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Federal-State Partnerships in Support of Data-Informed, Evidence-Based Programs

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Context

- **Uncoordinated programs and services are wasteful and often less effective**
- **Sharing information is necessary for coordination and responsible management of taxpayer resources**
- **We need a “Yes, Unless” expectation of data sharing:**
 - Technology and systems with capacity to safely and efficiently share data
 - Rules and policies that support responsible data sharing
 - Empowered governance structures to manage data sharing
 - Agency culture that recognizes the risks of failing to share

Opportunities for Federal Leadership

- **Clarify permissible practice and expectations**
 - Articulate a “Yes, Unless” culture
 - Remove regulatory barriers, actively support and promote appropriate data sharing as a fundamental responsibility
 - Hold federal agencies and states responsible when failure to share data imposes costs on participants and systems
- **Provide Resources**
 - Guidance and TA on sharing data across program silos
 - Model systems, infrastructure, and tools
 - Support for federal agency efforts (technology, governance, data management), and state integrated data systems

Recent Examples from ACF (1)

- **Information Memorandum on “Data sharing between TANF and child welfare agencies”**
 - Clarifying *existing* permissions
 - Articulating the logic and benefits of data sharing
- **Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems Regulation (CCWIS)** makes data sharing a fundamental component, requiring:
 - New data exchanges with education, courts, and Medicaid
 - A data exchange standard for interfaces with service providers and other agency systems

Recent Examples from ACF (2)

- **New Division of Data and Improvement within the ACF Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE)**
 - Integrate existing previously disconnected efforts:
 - State system assessment
 - PARIS data matching
 - Support for interoperability and data exchange (e.g. NIEM)
 - Support data sharing across ACF programs (e.g. TANF, child welfare, child support), with other agencies and programs in HHS (e.g. Medicaid) and beyond (e.g. SNAP) with technical and legal resources
 - Support data-informed decision making through improved data systems combined with analytic capacity, planning, and evaluation resources within OPRE

Recent Examples from ACF (3)

- ***Proposed State Human Services Longitudinal Data System***
 - Aligns federal and state interests; States as willing partners, with federal government offering TA, peer learning, funding
 - Supports program management and delivers directly to program administrators – improving buy-in and data quality
 - Addresses challenge of harmonization across programs in different organizations, with capacity to roll up to national level
 - Could include incentives and capacity to share data with federal system for administrative use, research/statistical use, or both
- ***Proposed Systems Innovation Technical Assistance Center***
 - Supports shared software and standards/architecture development
 - Current program funding “vertical” with limited support for integration
 - Current funding state-specific, not leveraging reuse

Key Objectives of Data Sharing

- **Improving Services, e.g.:**
 - Streamline eligibility determination by sharing verified information across programs to reduce administrative costs and burden on participants
 - Connect information from schools or health providers to child welfare records to improve continuity of educational and health services, avoid waste
- **Measuring Performance**
 - Individual program performance and variation over time or across jurisdictions
 - Indicators of performance drawn from other systems serving the same participant (e.g. the earnings of job training program participants, the educational outcomes of children in foster care)
- **Supporting Formal Evaluations and Research**
 - Reduce the costs and respondent burden associated with surveys
 - Capture detailed and accurate information on government services



Questions?

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