-evidence approach, increase the number of large scale awards for activities with a strong evidence base, and expand the benefits of proven interventions to additional schools to achieve greater impact.

Great Schools Replication and Expansion Fund. – Request \$500,000,000 for the Great Schools Replication and Expansion Fund to expand the reach of the highest-performing Title I schools with a track record of success. Funds would be used by effective schools serving concentrations of low-income students to serve more students, by adding grade levels at the school, adding a new school run by the same school leadership team, or opening new campuses run by the same team. Applicants must demonstrate how existing formula funds will be braided with the replication grant to extend services and sustain success.

HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools. - Request \$100,000,000 for competitive grants to charter management organizations with proven track records of success. The program's goal is to significantly increasing academic achievement and attainment for all students, their ability to provide sound financial and business management plans, and their willingness to offer transparent plans for closing schools that do not meet high standards of performance.

HIGHER EDUCATION

FUND FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

FIRST IN THE WORLD (FITW)

First in the World. - Request \$100,000,000 for First in the World for competitive awards to support the development, validation and improvement of promising evidence-based strategies to increase postsecondary completion rates for high-needs students, including a side-aside of up to 30 percent to support projects at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Servicing Institutions.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUCCESS FUND

Higher Education Success. – Request \$500,000,000 for the Higher Education Success Fund to increase student completion of postsecondary education by developing, evaluating, and scaling data-driven, evidence-based approaches to student support services. Funds would be awarded to institutions of higher education in partnership with research or nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated effective approach to increasing college completion.

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

Research Practice Partnership Fund. – Request \$100,000,000 for the Research Practice Partnership Fund to build the capacity of state and local educational agencies to build and use evidence to improve education through the creation of research-practice partnerships, where states and school districts partner with research institutions to create a research and learning agenda driven by the needs of the state or district.

GENERAL PROVISION **EVALUATIONS**

Evaluations. – Request bill language that provides the Department authority to set aside 1.0% of all discretionary appropriations provided in this Act, with the exception of Pell Grants, for evaluation purposes consistent with the terms and conditions in this Act applicable to such office. The funds are in addition to other dollars that are specifically designated for evaluation purpose. Also request bill language, which permits funds to be pooled across all education agencies to conduct evaluations without respect to the source of funds for those activities; and language recommending that the Department provide an evaluation plan to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds.

GENERAL PROVISION **PAY FOR SUCCESS**

Pay for Success. – Request bill language that urges the Department to provide technical assistance to local educational agencies seeking to use federal funds under Title I, Part D and Title IV, Part A, as authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), for Pay for Success initiatives.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

INNOVATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES **SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND (SIF)**

Social Innovation Fund. - Request \$150,000,000 for the SIF, including language that sets aside up to 30% of these funds for Pay for Success Projects. Also request language providing that the Agency be permitted to provide renewal grants to current SIF grantees that are demonstrating significant interim outcomes, but have not had sufficient time to achieve their program goals. This will permit such grantees to receive additional SIF dollars to continue their evaluation and effective implementation of their evidence-based, grant-funded activities and achieve the longer-term outcomes proposed as the purpose of their programs. This is consistent with the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which permits the renewal of grants for an additional 5-year period. Language is also requested which directs the Agency to permit current SIF grantees to be eligible to apply for additional SIF funds for projects not currently funded by SIF.

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS **AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL GRANTS**

AmeriCorps State and National Grants. – Request \$568,000,000 to support grants to community-based organizations and agencies to address local needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. These funds will also continue to support and invest in evidence-informed and evidence-based community solutions, providing a critical source of human capital to meet pressing needs across the country and a pathway to economic and educational opportunities for AmeriCorps members. Language is requested to take into consideration the use of evidence in the making of grant awards.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION - GENERAL PROVISION

PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOTS

Performance Partnership Pilots. - Request a general provision once again establishing up to 10 performance partnership pilots designed to improve outcomes for disconnected youth. These pilots may be used to prevent youth from disconnecting from school or work, provide education, training, employment, and other related social services. Also request bill language stating that all federal agencies throughout the Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Act be permitted to use a portion of their discretionary funds to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SECOND CHANCE ACT OFFENDER RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

PAY FOR SUCCESS

Second Chance Act Pay for Success. – Request bill language raising the set-aside for performance-based awards for Pay for Success projects under Second Chance Act Offender Re-entry program, from \$7,500,000 to \$20,000,000 and requiring that \$10,000,000 of those funds be used to help implement the Permanent Supportive Housing Model.

GENERAL PROVISION

PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP PILOTS

Performance Partnership Pilots Report Language. - Request bill language which once again permits the Department to use federal discretionary funds through the Office of Justice Programs to participate with other Federal agencies in carrying out Performance Partnership Pilots.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – GENERAL PROVISION

Performance Partnership Pilots. - Request bill language once again permitting the Department to partner with other Federal agencies in the Performance Partnership Pilot program, a cross-Federal agency initiative serving disconnected youth through innovative, cost-effective, and outcome-focused strategies.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION VENTURES (DIV)

Development Innovation Ventures. - Request \$50,000,000 for DIV to invest in innovations that have the potential to change millions of lives in developing countries.

SUPPORT FOR MANDATORY PROGRAMS

To provide you with a complete picture of our evidence and evaluation requests, we have also included requests for mandatory funding that we support:

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). – Request \$400,000,000 in mandatory funding in FY18 and gradually increase to \$800,000,000 annually by FY22 to extend and expand MIECHV, which permits states to provide voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to women during pregnancy and to parents with young children.

U.S. Department of the Treasury - Pay for Success (PFS). - Request \$300,000,000 for a new PFS program within the U.S. Department of the Treasury in FY18. Funds would be used to encourage innovation and accelerate the use of evidence-based approaches, by lowering and sharing the risk associated with initial private investments, and enabling state and local governments to attract additional investment in services that result in Federal, State, and local government savings. The program would provide credit enhancements and results-based payments to eligible intermediaries.

Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). - Request \$75,000,000 in mandatory funding annually in FY18-22 for states, tribes, and communities to provide evidence-based programs that educate adolescents on both abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, as well as other adulthood preparation topics, with a focus on high risk youth and those living in communities with high teen birth rates. Of the amount provided, \$55 million would be allotted each year to state and territories to replicate evidence-based programs, \$10,000,000 would be reserved for competitive grants to implement and rigorously evaluate innovative strategies, five percent would be reserved for grants to Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and 10 percent would be reserved for program support and evaluation.