Evidence & Evaluation

Effective social programs have the potential to change lives. But policy decisions and program investments are too often made without knowing if they will truly drive better outcomes for kids, families, and communities. Despite significant strides in social policy research, there remains a critical need to deepen our understanding of which policies and programs are most effective across diverse settings, and to translate this evidence into actionable, impactful policy decisions.

Our team is driven by 2 goals: to build knowledge about what works and to leverage existing research to inform better policymaking. In pursuit of those goals, we are dedicated to using rigorous, causal research to identify, evaluate, and scale promising programs and policies.

AV works to build the body of rigorous research about what works and advance the use of evidence in policymaking.

Strengthening the Foundation for Evidence

Building a broad foundation for evidence-based policymaking is crucial to achieve impact. We aim to strengthen policy infrastructure, improving incentives for using data and research, increasing the availability and relevance of evidence, and ensuring its practical application in crafting policies that deliver measurable outcomes.

Building Evidence for Promising Programs

By supporting rigorous research, we increase the body of evidence about 'what works' while also shedding light on programs that do not demonstrate success. With this evidence, we create opportunities for government to efficiently target limited resources to drive better outcomes for kids, families, and communities.

Bolstering the Evidence-Based Policy Eco-System

A significant gap exists between research recommendations and practical policymaking. AV helps bridge this divide by providing support for understanding the real-world demands of policymakers, demonstrating the real-time value of data, and translating evidence into actionable solutions to address timely challenges.

Accelerating the Ability to Scale Solutions

Very few evidence-based programs reach widespread adoption, and even fewer receive public support. We are building a better understanding of how to move key policy levers and develop best practices for scaling proven programs.

How We Work

AV focuses its strategies, grants, collaborations, and resources in four pillars to identify root causes of problems and implement sustainable, scalable solutions.

Research

Policy Development

Advocacy

Implementation

About Us

Arnold Ventures is a philanthropy that supports research to understand the root causes of America's most persistent and pressing problems, as well as evidence-based solutions to address them. By focusing on systemic change and bipartisan policy reforms, AV works to improve the lives of American families, strengthen communities, and promote economic opportunity.