

Current research priorities in the study of evidence use in the USA

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Presentation for the Social Science Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London,
May 7, 2014.



WILLIAM T. GRANT FOUNDATION
Supporting research to improve the lives of young people

Overview



1. Background on WTGF and the U.S. Context
2. Themes in Recent Work
3. Priorities for Future Work

William T. Grant Foundation

to inform practice and policy

Supporting Research



to Improve the Lives of Young People

the gap

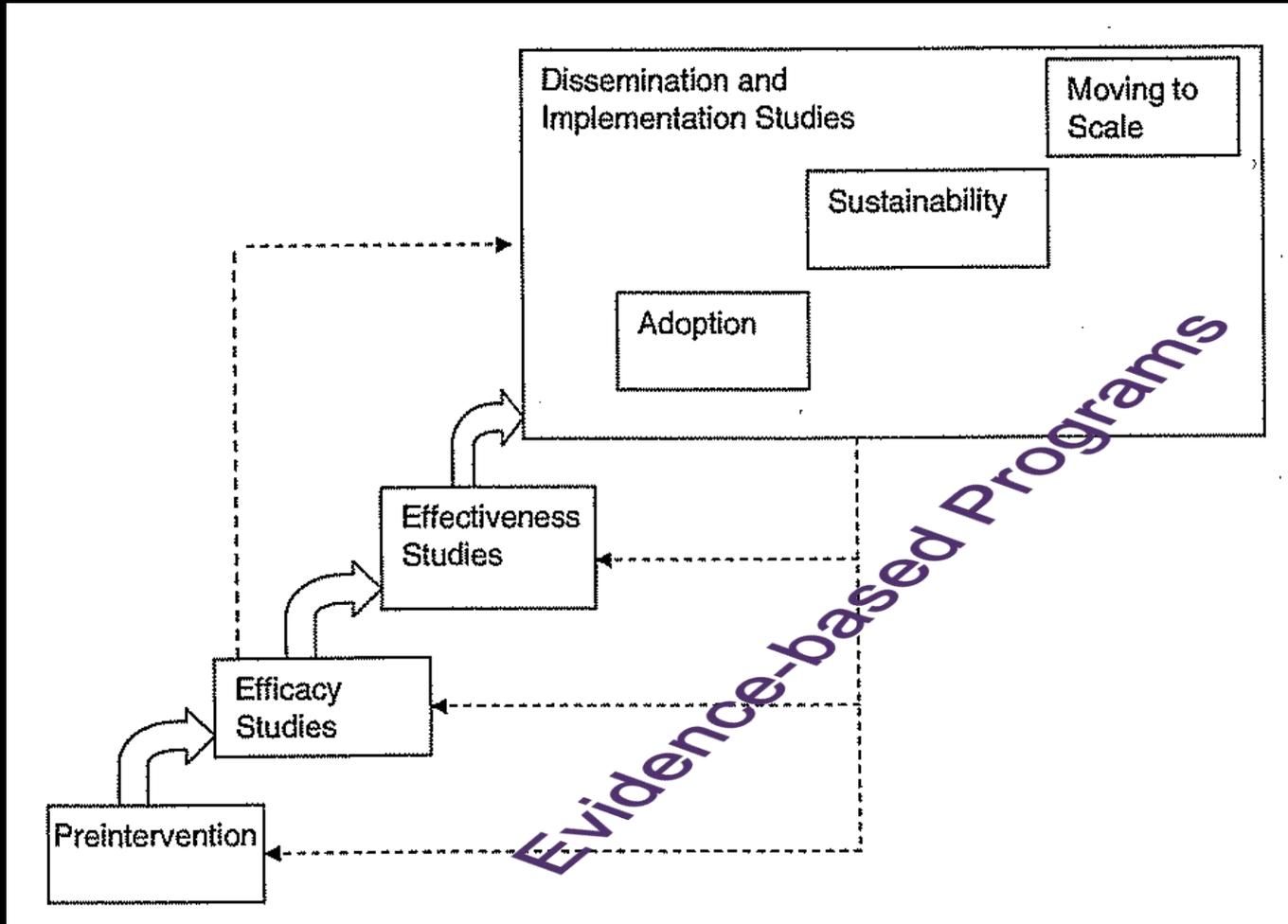




Research To Practice

- ✓ Improve Quality of Research & Syntheses
- ✓ Improve Communication, Dissemination, Marketing
- ✓ Increase Adoption of Evidence-based Programs

