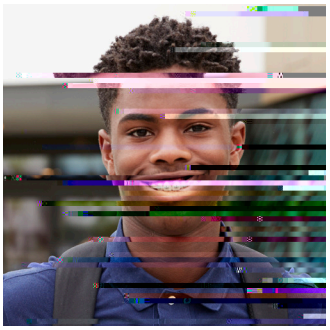
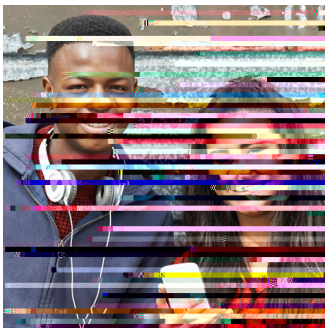
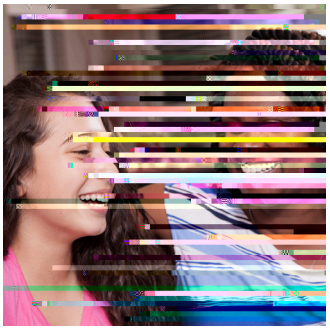
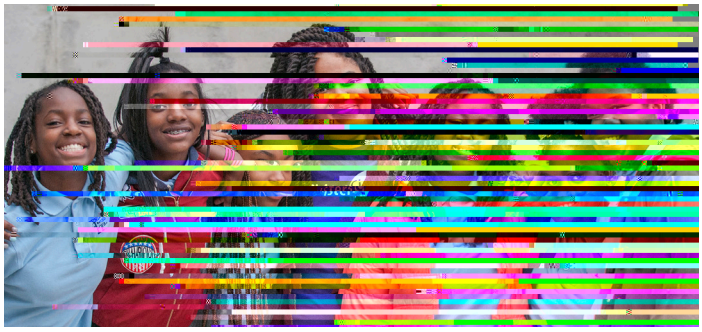


FUNDING PREVENTION IN COMMUNITIES

Lessons From Evidence2Success







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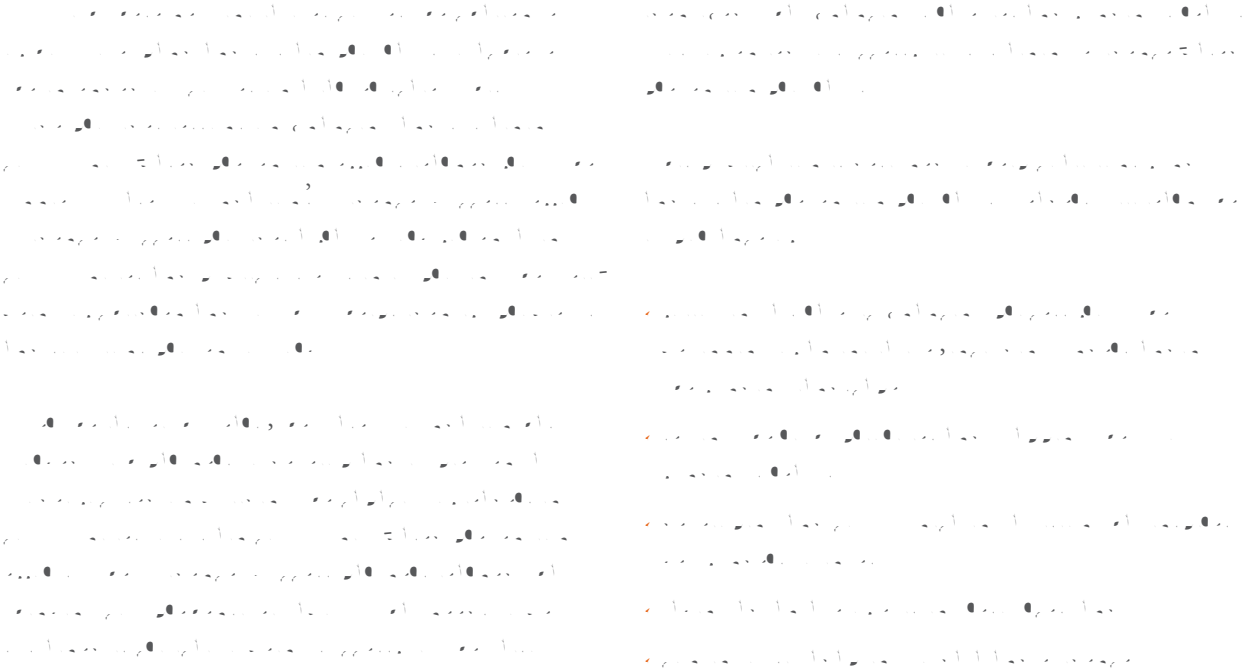
I.

