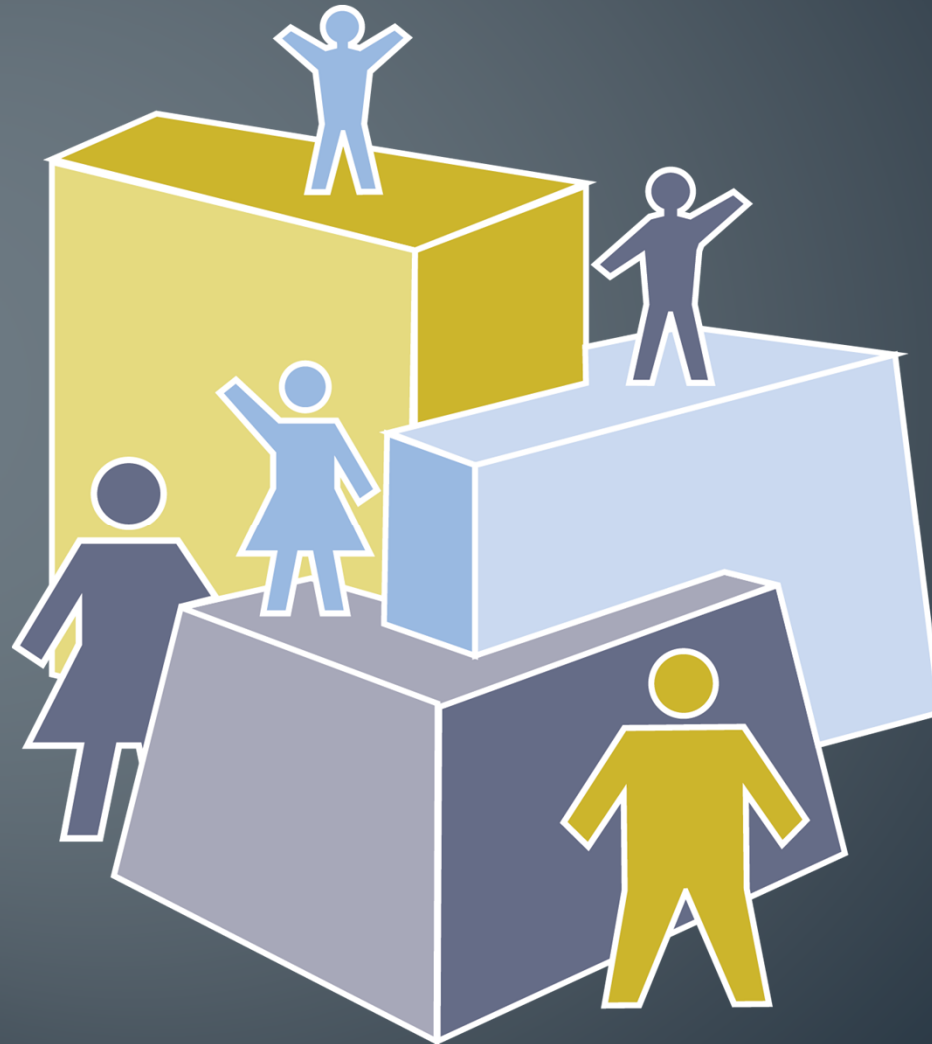




Building Better Public Policy for Families: Communicating Research & Analysis to Policymakers

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Families are the Cornerstone of a Sound Economy and a Strong Society



Policy Provides the Conditions for Families to Deal With Stressful Conditions

- The inability to find a job,
- Afford health insurance,
- Secure quality child care, or
- Send their kids to good schools.

Public Policymaking is not Working as Well as it Could for Families

- How could public policy be better for families?
- What would it take to make it happen?
- Who can provide the leadership?

How Could Public Policy Be Better for Families?

Policymaking could be more efficient if it leveraged the contributions that families make to their members and society.

- Families are a fundamental foundation for generating the productive workers that a sound economy demands.
- Families also contribute to the raising of the caring, committed citizens that a strong society requires.

How Could Public Policy Be Better for Families?