Stages of Prevention and Intervention Research





Support for What Works

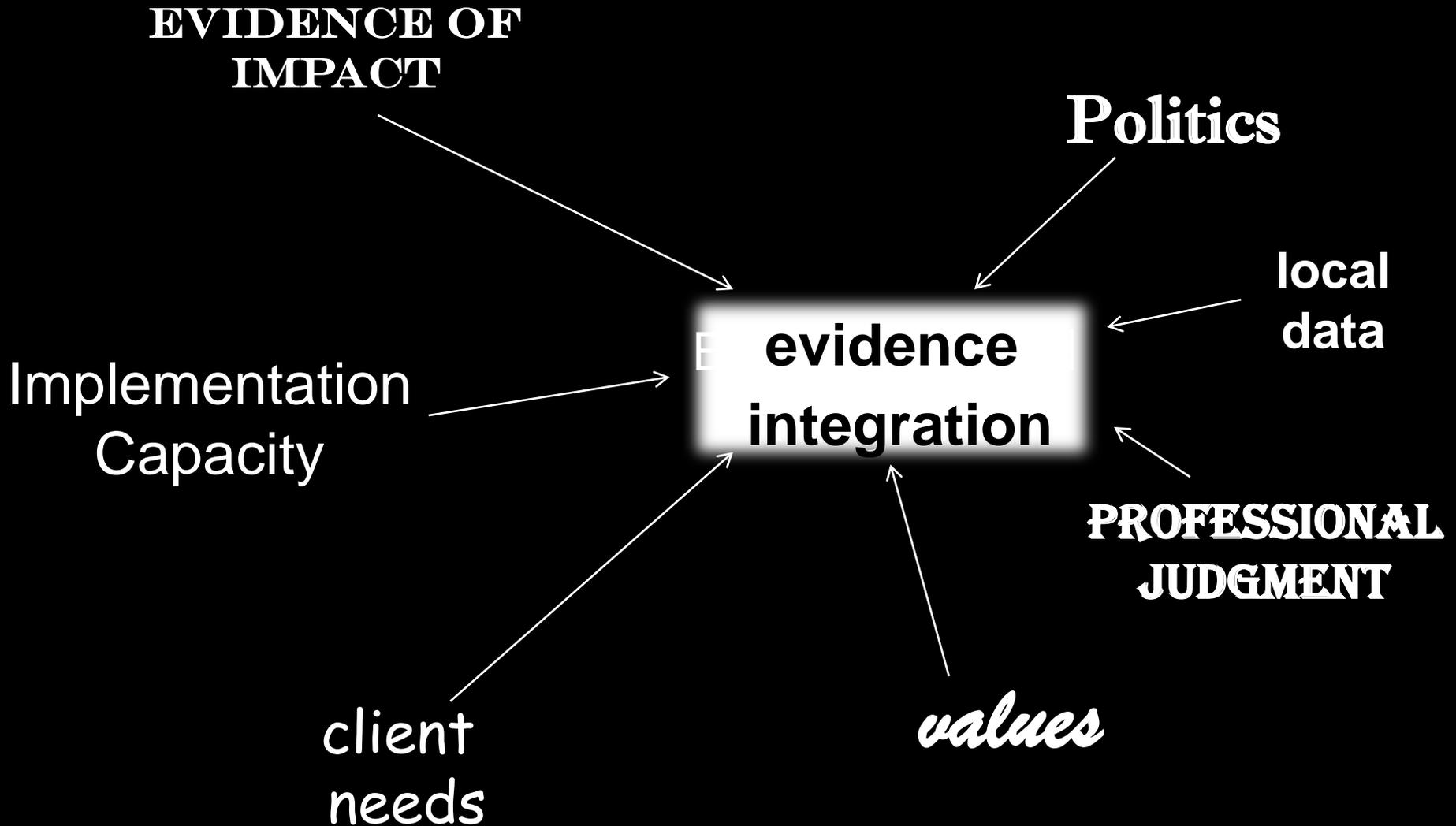
- Clearinghouses
- Research & Evaluation Funding
- Accountability

