

Philanthropy's Role in Government-Research Partnerships Webinar

May 2022

The North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) Philanthropy Liaison invited speakers to discuss the significance of research to government and philanthropy and ways that philanthropy can support government and research partnerships.

Speakers

- **Joy Vermillion Heinsohn (moderator)**, Philanthropy Liaison, OSP
- **Scott Jenkins**, Strategy Director, State Policy, Lumina Foundation
- **Ellen Spolar**, Senior Program and Policy Advisor, North Carolina Department of Justice (NCDOJ)
- **Liz Winer**, President, Winer Family Foundation (In 2022, the Winer Family Foundation was renamed the HopeStar Foundation. Liz Star, formerly Winer, continues to serve as its President.)
- **David Yokum**, Senior Advisor, OSP; Director, Policy Lab, Brown University

Key Takeaways

- Research informs and improves policy and programmatic decision making. For example, research helps: 1) identify innovations that may inform change in policies or programs; and 2) evaluate effectiveness of policy or program changes to determine whether they should be sustained over time.
- Philanthropic attention to and investment in research results in enhanced information not only for governmental agencies but also for philanthropy, which shares with government a focus on increasing impact for the greater good.
- OSP helps state government agencies identify key research questions and connect them to experts who can help address them.

Resources

The following resources were shared or elevated during the program. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of information or resources.

[NC Project Portal](#)

The NC Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) created the Project Portal for state agencies to share opportunities for partnering on their research needs and for people to express interest in pursuing those opportunities.

[The Policy Lab at Brown University](#)

The Policy Lab brings together experts from government, universities, and community organizations to collaborate on research tailored to inform decisions on improving Rhode Island policies and programs.

[Research for Action](#)

Research for Action is a nonprofit education research organization focused on using research and evaluation studies to inform policymakers, practitioners, philanthropy, and the public on matters relevant to improving educational opportunities and outcomes for traditionally underserved and marginalized students.

[Lumina Foundation Data and Research](#)

The Lumina Foundation invests in research relevant to its mission of ensuring that 60 percent of American adults hold a quality post-high school credential by 2025 and use it. They aim to understand what works to ensure access to programs that lead to meaningful credentials, for whom, and under what conditions.