



*“Cultivating Partnerships for Enterprise Integration”*

# Evidence-Based Policymaking

## What is Evidence-Based Policymaking?

Evidence-Based Policymaking (EBP) is the process of using rigorous information and analysis to inform government decision-making.

**EBP is about using evidence to address the problems most critical for an organization to understand.**

This involves asking questions about those problems, collecting evidence that will help answer those questions, and evaluating evidence to ensure that the answers, and resulting decisions, are fully supported by evidence.

**Value: EBP allows for decision-making supported by evidence so that actions have a solid foundation in fact.**

## What is Evidence?

Evidence (from OMB guidance) “Information produced as a result of statistical activities conducted for a statistical purpose.”

**More broadly, evidence is the available body of knowledge indicating if a concept is true or valid.**

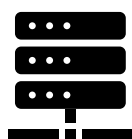
## Examples of Evidence Types

- Research
- Performance Measurement
- Program Evaluation
- Policy Analysis

## Evidence-Based Policymaking Leads to *Informed Decision-Making*



Well-defined  
Question



Research &  
Data



Thorough  
Analysis



Interpretation &  
Recommendations

## What is required from VBA?

VBA is supporting wider VA Central Office efforts to submit required documents to OMB, in alignment with other performance and reporting activities.

VBA Offices will be asked to inform these evidence-building efforts and required documents.

This is an on-going effort and VBA continues to work closely with VACO on VA's submissions.

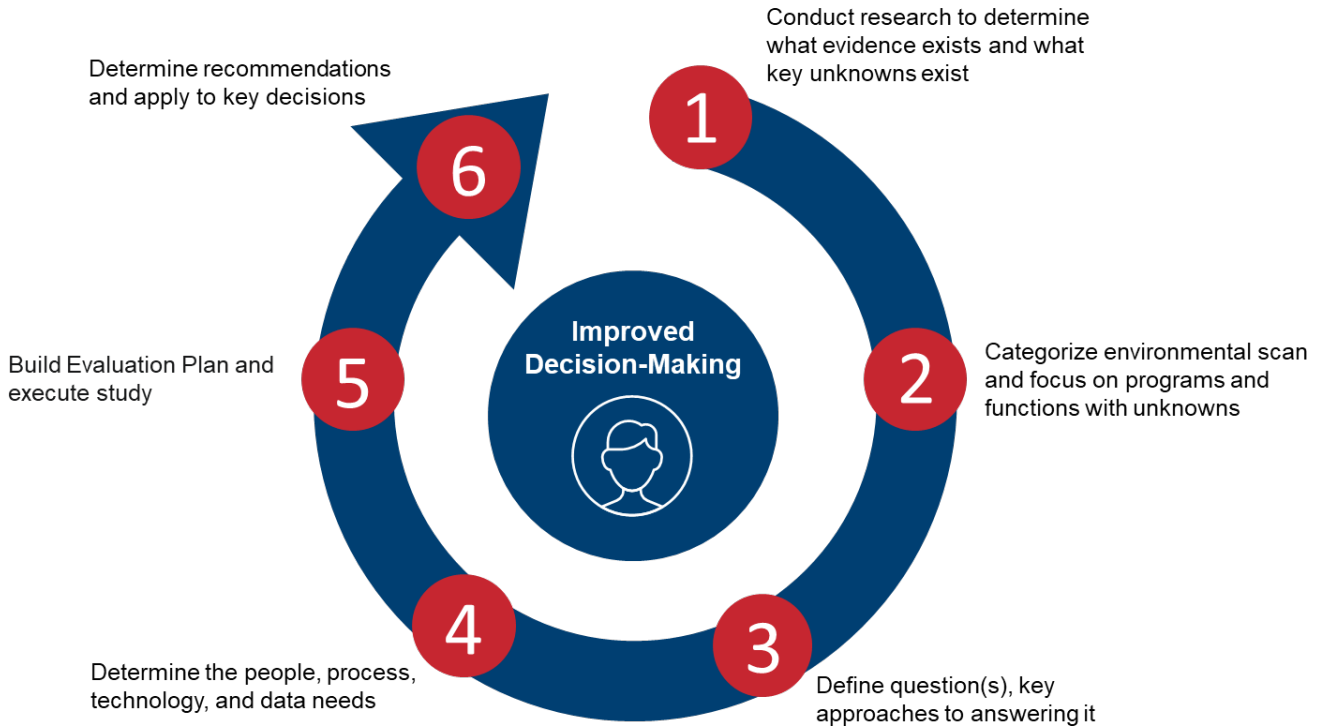
## Why is it required?

Evidence-Based Policymaking is driven by federal law and policy, such as:

- Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (PL 115-435)
- OMB M-19-23, Foundations for EBP
- OMB M-20-12, Memo for Evaluation
- OMB Circular A-11 (EBP details in Sec. 290)
- Federal Data Strategy

# Evidence-Building Process

## Evidence-Building Process Cycle



## Evidence-Building Process Check List

Artifact / Activity	Description
<b>Step 1</b> <b>Conduct Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Perform an “environmental scan”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify areas where additional evidence would be of value to the program area or organization</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2</b> <b>Categorize Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Organize findings by identifying key themes</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3</b> <b>Define Questions and Approaches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use themes to identify key questions of value to aid decision-making</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider context (decisions impacted and time period)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop approaches to answer priority questions</li> </ul>
<b>Step 4</b> <b>Determine Needs and Identify Gaps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify the people, processes, technology, and other aspects needed to answer each question</li> </ul>
<b>Steps 5</b> <b>Build Evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify sources of data and how to obtain data</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Collect data and conduct evaluation, refine and analyze data</li> </ul>
<b>Steps 6</b> <b>Apply/Assess</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Draw conclusions, make recommendations, and apply to key decisions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Assess sufficiency of evidence to address key unknowns</li> </ul>