

The Multistate Data Collaborative (MSDC) Learn-and-Share Series

Approaching the Reentry Data Challenge

June 24, 2026

MSDC: An Opportunity for States

- States recognize and capitalize on the value of linking administrative data across systems and borders.
- Integrated data supports responsive policymaking, improved services, and reduced outcome gaps.
- Reliable, interoperable data is essential for evidence-based decisions and efficient resource use.
- Inconsistent federal support underscores the need for state-led data innovation.

Today's Webinar

- Learn how cross-agency data and partnerships can support program improvement and answer policy-relevant questions at the intersection of workforce development and criminal justice, through two case studies.
- Speakers:
 - Sarah Picard, Director, Center for Criminal Justice Research, MDRC
 - Michelle Manno, Senior Research Associate, Youth Development, Criminal Justice, and Employment, MDRC

Using Data for Program Improvement

Sarah Picard, Criminal Justice Center Director
Michelle Manno, Senior Research Associate

Multistate Data Collaborative

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Setting the Stage

Who are we & MDRC?

Goal for today

Meeting overview

- Two case study examples
- Acknowledge the pitfalls
- Share resources
- Discussion and Q&A

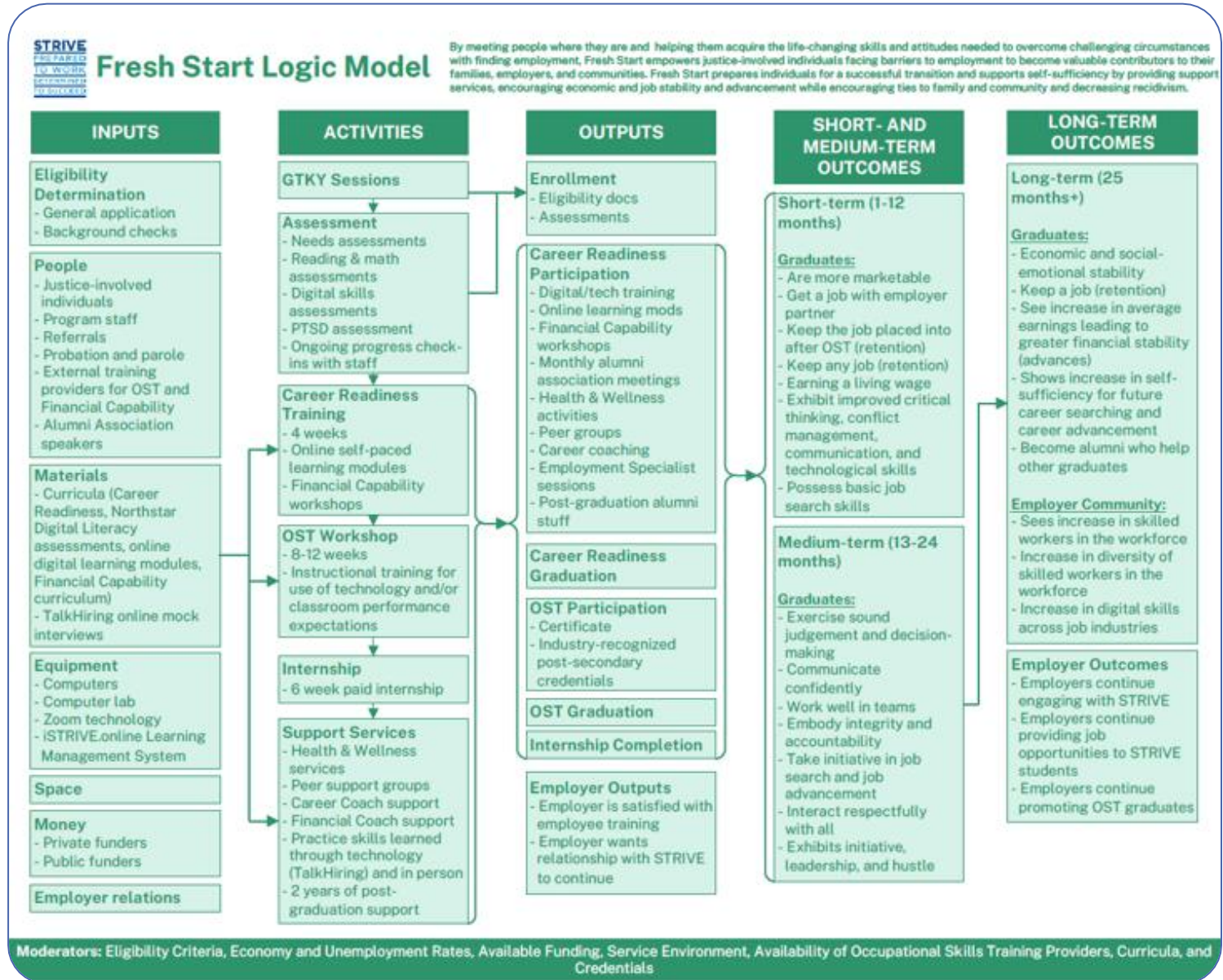
Case Study #1 STRIVE

- Build capacity to evaluate programs
- Strengthen data systems and tools to support program delivery and evaluation readiness
- Using data to assess against benchmarks

Learn more: <https://www.mdrc.org/work/projects/strive-forward>

Case Study #1

1. MDRC & STRIVE reviewed logic models of program to understand program flow.



Case Study #1

2. MDRC used STRIVE’s MIS participation data to conduct a “funnel analysis”.

Milestone	Number of people achieving milestone													
Enrolled in job readiness workshop	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Graduated from job readiness workshop	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Enrolled in occupational skills training	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Graduated from occupational skills training	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Placed in employment	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

Case Study #1

3. MDRC used STRIVE data to develop a predictive analytic model.

1. To assess whether enough students are achieving program success
2. More easily identify participants that may need additional support to achieve outcomes

Example data

- Application information
- Participation information
- Assessment scores
- Feedback and case notes

Case Study #1 Lessons

- High implementation fidelity
- Equitable outcomes across a range of student characteristics.
