

The Pew-MacArthur Results Initiative: Invest in Programs That Work

Every day, state governments make decisions about how to invest their limited resources, and these decisions will dramatically shape our nation's future. Investing in programs that focus on prevention holds great promise in yielding strong long-term benefits. The Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative (Results First), a joint project of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is working with a growing number of states and local governments to help them adopt and customize an evidence-based approach to making their policy budget decisions. This approach, based on Washington State's highly successful benefit-cost model, enables policymakers to use the best national research on 'what works' to predict the fiscal and social effects of potential prevention and other investments in a broad range of social policy areas. Participating governments are using this approach to eliminate unsuccessful programs and shift funding to alternatives that can achieve high long-term returns on investment.

This presentation will provide a brief overview of Results First and highlight jurisdictions' successes in using the approach to target funding to evidence-based treatment and prevention programs. More information on Results First, including links to descriptions of our activities, case studies of leading states, reports and issue briefs, and links to resources that can be used by other states and local governments can be found at: www.pewtrusts.org/resultsfirst.

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Tom Conroy, a vice president at Pew, manages a portfolio of fiscal and economic policy research and advocacy initiatives. In this role, he leads Pew's work to help all levels of government achieve short- and long-term financial well-being, promote evidence-based policies and practices, and explain the complex ways federal, state, and local fiscal policy interact.

Conroy's extensive professional and legislative experience includes four terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he served as chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and vice chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. He authored several bills and amendments that became law, primarily in the economic development, finance, pension, and health care policy areas.

Conroy also has a deep understanding of the private sector. During his 15 years as a financial and risk-management consultant, he helped large and mid-size companies and state agencies develop new strategies, efficient finance practices, streamlined operations, and more effectively mitigate risk.

Conroy holds a bachelor's degree in Russian and East European studies from Yale College and master's degrees in international economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and in business administration, with an emphasis in finance, from the Boston University Graduate School of Management.