# The Network of Multi-State Data Collaboratives: Value to State Agencies

Multi-state data collaboratives are developing as professional affinity networks above and beyond the technology and tools necessary to access and share relevant administrative data. The collaboratives are empowering member states to identify shared priority research questions critical to states and regions, join an innovation sandbox to explore how research might address the questions, and, if they choose, accelerate the development of data-driven products that rely on both in-state and out-of-state administrative data sources.

Depending on their desired level of engagement in multi-state data collaboratives, state agencies may:

- Join a structured innovation network and help develop new data practices and products with other state agencies and other states through:
    - Collaborative convenings,
    - Advanced data analytics training classes, and
    - Collaborative workgroups focused on priority focus areas.
- Weigh in on priority research areas of focus in multi-state region(s).
- If interested, host, manage and allow access to data (on a per-project basis) with other states through the Coleridge Initiative's Administrative Data Research Facility (ADRF), using common data agreements and shared data access procedures.
- Leverage already existing ideas, data practices, products, and projects created by a state or states.
- Build staff capacity through relationships with program and data leaders in other states and taking advantage of opportunities to learn about and engage in applied advanced data analytics training.
- Assume a national leadership role by steering a collaborative, training class, or workgroup.
- Engage with and help inform federal policymakers and stakeholders on needs and opportunities.
- Access outside research partners and potentially funding opportunities.
- Help support a profound shift in our nation's ability to leverage data to build timely, locally relevant evidence that will improve how we invest workforce, education, and human services funds to support better outcomes for workers, learners, businesses, and special populations in transition.