Data Insights and Innovations Award Nomination

1. Award Questions

1. Contact Information of Individual Submitting Nomination

First Name : George
Last Name : Putnam
Full Agency Name : Illinois Department of Employment Security
Email Address : george.putnam@illinois.gov
Phone Number : 3127939826

2. Title of the project/initiative *(Please create a title if one does not currently exist)*

Evidence Based Framework for Next Generation Decisionmakers

3. Provide a brief description of the nominee's significant contributions in one of the following areas (your primary focus): building the capacity of its workforce and labor market information functions; developing high impact products and services; OR making an impact on efforts in other states and nationally.

Building Capacity for Workforce and Labor Market Information
The Economic Information and Analysis Division of the Illinois Department of Employment Security has primary responsibility in the State of Illinois for workforce and labor market information. Through extensive public/non-public sector partnerships, EI&A has established an evidence-based practice on workforce outcomes for the State of Illinois. EI&A manages and implements strategic planning, analytical services and product development. Illinois Student Assistance Commission and Illinois State University host technology services. Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, and Illinois State Board of Education serve as subject experts on public-sector education programs. Illinois Department of Corrections and Illinois Department of Human Services serve as subject experts on high need populations. In addition, Associated Builders and Contractors IL, CompTia, Chamberlain University College of Nursing, Jane Addams Resource Center and Manufacturing Skills Standards Council serve as subject experts on vocational training programs.

4. Provide a statement of results, accomplishments, impacts and any other appropriate information that demonstrates why the nominee's efforts described in question #3 were an exceptional contribution.

Workforce outcome capacity building was one of only three Governor's Cabinet initiatives and targets vocational training completers, post-secondary graduates and high school seniors. The vocational training programs represented the public and non-public sector and covered construction, manufacturing, information technology and healthcare. The population of completers amounts to more than seventy thousand individuals. The post-secondary graduates (2010-2014 cohorts and 320,000 individuals) represent nearly 110 private and public 2-year and 4-year colleges. The high school senior project (2003-2016 cohorts and nearly two million individuals) is inclusive of all the 852 Illinois public school districts.

A second major workforce capacity-building initiative is a two-year pilot with the Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF) that was conducted between four Illinois state agencies. The two-year pilot established six evidence-based, data-analytic programs that wove workforce outcomes with criminal justice, welfare benefits, high need populations and economic development. Of import, the pilot also implemented interstate record linkage. The success of this pilot supported an IDES-led interagency initiative to establish an Illinois Administrative Data Research Facility (I_ADRF) for evidence-based decision making within the national ADRF.

The Governor's Cabinet and I-ADRF initiatives share a flexible, integrated, multi-technology solution to workforce information capacity building. The former platform supports SAS-VA data visualizations and data analytic workspace, with access to archived de-identified matched student records, for institutional researchers at nearly 110 post-secondary colleges, as well as a workforce outcomes information pipeline to administrators at each Illinois public school district. The I-ADRF technology platform supports open-source data analytics and serves State of Illinois partner agencies and approved researchers, as well as functioning as a gateway to Midwest regional data integration.

Moreover, these two initiatives produce products to support evidence-based decision making by major stakeholder groups. A smartphone-enabled web portal (www.ilcollege2career.com) informs career choice for students and parents and shows workforce outcomes by academic area and college in conjunction with a broad range of institution and career information. This portal has had 5,200 unique weekly users since its release in September 2018. A companion portal offers Illinois high school student profiles for learning pathways, intergenerational mobility, and career outcomes and is scheduled for release in March 2019. Program evaluation by local school and government agency administrators is another critical stakeholder group addressed by the Cabinet initiative. The two-year pilot for the ADRF included 60 evidence-based projects, including employment outcomes for the formerly incarcerated and welfare-benefit client groups.

