



FOCUSING ON RESULTS

Focus on results of welfare programs



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"We believe in accountability. However, **hold us accountable for the outcomes that matter - getting people into jobs and off of assistance.** We recommend that [policy changes] measure meaningful outcomes related to employment and self-sufficiency and place less emphasis on process measures, such as participation hours."

OVERVIEW

Each year, federal and state governments spend a \$1 trillion on a maze of more than 80 different federal welfare programs.

Under our current system, the success of these programs is often defined by how many recipients are enrolled and how much money is spent. Yet very few programs, if any, are judged by whether or not they are delivering their intended results of helping people out of poverty.

If our welfare system is going to be successful, we must ensure taxpayer dollars are being spent on programs that are proven to make a difference for individuals and families. Success should be defined not by how many welfare recipients there are but by how many people move off welfare and into the workforce for the long-term.

We must target finite resources on programs that are proven to work so that taxpayer dollars are well spent and families have greater opportunities to get ahead.

WAYS AND MEANS POLICY PROPOSAL

- Identify common metrics of success and evaluate the effectiveness of the programs based on those metrics.
- Establish a pay-for-outcomes funding model that promotes competition, rewards innovation, and holds programs accountable for delivering results.
- Implement a Social Impact Financing tool that encourages public-private partnerships so that the government only pays for programs that meet expectations.
- Streamline programs and reporting requirements with similar "jobs-focused" objectives to improve the delivery of services, reduce duplicative programs, and focus resources on effective programs.
- Increase transparency and enhance coordination of data to encourage evidence-based policymaking.