Federal Policy Initiatives

(adapted from Haskins)

Initiative	Initial Statute	Agency	Total Amount Awarded
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010	HHS	\$400M, 1 cohort of grants, 102 awards
Home Visiting	Affordable Care Act of 2010	HHS	\$1.5B to be allocated through FY 2014
Investing in Innovation	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	Education	\$1.1B; 4 rounds of grants; 92 awards
Social Innovation Fund	Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010	CNCS	\$177.6M; 3 rounds; 20 intermediaries; 221 subgrants
Trade Adjustment Assistance & Community College & Career Training	Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010	Labor & Education	\$2B for FY 2011-FY2014; 3 rounds of grants; 185 awards
Workforce Innovation Fund	Dept of Defense & Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011	Labor	\$147M; 1 round of grants; 26 awards

Local Decisions



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(mis)trust

“Evidence is just test scores; that’s the bottom line.”

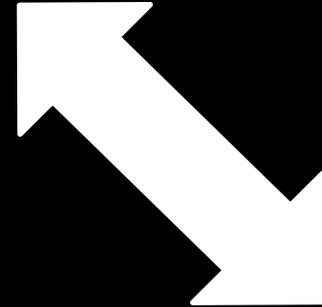
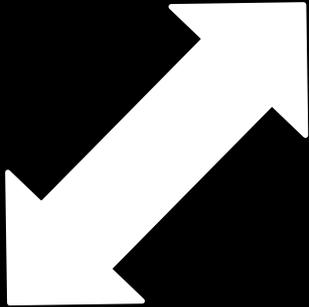
“You know, you can find research to support anything. The problems we have in our society today.... People are now using research to say that all the problems are the teacher, and if you can correct the teacher, all our problems go away, which is ridiculous.... The point is research can be slanted to support many different viewpoints. It doesn’t mean it’s correct.”

Finnigan, Daly & Che (2013)

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Two-Way Streets





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Research-Practice Partnerships



Partnerships

Research-Practice Partnerships

A Strategy for Leveraging Research for Educational Improvement in School Districts

A white paper prepared for the William T. Grant Foundation
January 2013

Cynthia E. Coburn, University of California, Berkeley
William R. Penuel, University of Colorado, Boulder
Kimberly E. Geil, Independent Researcher

