



## Investing in What Works: The Importance of Evidence-Based Policymaking

**New Papers for Release on Wednesday, April 17, 2013**

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, [The Hamilton Project](#) at Brookings and [Results for America](#), an initiative of America Achieves, will co-host a forum and release the following two new papers on the crucial role of evidence in policymaking.

### *Using Evidence to Improve Workforce Training Choices*

Authors: Louis Jacobson (New Horizons Economic Research) and Robert LaLonde (University of Chicago)

Workforce training programs have the potential to improve the lives and incomes of millions of Americans by lifting many into the middle class and preventing others from falling out of it. Despite their promise, however, too many workers enroll in courses that they do not complete or complete courses that do not lead to better jobs, reducing the benefits to workers and the economic return to workforce investments. A key impediment is that the information and guidance necessary to make better decisions is not available. This paper proposes a federal competition that incentivizes states to assemble data on workforce training programs, create 'report cards' summarizing the important statistics, and disseminating the information in a way that improves the outcomes of American workers.

### *Building on Recent Advances in Evidence-Based Policymaking*

Author: Jeffrey Liebman (Harvard)

Despite spending billions and billions of dollars each year, we are simply not making rapid enough progress in addressing social problems. From recidivism to school readiness, and obesity to workforce development, we have either failed to develop effective solutions, failed to prove that the solutions work, or failed to scale the solutions that do work widely. Over the past decade, and particularly over the past 5 years, new government strategies have begun to emerge—at the federal, state, and local levels—that offer the potential of simultaneously making better use of taxpayer dollars and speeding up progress in addressing serious social problems. This paper outlines five steps that policymakers can take to better inform their work by using evidence, and provides a framework for thinking about which strategy is the best fit for achieving a given policy objective. It also proposes a grant competition that identifies and encourages innovation in 10 social policy priority areas as well as federal support for state and local pay for success initiatives.

*The new papers will be available here on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 8:00 am ET.*

*For more information or to register for the event, [click here](#).*