I. Introduction

Evidence increasingly documents the factors that strengthen children, families and communities — and those that put their aspirations at risk.

1 Arthur, M. W., Hawkins, J. D., Pollard, J. A., Catalano, R. F., & Baglioni, A. J. (2002). Measuring risk and protective factors for use, delinquency, and other adolescent problem behaviors: The Communities That Care Youth Survey. *Evaluation Review, 26*(6), 575–601. https://doi.org/10.1177/0193841X0202600601



BACKGROUND ON EVIDENCE2SUCCESS

Evidence2Success promotes healthy child development by helping communities and public systems work together to use data to understand how children are doing; select proven programs to enhance strengths and address needs; and develop financing and action plans to support the ongoing use of those proven programs. The framework was developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and several partner organizations. Strategies include:

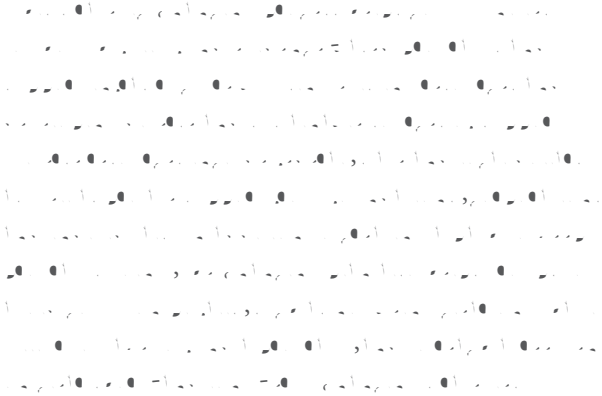
- forming partnerships that engage elected officials, public agencies and the community to work together to improve child well-being;
- collecting and analyzing data gathered through the Youth Experience Survey to establish priorities based on kids' strengths and needs;
- selecting evidence-based programs that focus on prevention and early intervention, instead of waiting until after problems occur to intervene; and
- analyzing the effectiveness of current investments and shifting a percentage of funding toward evidence-based programs.

The Casey Foundation provides coaching and technical assistance to help city and state agencies build their capacity to target their investments to support the staffing, training and data analysis required to effectively deliver evidence-based programs.

Evidence2Success began with a pilot site in Providence, Rhode Island, in 2012 and expanded to Selma and Mobile, Alabama, in 2015 and Kearns Township in Salt Lake County, Utah, in 2016. In 2018, Casey added Liberty City in Miami, Florida, and South City in Memphis, Tennessee.

II. Financing and Sustainability Approach

From the outset, Evidence2Success integrated a strong focus on finance planning and sustainability.



STEP 1
Set financing goals.

The first step is to clearly define what will be financed: what programs will be delivered to whom, and the infrastructure that will be needed. Evidence2Success administers the Youth Experience Survey (YES) to children and youth in schools to identify how they are faring in key outcome areas and their strengths and needs. Based on the assessment data collected, Evidence2Success citywide and community partners come together to identify a set of priority factors that influence those outcomes, known as “risk and protective factors.” The partners then recommend evidence-based programs based on those priorities. Leaders reach agreement on the desired scale for each program selected and the support required to manage and sustain the programs over time, including the capacity for data collection and analysis, coordination and planning, strategic financing and program monitoring and implementation.

STEP 2
Identify the financial resources needed to implement.

