

Ohio Program Evaluators' Group  
Policy Agenda  
As Passed by the OPEG Board

As the leading network of program evaluators in the state of Ohio, the Ohio Program Evaluators' Group seeks to promote quality evaluation and research as critical components of service delivery programs in Ohio. Improvement of the state evaluation process could have an especially significant impact on service delivery since the state of Ohio is a leading state provider of human services.

In light of these considerations, the Ohio Program Evaluators' Group endorses the following practices in state policy.

1. **Creation of a Chief Evaluation Officer for the state of Ohio.** The Ohio Department of Education has been on the cutting-edge of creating capacity for internal evaluation in state government. The rest of the state can draw from this model. The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) needs a chief evaluation officer who can provide expert advice to the OBM director and senior agency leadership on how to integrate research into decision making.
2. **Setting aside at least 1 percent of each agency's discretionary funding for evaluation.** Agencies should have authority to direct a minimum of 1 percent of their total funds to program evaluation. This authority will help agencies ensure that they do not miss important learning opportunities when they arise.
3. **Creation of a comprehensive, easy-to-use database of Ohio program evaluation results available in the DataOhio portal.** Putting all evaluations of state programs online can promote transparency and accountability, inform better decision making, and signal to researchers the importance of using rigorous research and evaluation designs.
4. **Create a portal to existing "what-works" databases.** Develop a central website for all state agencies that aggregates existing resources that review and rate the effectiveness of policies and programs. For example, build upon efforts such as the Ohio Department of Education's Evidence-Based Clearinghouse and the Results First Clearinghouse.
5. **Institution of comprehensive cost-benefit analysis and equity analysis in Common Sense Initiative and Legislative Service Commission analyses.** The Common Sense Initiative and Legislative Service Commission are the most trusted sources of information for regulators and legislators respectively in crafting policy for the state. Encouraging Common Sense Initiative and Legislative Service Commission analysts to quantify and monetize benefits as well as costs of regulation and legislation will give policymakers more information and help them craft policy that is more effective, efficient, and equitable.

Evaluation is a key aspect of effective management and the Ohio Program Evaluators' Group intends to encourage adoption of these policies in order to ensure effective provision of human services in the state.

NOTE:

Policies shamelessly cribbed from the afterward for *Moneyball for Government*, Second Edition, edited by Jim Nussle and Peter Orszag.