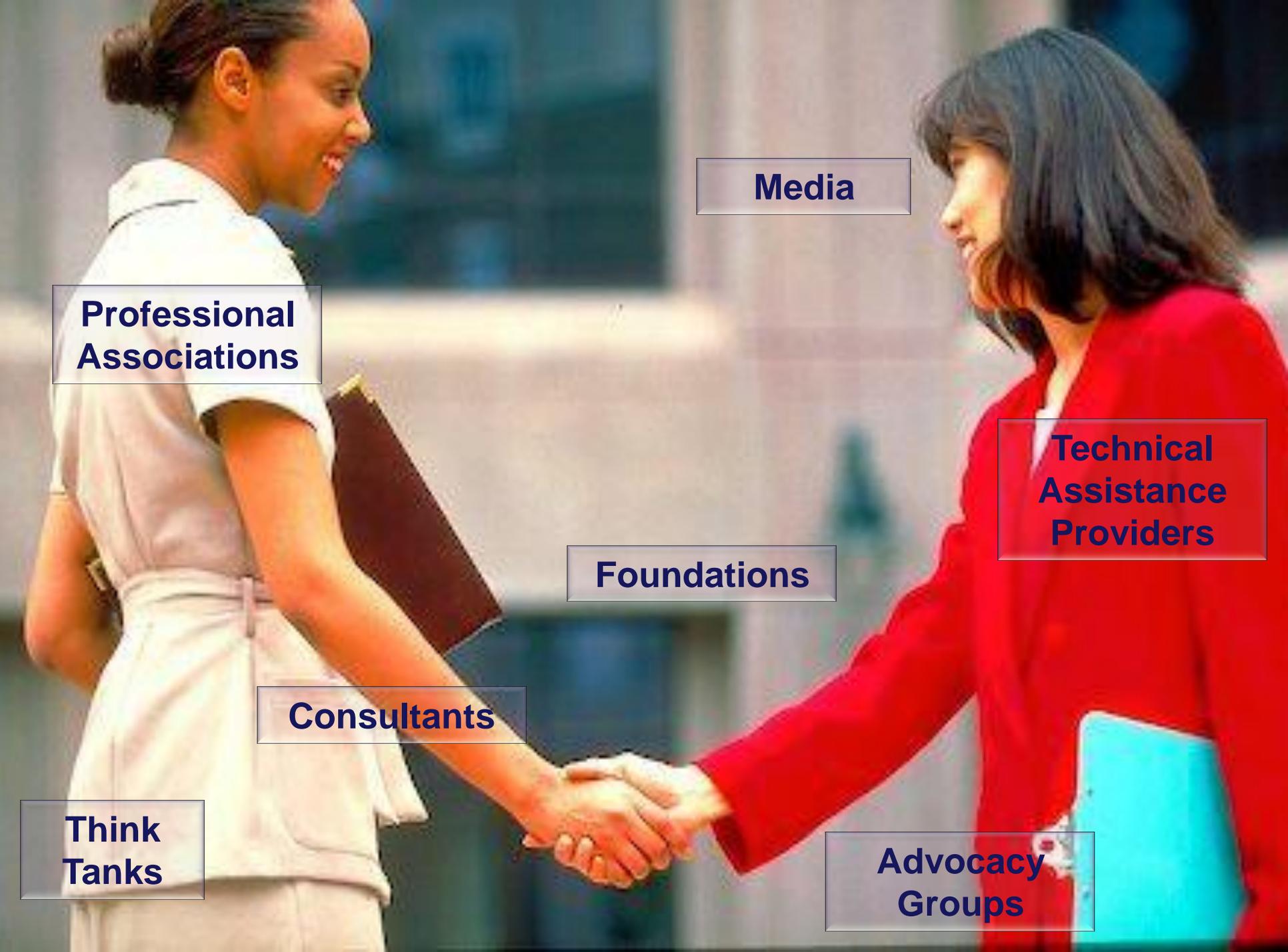


WILLIAM T. GRANT FOUNDATION
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- ✓ Develop Shared Commitments
- ✓ Build Relationships and Trust
- ✓ Work Iteratively
- ✓ Improve Research and Its Use

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Intermediaries



Media

**Professional
Associations**

**Technical
Assistance
Providers**

Foundations

Consultants

**Think
Tanks**

**Advocacy
Groups**

Politics of Research Use

(DeBray, Scott, Lubienski & Jabbar, 2014)



Future Work

Conditions to Promote Use

Strategies to Improve Use

Measuring Use

Assessing Impact of Use



Supporting research to **improve** the lives of young people

The Foundation supports high-quality empirical studies designed to improve youth settings and increase our understanding of how those settings work. We are also focused on understanding how and under what conditions research evidence is used to influence policy and practice that affect youth.

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Featured Grant

Major Update to Optimal Design Software

We are pleased to announce an important new tool for researchers and funders who commission evaluation studies. Optimal Design with Empirical Information (OD+) is a major extension of the original Optimal Design software; it was created by Professor Stephen Raudenbush, Dr. Howard Bloom, and their colleagues, using a grant from the Foundation.

[Learn More](#) →

Funding Opportunities

Upcoming Deadline for Research Grants

Letters of inquiry for our funding opportunities for research grants are due on April 3, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. EST. We are accepting proposals for both our investigator-initiated grants and the RFP for Understanding the Acquisition, Interpretation, and Use of Research Evidence in Policy and Practice.

[Learn about Investigator-Initiated Grants](#) → | [Learn about the RFP](#) →

Recent News

March 12, 2012
Foundation Welcomes New Board

March 12, 2012
Grantees Win SRA Book Award

December 06, 2011
Fall 2011 New Grants Awarded

December 06, 2011
Fall 2011 Youth Service Improvement Grants Announced →

- ▶ [Framework for Studying Settings](#)
- ▶ [Measures of Social Settings](#)
- ▶ [Design and Analysis of Group-Randomized Trials](#)
- ▶ [Consultation Service and Optimal Design](#)
- ▶ [Studying the Use of Research Evidence](#)
- ▶ [Grantee Forms](#)