- Success rates comparable to peer sector training providers.
- Strengthening data systems and tools can support both program delivery and evaluation readiness.

Learn more: <https://www.mdrc.org/work/projects/strive-forward>

Case Study #2: Los Angeles Reentry Programming Evaluations

- Understand the implementation of reentry programming in the county
- Understand the effects of it on program participants
- Make recommendations that will strengthen reentry services

Learn more: <https://www.mdrc.org/work/projects/los-angeles-county-reentry-integrated-services-project>

Case Study #2: Data Sources

- Participation data captured by programs (MIS)
- Administrative data captured by agencies across the county
 - Arrests, jail stays, court and probation
 - Health services usage

Case Study #2: Research Questions

Research Questions

Outcomes 1 year after program entry

- Level of involvement in the criminal legal system
- Use of county health system services
- Employment

Case Study #2: Limitations

- MIS system change
- Data limited to county jail stays and court proceedings
- Employment data self-reported
- Can't say a program "caused" an outcome

Learn more: <https://www.mdrc.org/work/projects/los-angeles-county-reentry-integrated-services-project>

Pitfalls

- Incentives and disincentives to collaboration and transparency for criminal justice agencies
- This takes dedicated time and resources
- Establishing data agreements can be slow
- Merging data from different data sources can be tricky
 - Matching individuals across datasets with imperfect identifiers
 - Inconsistent data across partners
 - Different data definitions

Resources

- State longitudinal data systems
- National criminal justice data aggregators
 - Criminal Justice Administrative Records System
 - Recidiviz
 - Measures for Justice
 - NYU Jail Data Initiative
- Relationships!
 - What partnerships do you have? Who could you learn from?
 - Do you have partners that have relationships with entities that house the data you want?
- Does not have to be done in a vacuum!

Discussion and Q&A

www.MDRC.org

<https://www.mdrc.org/work/projects/mdrc-center-criminal-justice-research>

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Additional Comments? Questions?

Upcoming MSDC Virtual Events

- Learn-and-Share webinar: Building Data Capacity for Workforce Pell, scheduled for 7/16 at 3pm ET ([registration](#))
- MSDC General Meeting in August where you'll get a preview of the coming year, including the results of state agency input on updating the MSDC Learning Agenda.

Engage in the MSDC Ecosystem!

Reach out at atacollabs@naswa.org:

- Subscribe to our newsletter
- Join a working group
- Attend future Learn-and-Share sessions