



April 15, 2021

Happy [Spring](#)! We wish you an experience akin to #1, #4, #12, #19, or #20!

Round 8 WDQI Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement

As you know, the [Round 8 WDQI FOA](#) is out. Applications are due April 26, 2021, for up to seven awards of up to \$2.9M. [Equity](#), stemming from President Biden's January [Executive Order](#), is a new focus this round. In addition, priority consideration goes to "applicants with partially developed workforce longitudinal databases." If that's you, and you've not organized your team, you know what to do (we can help if you'd like to talk it through). If you are a [lucky Round 7](#) recipient and not eligible to apply, by all means, be a good neighbor and talk to the state next door! We're glad to help there too. [Here's a swell compilation](#) of first principles and effective practices (and even some new tools) to get you started. Sometimes an outside perspective helps.

Goings-On in Workforce & Data

Happenings

- **WDQI April Convening!** April 22, 2021, 2:00pm ET. We plan to do a semi-structured reflection activity coupled with a demo or two.
- **US DOL Summer Data Challenge!** Awards of \$10K-\$30K each to support research into how labor programs serve people in disadvantaged communities. [Applications due](#) to Manhattan Strategies Group April 19, 2021.
- **Good Tech Fest**, May 18-19, 2021. Apply to present [here](#). Register [here](#).
- **Data for Policy**, Sept 14-16, 2021, hosted by University College London (remote conferencing has its benefits). Register [here](#).

Hirings

- **Urban Institute's Policy Action Lab (DC)** is looking for a Senior Policy Program Manager. It's not all data, but it is about making data matter. More [here](#).
- **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (WA)** needs a Senior Program Officer for Measurement Learning & Evaluation and Postsecondary Success. More [here](#) (follow the link).
- **Brookings (DC)** is recruiting a Senior Research Analyst for the Metro Division (where much of workforce lives). More [here](#).

- **Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MO)** seeks an Economic and Workforce Research Director. More [here](#).

#ICYMI

- [JFF's Horizons](#) will remain remote this year. It's scheduled for June 15-16, 2021. We'll miss seeing everyone, more of us can participate remotely!
- [NAWB Forum 2021](#), a hybrid event this year. Call for presentations due April 30, 2021.
- A new **Researchers Exploring Avenues for Data Sharing** discussion group intended to support collaboration between researchers and state data system owners is launching! If you'd like to join, email the [CEDS team](#) "Please include me."
- Reminder: The **Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration's** own [#COVID19 response resources and FAQs](#) is available and continually updated just for you.

Last But Not Least

Longitudinal data. It helps us to see trends across time. Such as peak **cherry blossom season in Kyoto, Japan since 812 A.D.** That's 1,209 years (we counted ☺). Still, it's not as *long*(itudinal) as the accountant from Amenhotep III's reign who kept track of boiled meat in a container that has **survived in Luxor (Egypt) since 1337 B.C.** ☹. If we're as good data stewards as they were, our forebearers will marvel someday!

We've tried to be brief despite ourselves since we know those grant proposals are due in 14 days! Godspeed. And take care of each other out there.



Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff), Editor

Maureen Sarver (@maureensarver) & the **SPR/BrightHive Support Team**

A Big (Longitudinal Data) Insight



Data Says: Medicaid for Kids Could Pay for Itself

"One of my favorite types of social science papers is studies that look at the long-term effects of some government policy that had been enacted decades earlier," says Dylan Matthews (we're

with them). Minneapolis Fed economist Andrew Goodman-Bacon recently dropped a stone-cold classic of the genre, examining how the rollout of Medicaid in the late 1960s affected people who were children at the time. A new study finds people who got Medicaid as children were less likely to die young, and more likely to be employed.



Two (Longitudinal Data-ish) Resources



University of Pennsylvania
ScholarlyCommons

Population Center Working Papers (PSC/PARC)

Population Studies Center

11-10-2020

Using Administrative Big Data to Solve Problems in Social Science and Policy Research

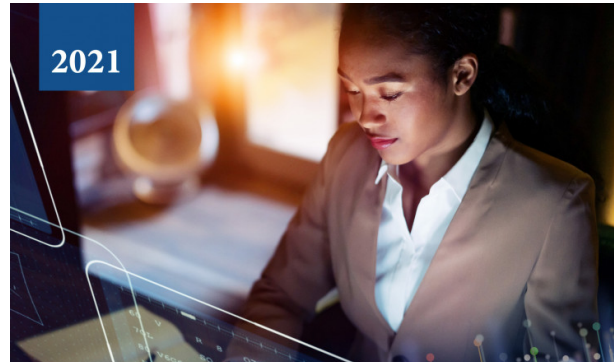
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Fan of Using Administrative Data for Policy Research?

