



Expanding Opportunity at State & Local Levels through Evidence-Based Policymaking

State and local policy decisions are vitally important to the national economy. On matters ranging from transportation infrastructure to land-use regulation, getting policies right at the state and local levels is a prerequisite for broadly shared economic growth. Unfortunately, the resources needed for effective fact-based scrutiny of these policies are often lacking in city and state governments—which can create impediments to economic growth and opportunity. Identifying options for increasing evidence-based policymaking in states and municipalities can play a critical role in expanding economic growth.

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Making Fact-Based State and Local Policy

Justine Hastings (Brown University)

The availability of high-quality, integrated state-level data systems is often insufficient to support evidence-based policymaking and program implementation. Justine Hastings identifies a number of specific opportunities for states to make their governments more effective and efficient. Building on existing research and data initiatives, Hastings proposes to build platforms for researcher-practitioner partnerships, thereby improving the quality of public decision making and economic opportunity.

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Removing Barriers to Accessing High Productivity Places

Daniel Shoag (Harvard Kennedy School)

Where people live plays a powerful role in determining their economic opportunities and outcomes for their children. But in areas with strong labor demand and high wages, land-use restrictions often make it unnecessarily costly to build new housing supply and accommodate lower-income workers. Daniel Shoag proposes federal and state reforms that would enhance access to dynamic economies, allowing for wider participation in economic growth.



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Local Transportation Policy and Economic Opportunity

Matthew Turner (Brown University)

Transportation infrastructure has important consequences for the distribution of population and economic activity. Because low-income workers use this infrastructure in different ways than the rest of the labor force, transportation policy can be modified to improve the economic opportunities available to low-income workers. Matthew Turner focuses on how public resources can be reallocated to improve public transit and reduce congestion, thereby enhancing access to strong labor markets.



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