- Public policymaking could be more efficient if it leveraged the contributions that families make to their members and ultimately to society.
- Policymaking could be more effective if it were based on rigorous research and dispassionate analysis.



How Can We Communicate Family-Focused, Research-Based Information to Policymakers?



Island of Policy

Family Impact Seminars

Island of Research

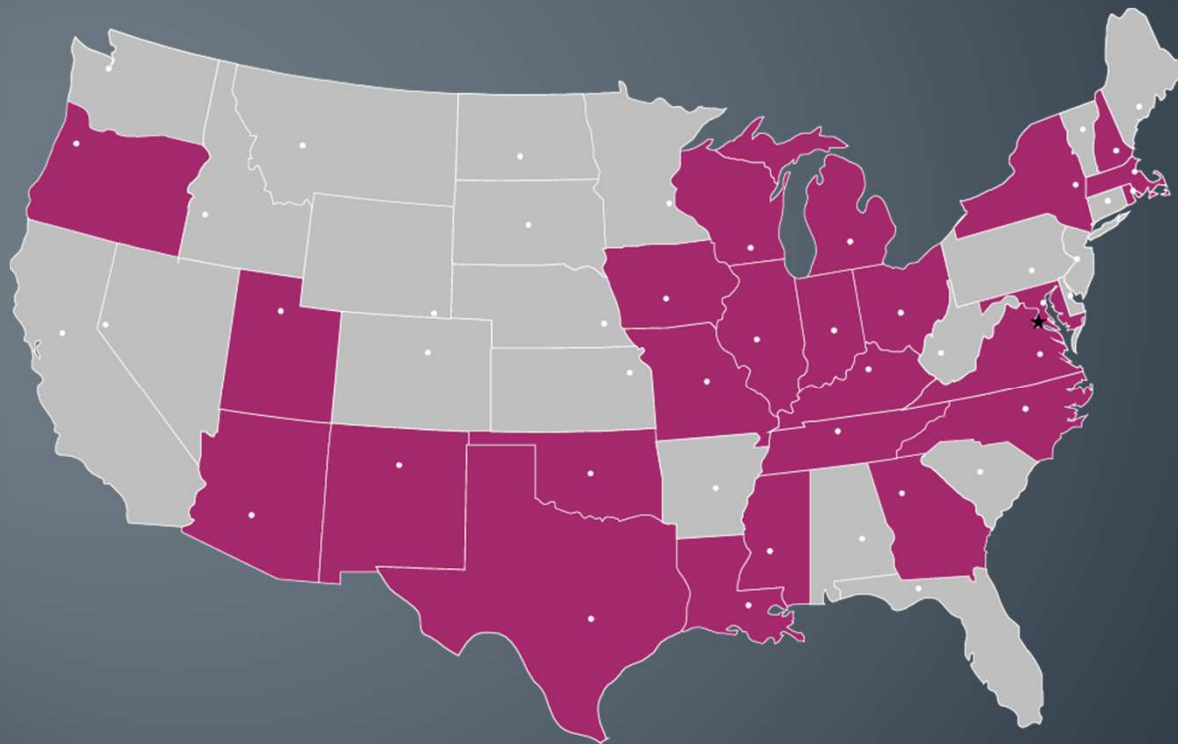
The Family Impact Seminars

A series of

- Presentations,
- Discussion Sessions, and
- Briefing Reports

For communicating research and analysis to state policymakers now operating in 25 states and the District of Columbia in the USA

Family Impact Institute Network



Since, 1993, Over 190 Family Impact Seminars Have Been Conducted

On topics that are family policies:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Early childhood care and education
- Family caregiving of the elderly
- Family poverty
- Parenting

On topics that are not family policies, but that benefit from the family impact lens:

- Economic growth
- Health care
- Jobs
- Workforce development

What Specifications are Needed to Effectively Transport Research to Policymakers?

