

## Using evidence to develop Minnesota's biennial budget

The State of Minnesota is making dramatic strides in its use of evidence to inform which programs we fund and how we implement those programs. We do this because it produces better outcomes for Minnesotans.

Outside experts are taking notice of this bipartisan work. Two national organizations have placed Minnesota among the top five states in the country for using evidence to inform policymaking<sup>1</sup> and the Minnesota Results First initiative recently received a State Government Innovation award from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

As policymakers developed the state's biennial budget for 2020-2021, they had unprecedented access to information about which programs have strong evidence of producing desirable outcomes. You can learn about the available tools at [mn.gov/mmb/evidence](https://mn.gov/mmb/evidence).

When state agencies developed their biennial budget proposals, they used these tools to document the evidence of effectiveness. The Governor and Lt. Governor and their advisors used this information, combined with input received from communities across the state, as they assembled their first budget. Legislators and their staff used these same tools.

The enacted budget for 2020-2021 includes 11 new or expanded investments proposed by the governor and/or legislature—totaling \$87 million—that have been proven to reduce criminal behavior, improve academic achievement, increase housing stability, and prevent substance abuse and premature death. They are summarized on the following two pages.

To learn more about this process and using evidence in policymaking, please visit [mn.gov/mmb/evidence](https://mn.gov/mmb/evidence) or contact [ResultsFirstMN@state.mn.us](mailto:ResultsFirstMN@state.mn.us).

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<sup>1</sup> The Pew-McArthur Results First initiative placed Minnesota among the top three states and Results for America included Minnesota in its list of five states leading the way in data-driven and evidence-based policymaking.

## New or expanded investments in evidence-based items

(Enacted budget, updated June 3, 2019)

\$s in 1,000s

Change Item	Agency	'20-21	'22-23
<b>Security and Safety (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative).</b> To support programming that diverts youth from formal processing, provides community services following diversion, and provides probationary or residential alternatives to detention. This program has been proven to reduce detention.	Corrections	1,000	1,000
<b>Voluntary PreKindergarten.</b> To maintain access to voluntary prekindergarten. This has been proven to increase academic achievement.	Education	46,786	2,811
<b>Early Learning Scholarships.</b> To support scholarships for quality early learning programs. This has been proven to increase academic achievement.	Education	4,500	0
<b>Comprehensive Suicide Prevention.</b> Includes funding for a suicide lifeline, community prevention grants, and evidence-based training/resources. This combination has been shown to reduce suicide risk and suicide attempts requiring medical treatment.	Health	5,460	7,460
<b>Statewide Tobacco Cessation Quitline.</b> To operate a statewide tobacco cessation quitline to provide tobacco cessation counseling and nicotine replacement therapies. Both activities have been proven to reduce smoking.	Health	4,346	5,756
<b>Mobile Crisis.</b> To support face-to-face, short-term, intensive mental health services during a mental health crisis or emergency. This has been proven to reduce hospitalization and health care costs.	Human Services	2,500	9,793
<b>Increasing Timely Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment.</b> To allow the use of a screening tool to authorize a limited number of substance use disorder treatment services in order facilitate more timely access to care. This has been proven to reduce problem alcohol use.	Human Services	16	28
<b>Treatment Courts Sustainability.</b> To continue operating five treatment courts. This has been proven to reduce recidivism.	Trial Courts	612	612
<b>State Grant Formula Increases.</b> To provide need-based grant aid for postsecondary education to more students and in greater amounts. This has been proven to increase postsecondary enrollment and graduation.	Higher Education	18,162	18,162

Change Item	Agency	'20-21	'22-23
<p><b>College Possible.</b> To support high school and postsecondary education to more students and in greater amounts. This has been proven to increase postsecondary enrollment and graduation.</p>	Higher Education	500	500
<p><b>Homework Starts with Home.</b> To provide rent assistance and other housing assistance to families with school aged children that lack housing stability. This has been proven to improve housing stability and increase school attendance rates.</p>	Housing	3,500	3,500