DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Empowering communities to address issues and tell their own stories

Throughout the country, leaders in public and private health and human services organizations struggle to implement change initiatives that have a real impact on outcomes for their clients and communities. The Cutler Institute works closely with leaders in agencies, tribal communities, and other community-based organizations to implement change that will last. We bring these areas of expertise to our work: project design, implementation, and evaluation; systems thinking; adaptive leadership; change management; strategic planning and management; and the ability to align initiatives to the culture.

A SUCCESS STORY  The New Jersey Fellows Program

Partnering with Public Catalyst, Cutler Institute staff collaborated with the New Jersey Department of Children and Families to build the capacity of 100 selected staff to “manage by data.” Through classes and workgroups, these data “Fellows” became experts at utilizing data to “tell the story,” to analyze problems, and to recommend solutions.

The lasting results of the first Fellows Project are more timely child abuse investigations and more frequent visits between foster children and their birth parents.

The New Jersey Fellows Program is now an ongoing, state-run professional development initiative for successive cohorts of competitively selected child welfare staff. DCF Commissioner Allyson Blake has repeatedly praised the Fellows for their “groundbreaking use of data in an agency setting.”

How we work with our partners

- Develop a strong relationship.
- Help leaders and staff focus on outcomes, sustainability, and measuring progress.
- Understand an organization’s cultural contexts, assets, barriers, and readiness for change.
- Identify helpful frameworks, potential challenges, and broader perspectives.
- Develop the project structure and organization needed for implementation.
- Identify evidence-informed research/practice.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities, and engage stakeholders.
- Evaluate progress and integrate continuous quality improvement into the work.
Our more than 130 experienced staff take pride in our collaborative partnering with clients throughout the nation, from state and federal agencies to the private sector. With advanced degrees and decades of experience in areas of policy, social work, law, education, business administration, and public health, the Cutler Institute’s staff provide global, multidisciplinary approaches and resources to complex issues.

Using research and policy analysis, training and technical assistance, as well as program development and implementation, the Cutler Institute’s practical approach helps to translate best practices into everyday practice for government and community agencies.

Our primary research areas include children, youth, and families; disability and aging; justice policy; and population health and health policy.

Our staff are committed to working closely with each client — no matter the scope of the project — to examine the root of an issue and provide sustainable solutions that help leaders and organizations further their mission and vision. This scope of services and attention to both client and community solutions is unique to the Cutler Institute.

At the Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy, we are dedicated to developing innovative, evidence-informed and practical approaches to pressing health and social challenges.