What is Needed

1. High-Quality Research and Analysis
2. A Commitment to Building Relationships
3. Oral Communication and Discussion of Timely Research and Analysis
4. Objective, Nonpartisan Reputation

What is Not Needed


1. A Single Definition of Family

Focusing on Families Has the Potential to Rise Above Politics and Build Common Ground

- Except for two weeks, family-oriented words appeared every week Congress was in session for over a decade.
- These mentions of family cut across gender and political party.
- The business of Congress is conducted in the language of family (Strach, 2007).

Who Can Provide the Leadership for Communicating Research to Policymakers?

1. Focus on the Level of Government Where Family Policy Decisions are Made
2. Focus on Organizations with an Objective, Nonpartisan Reputation
 - Universities and Extension Services
 - Family Policy Institutes and Centers
 - Government Agencies
 - Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)
 - Partnerships Among Government, Universities, and NGOs

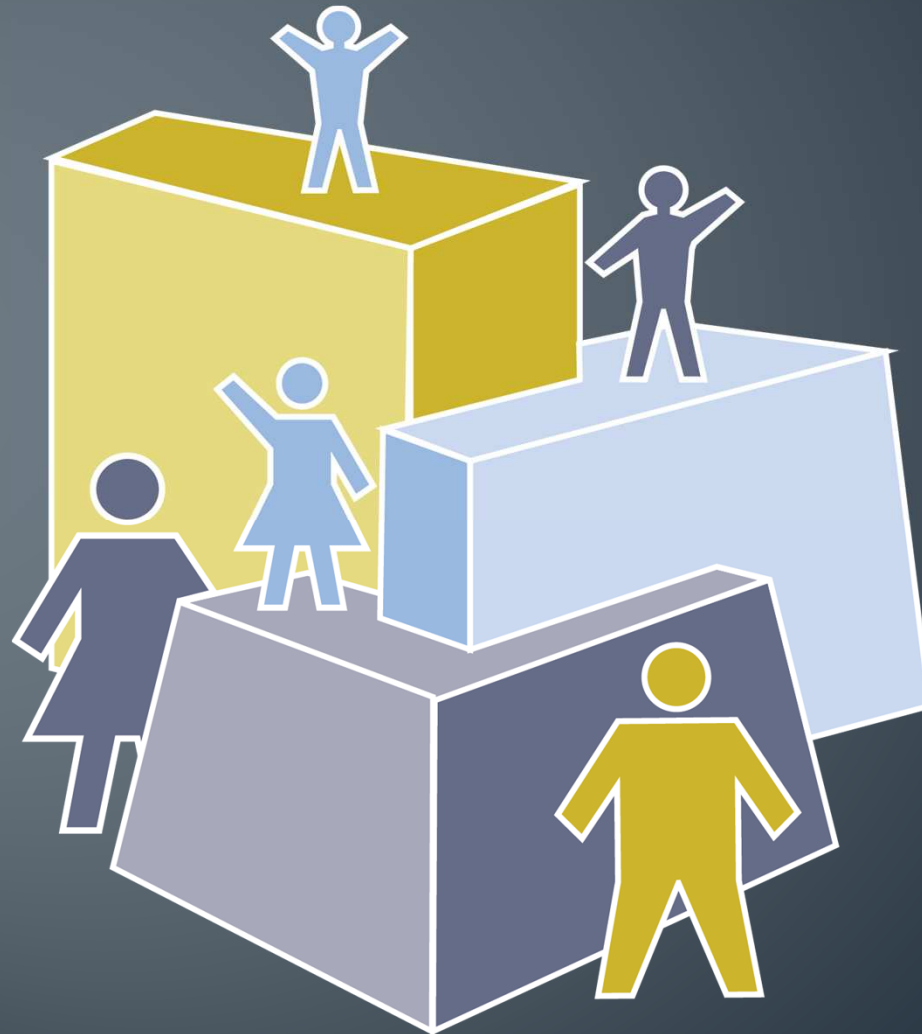


Is Communicating Research and Analysis to Policymakers Worth This Much Effort?



Are Families Worth This Much Effort?

Families are the Cornerstone of a Sound Economy and a Strong Society



**It is worth all it takes when Research and
Analysis
is Used to Build Better Public Policy for
Families**