Once leaders have clarified their financing goals, the next step involves estimating the costs to implement the programs and build and maintain needed infrastructure. This step includes 1) developing three-year budget projections for programs and infrastructure; 2) identifying the resources already in hand to support those costs; and

III. What to Sustain: Program and Infrastructure

The Evidence2Success experience demonstrated that support for critical infrastructure is necessary to ensure ongoing collaboration and quality implementation of programs.

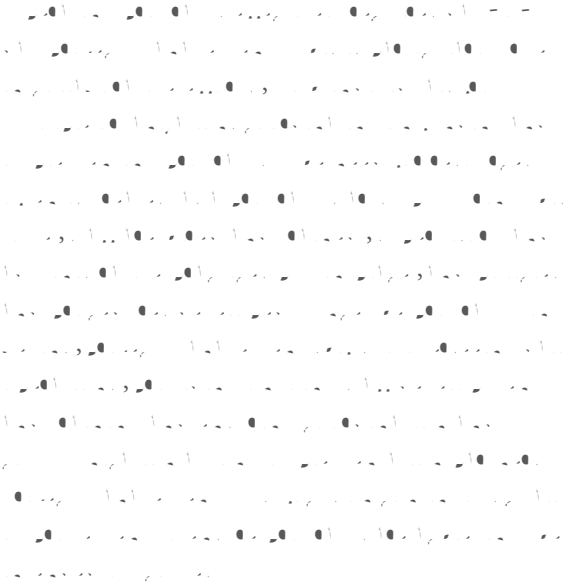
KEY INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITIES TO FUND

Partnerships

Data and Evaluation

Advocacy and Communications

Project Management



IV.

Federal Funding Land

KEY FEDERAL FU

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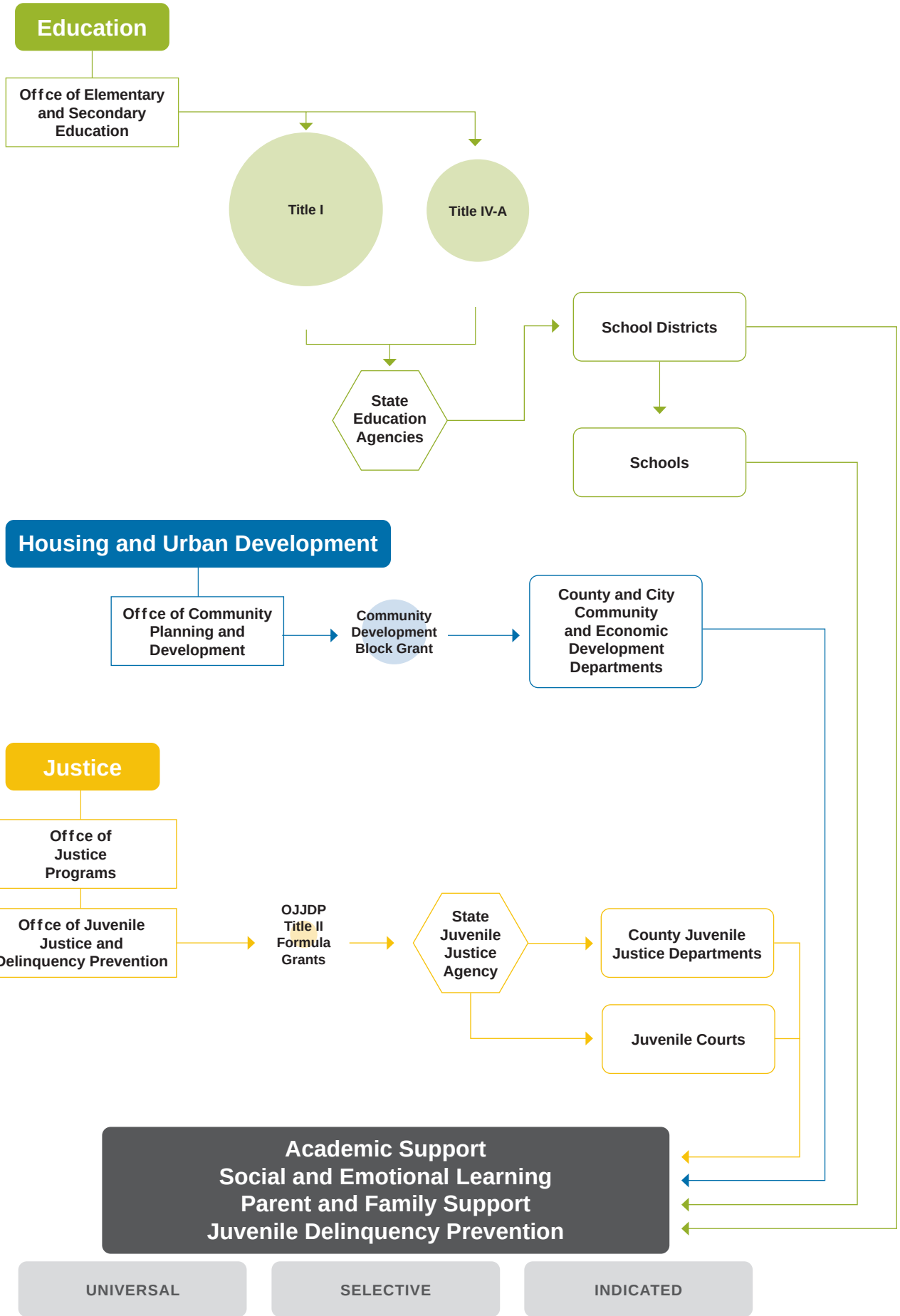
OJJDP Title II Formula Grants

