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## *AISP Newsletter: April 2017*

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### [Request for Applications \(RFA\) - AISP Learning Community: Integrated Data System Training and Technical Assistance Program](#)

AISP is pleased to announce an [RFA](#) for participation in our inaugural Learning Community cohort. Through funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Learning Community will provide 18-months of intensive training and technical assistance (TTA) and travel funding to help each participating jurisdiction develop an integrated data system (IDS). Successful applicants will receive in-depth guidance on the core components of IDS infrastructure: governance, legal agreements, data integration/linking procedures, and identifying and carrying out research priorities.

- **Application due date: May 31, 5pm ET: [Access Application](#)**
- **Informational [webinar video](#)**



### Additional Information

[AISP Releases a New IDS Uses Video on the AISP Website](#)

[The Annie E. Casey Foundation Releases New IDS Resource Page](#)

[Using Data to Improve Wellbeing in Camden Promise Neighborhoods](#)

[Involving People with Lived](#)

## Administrative Data in the News

### [Data Sharing Helps Reduce Number of Homeless Veterans](#)



“Between October 2014 and December 2016, Virginia housed 2,737 veterans. But finding housing placements is just one part of a strategy to end veteran homelessness. Analyzing the data has helped Virginia recognize that veterans become homeless for a number of reasons and that connecting people with housing and then addressing individual needs, such as mental health treatment or employment, prevent long-term problems that become more intractable. There is also an increasing awareness within communities that data serves two distinct purposes: Aggregate data provides information about programs and how to improve them, while client-level data helps address needs on a personal level and improves the allocation of scarce resources.”

“Client-level data has helped to clarify that some people need very few additional resources. Those who are more vulnerable need support to find and navigate available services.”

“This work of linking and analyzing data has proven to be an ongoing effort. While data systems are far better coordinated than they were, data continues to be housed at local and regional levels. The Governor’s Coordinating Council on Homelessness seeks a statewide centralized information system on homelessness to help facilitate its efforts.” Access the [complete article](#).



## Four Ways the White House's Newly Created Office of American Innovation Can Succeed



“The government does vital work in health, education, workforce development, criminal justice and safety, housing, antipoverty, infrastructure, the environment and more. Out of the spotlight of national political debates, hundreds of programs serve our citizens, representing hundreds of billions of dollars in taxpayer investment. But too rarely are those programs required to undergo rigorous evaluations to establish whether they accomplish their goals and are cost-effective—findings that can inform program improvements or shifts in resources to different strategies.”

“How can the innovation office succeed? It needs to start by creating partnerships across the government, including with the Office of Management and Budget. No one knows the opportunities for improvement within agencies better than OMB’s talented career staff, who interact with every program and management function in government. The innovation office should also work closely with career civil servants within agencies who know first-hand the barriers to change, what has succeeded and failed in the past, and how to give “staying power” to long-overdue reforms. And it should partner with Congress to implement changes that require legislation. Beyond such important relationship building, the innovation office should set its sights on big, bipartisan reforms.” Access the [complete article](#).

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## With New Research ‘Lab,’ D.C. Aims Big for Better Public Policy

“Social scientists have a long history of helping government, providing

research and data that help shape public policy. Typically, though, they're just advisers or consultants brought in for a specific research project.”

“The Lab @ D.C., which is set to launch its website in May, is different. For at least the next two years, the District of Columbia will employ a team of social scientists to study and address public problems. The researchers' expertise have a wide range -- from economics and statistics to sociology and psychology.”

“The scientists at the Lab are full-time government employees who respond to research requests from any agency in the District. It's a rare effort by a state or local government to integrate scientific research with the evaluation and creation of public policy.” Access the [complete article](#).

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### [LJAF Announces RFP: Demonstrating the Power of Evidence-Based Programs to “Move the Needle” on Major U.S. Social Problems](#)



“A central goal of U.S. evidence-based policy reform is to focus government and philanthropic funding on social programs and practices (“interventions”) that have credible evidence of meaningful positive effects on people’s lives. The imperative for doing so is clear: Most social interventions are found not to produce the hoped-for effects when rigorously evaluated – a pattern that occurs not just in social spending but in other fields, such as medicine and business. Thus, without a strong focus on evidence-based interventions, it is hard to see how social spending can successfully address poverty, educational failure, violence, drug abuse, and other critical U.S. problems.”

“Fortunately, there are some social interventions that have been rigorously

shown to improve important life outcomes. While relatively few in number, their strong evidence of sizable effects suggests that, if expanded, they offer a path to meaningful progress that spending-as-usual cannot.”

“LJAF's Moving the Needle initiative seeks to spur expanded implementation of such interventions in order to make significant headway against U.S. social problems.” Access [more information](#).

*AISP Network*

*About AISP*

*AISP Resources*

*IDS Uses*

If you have any questions or comments or comments about the AISP Newsletter or AISP, please contact [Laura Kitson](#).

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