Cutler Institute staff are skilled in a wide range of research methodologies, from exploratory surveys and focus groups to large-scale data analyses and complex statistical methods. Our emphasis on applied research means that, while grounded in the theory of our respective disciplines, we specialize in seeking practical answers to real-world problems and identifying policy and program solutions. Some of our areas of specialization are: quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis; analysis of secondary data; analytic tools and statistical models; and interpretation of findings that considers policy, organizational, community, and tribal contexts.

How we work with our partners

- Use evidence to improve outcomes and policies.
- Define research questions so findings are practical and actionable.
- Share the results of research findings with stakeholders.
- Engage partner organizations and policymakers in research design to understand and meet their information needs.
- Communicate clearly throughout the research process and obtain feedback on preliminary findings.
- Present and publish research results for professional and lay audiences.

A SUCCESS STORY  Patient-centered Medical Homes

Funding Partner: US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health Policy

The Maine Rural Health Research Center (MRHRC), housed at the Cutler Institute, conducts research that informs health care policymaking and the delivery of rural health services. Funded through the federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), the Center’s research agenda focuses on behavioral health, rural insurance, and rural health clinics. In the year leading to the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the MRHRC participated in a series of “rapid response” projects for ORHP to address gaps in knowledge related to rural health insurance coverage. As part of these analyses, Cutler Institute staff produced several research and policy briefs on public/private health insurance and access to health care that helped to inform the rural options, opportunities, and barriers to health reform.
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.

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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.