NON-PROFIT SERVICE PROVIDERS AND EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

Jim Sullivan
LEO Co-Founder, University of Notre Dame
“Right now, Washington measures success by how much it spends, not by how much it helps people. This commission will help change government’s old ways of thinking and make better use of the data we get so that we can make more of a difference in people’s lives.”

--Speaker Paul Ryan
Federal spending on social programs

$800 billion

1% Evidenced-based policies
99% Policies with lack of evidence
The Human Services Sector

$200 Billion

Strong evidence locally  Scale-up  National Impact
The Human Services Sector

No evidence locally

Scale-up

Unknown Impact

$200 Billion
Our Partners:
ECONOMIC POLICY

The impact of homelessness prevention programs on homelessness

William N. Evans,1,2,3 James X. Sullivan,1,3,* Melanie Wallskog4
Obstacles to evidence-based programs

- **Funding**: resources to measure impact are limited
- **Data**: information on outcomes is limited
- **Best practices**: Hard to replicate effective programs
Many programs persist without evidence

Refugee Resettlement

- Nonprofits help resettle thousands of refugees each year (70,000 in 2014)
- Program costs exceed $250 million annually
- Virtually no information on how refugees fare beyond 6 months
How the CEP can help

1. **Incentivize impact measurement**: encourage social service providers to test their programs

2. **Make administrative data accessible**: standardize process by which social service providers link to admin data

3. **Facilitate dissemination of best practices**: Help providers learn about and implement proven programs