5. Provide samples of work including creative materials, videos, graphics, documents, plans, etc. regarding the efforts and results you outlined in questions #3 and #4.
(File limit: 10 | 10 MB limit per file)

Question_5_Read_First.docx
1_Governors_Cabinet_Workforce_Readiness_20170605_....pdf
2_ilhighschool2career_File.pdf
3_ilhighschool2career_viz.pdf
4_Post-Release_Employ_20170616.pdf

6. Provide a brief description of the nominee's significant contributions in any one of the other two areas listed under "criteria" that you did not focus on above.

As a part of its two-year pilot in the ADRF, IDES participated in an economic development project that linked Illinois and Missouri UI Wage Records and produced a dashboard reporting interstate job creation in the St. Louis area. This initial effort has been extended to augment the State Longitudinal Data Systems in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana with a Midwest regional context in the ADRF environment.

The establishment of the Illinois ADRF platform within the national ADRF environment will further the latter's regionalization activity in several important aspects. First, many of the SLDS systems will benefit from the expanded scope of the I-ADRF evidence-based, workforce outcomes capacity to non-traditional public-sector vocational training (e.g., Corrections), non-public sector vocational training, Human Services SNAP/TANF clients, or Human Services caregiver labor market conditions. Second, Illinois brings to the national ADRF Midwest initiative a proven product development proficiency for stakeholder groups as diverse as students, parents, researchers, and local school and government agency administrators.

The national ADRF initiative has also captured the attention of the federal government, and is informing the development of the Federal Data Strategy (strategy.data.gov); indeed, the US Chief Statistician presented at a recent workshop on education and workforce transitions (https://coleridgeinitiative.org/workshop). Moreover, the ADRF was nominated by the US Bureau of Census and received a 2018 Government Innovation Award. Finally, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Data Innovations project, which has been initiated by the Department of Health and Human Services, began to institutionalize the ADRF approach by engaging state agencies to build evidence to improve TANF programs through the linking of Human Services and UI wage administrative data. The $15 million project has three main objectives: 1. to advance the creation and understanding of and access to integrated data; 2. to facilitate innovative analytic approaches; and, 3. to institutionalize the capacity built.

7. Please upload a copy of the email or document with your state agency administrator's approval.
(File limit: 2 | 10 MB limit per file)

letter_of_support.pdf

January 17, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Illinois Department of Employment Security, I approve the nomination of "Evidence-Based Framework for Next Generation Decisionmakers" for the 2018 NASWA Data Insights and Innovations Award. IDES, and through its many data partnerships the State of Illinois, is fully committed to building capacity for Workforce and Labor Market Information. Moreover, these efforts support an evidence-based practice on workforce outcomes for Illinois.

The strength of the Illinois evidence-based practice is based on a flexible data infrastructure and multiple-technology solution strategy. The flexibility comes in the variety of workforce metric applications, such as youth and non-youth vocational training completers and graduates from 2-year and 4-year colleges; high school seniors, augmented by decade-long longitudinal linking to postsecondary enrollment/completion pathways and intergenerational mobility profiles; and high need populations such as the formerly incarcerated and welfare-benefit client populations. The multiple-technology solutions come in the form of smartphone enabled delivery of workforce outcomes by education/training program designed specifically for students/parents, data visualizations and key indicator dashboards intended for program administrators, and secure server workspace for remote client data analytics on de-identified, linked micro records for authorized researchers.

Additionally, IDES is making an impact on efforts in other states and nationally by establishing the Illinois Administrative Data Research Facility, a data-analytics platform within the FedRamp-compliant national ADRF environment. This will expand the scope of the I-ADRF evidence-based, workforce outcomes capacity to non-traditional public-sector vocational training, such as the formerly incarcerated, SNAP/TANF clients, and Human Services caregivers. Moreover, Illinois will bring impetus to the national ADRF Midwest initiative with its proven product development proficiency for stakeholder groups such as students, parents, researchers, and local school and government agency administrators.

Sincerely,

Agency Director