HOW FEDERAL FUNDS FLOW INTO COMMUNITIES



Secure Federal Discretionary Grants

Access Grants and Contracts From Public Agency Partners

DEVELOPING A LOCAL BASE OF SUPPORT FOR PREVENTION IN KEARNS, UTAH

GROWING A DIVERSE AND STABLE BASE OF RESOURCES IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

In Providence, the pilot site for the Evidence2Success work, leaders of CYC, the local lead agency for Evidence2Success, developed a diverse base of resources that includes federal, state and local funds from public systems including the Providence Public School District; the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families; the Rhode Island Department of Health; SAMHSA; and the city of Providence, as well as private sources such as the Rhode Island Community Foundation. CYC's work has focused on developing tiers of prevention interventions within schools, with a focus on culturally specifc programs. Positive Action, a universal social-emotional learning program delivered in class, was one of the collaborative's frst programs. The local partners also identifed Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS), a targeted small-group intervention for students assessed as meeting the criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder, and Familias Unidas, a culturally specifc program for Latino families, as early priorities for implementation. The assessment work on CBITS helped to illuminate the extent to which students in the district experience trauma. These data also galvanized local leaders to support the programming and contributed to the successful acquisition of federal Child Traumatic Stress grants from SAMHSA. Familias Unidas received early support from the city and has been expanded with support from SAMHSA and the state's Department of Children, Youth & Families. Recognizing the importance of culturally specifc programs in the diverse communities served by Evidence2Success, Providence leaders recently added Strong African American Families to their portfolio of implemented programs.

After implementing Positive Action and CBITS in the schools, local leaders recognized the need for individualized, therapeutic interventions to help students with the most signifcant mental health needs to stay stable and successful at school. CYC leaders work with local Medicaid-eligible mental health service providers to deliver these services through the schools. Through these partnerships, the Evidence2Success collaborative has obtained more than $2 million in Medicaid funding to support delivery of services to students.

VI. Conclusion

Over the last eight years, Evidence2Success has worked to build the capacity of local communities to invest in data-driven, community-based prevention — and collaborative, strategic financing has been critical both to the framework and to sustaining the gains made through these investments. Communities build their work while using existing resources most e□ectively and developing diverse and sustainable sources of support. The lessons from their successes and challenges o□er a path for other initiatives working to bring community partners together to position young people and families to thrive.

. PA L REE BAL IMORE, MD . . .AECF.ORG