This one's for you.

repository.upenn.edu



NASWA's New Pulse Survey

For those of you crafting your Round 8 WDQI proposals, NASWA's timing is perfect. We owe them one.

naswa.org

Have a Look: CA, MO & MI!

The Department of
Labor and Economic Opportunity

BUREAUS & AGENCIES **BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COUNCILS** **INSIDE LEO** **COVID-19**

LABOR AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY / BUREAUS & AGENCIES / WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT / DATA AND PUBLIC NOTICES

CREATE CREDENTIAL TRANSPARENCY

Learn about the benefits to job seekers, employers, and education and training providers when information about credentials is transparent and comparable.

CREDENTIAL ENGINE VIDEO

Michigan's Credential Transparency Initiative

Many states seek to make information about credentials (and their labor market value) more accessible to employers, workers, and learners. The Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's Office of Employment & Training partnered with Credential Engine to advance credential transparency, literacy and consistency throughout the state.

 michigan.gov



April 2021

The Cradle-to-Career Data System Governance Options, Explained

Key Takeaways

- » As policymakers home in on the technical aspects of the California Cradle-to-Career Data System, they must put a finer point on who will oversee the system. Governance is critical.
- » Cradle-to-Career Data System governance is so important because California's higher education system does not have a coordinating entity, as most other states do. This data system governing board will make decisions with lasting impacts on education and employment.
- » The data system's governance should balance data provider interests with public interests and be specific around leadership.

Building a Governance Framework in California

Created for California's stakeholders, this paper explains the need for governance and describes the models under consideration in California. We're betting those of you improving your own systems will also benefit from a quick review.

 californiacompetes.org



Show Me Strong – Missouri's Recovery Plan

Missouri's Recovery Plan site offers a comprehensive view of the Recovery effort, which rolls up into three easy-to-read dashboards (economic, health and social impact). #Inspired.

 showmestrong.mo.gov

Toward Recovery

A Year Later, Who Is Back to Work and Who Is Not?

Our own administrative and program data can help target resources where they are most needed. Layering in job quality data can help advance a more equitable recovery.

 nytimes.com

After the Storm: The Jobs & Skills that Will Drive Recovery

In this report, Burning Glass Technologies anticipates what jobs will be most important in the post-pandemic labor market, clustering them around five different "economies."

 burning-glass.com

What More Than 32,000 People Think About the Future of Work

After COVID-19: Building a More Effective Workforce Development System in the US

Almost 40% of workers think their job will be obsolete within five years, 77% want to learn new skills or retrain for something entirely new. Workforce data can help inform what we do now, and next.

 weforum.org

Food for thought. Data systems (even WDQI specifically) get a mention and are central to enacting key reforms.

 brookings.edu

A Way Forward? 10 Teams Advance in XPRIZE Challenge

XPRIZE and partners New Profit and JFF announced the 10 teams to advance in the Rapid Reskilling competition. They are competing for the \$1.5M grand prize in support of technologies that help place participants into full-time jobs. Six select future-focused workforce boards are testing winning solutions (in CA, CT, MA, MI, VA, and TX).

 xprize.org

The #MBW Podcast

***Our Very Own #WDQI
#MakingBetterWork Podcast Now
Has 20 Episodes!***

If you haven't subscribed, pull out your mobile device and do it now!

[iTunes](#) * [Stitcher](#) * [GooglePlay](#)

Search for **Making Better Work** on Google Play (a quirk of the platform).

Again, we hope these communication channels will bring your work further into the public domain so that kindred spirits in different parts of the public data ecosystem can find each other. It's a big job but somebody's got to do it. Why not us?

Information Wants to Be Shared

This is the 24th edition of #MakingBetterWork, the perpetual beta newsletter of the longitudinal workforce data community.

We'd love your continued help in making it great (and your generosity of spirit when we don't quite get there). Here's our focus (always subject to change) going forward:

- **COVID-19 Recovery!** (Alas!)
- **Impact** (Products, legislation, key policy decisions, and more – what difference is WDQI making in your state, community?)
- **Governance** (In the words of one of our subject matter experts, "It's everything.")
- **Ecosystem** (How do we better align public data efforts and work with nonprofit, foundation, university, and other partners more effectively to address critical workforce and education issues? How do we do this consistently, ethically, and responsibly?)
- **Themes that run through WDQI events and activities:**
 - Federal legislative mandates (WIOA – and evaluation, HEA, Perkins, etc.)
 - Trends in training: non-degree credentials, work-based learning, apprenticeship, technology and distance learning, dual-systems, stackable credentials, etc.)
 - Future of Work – using data to help policymakers, institutional leaders, and the rest of us navigate it
 - #DataViz – so more people can understand, interact with, and use the data and tools we're all creating.

In case you've received this from a friend or colleague and don't know how to find us, we've provided our contact information below.

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Know someone who needs this newsletter? Forward it or send them here.