



Mainspring Fund Mapping Tool

The services that support child and family well-being are funded by a dizzying array of funding streams administered by multiple federal, state, and local government agencies as well as private funders. This complicated funding landscape makes funding, growing, and sustaining comprehensive and coordinated family services challenging.

The fund-mapping tool helps community and public agency leaders to understand how current dollars are invested so they can make best use of existing resources and spend new investments effectively. The web-based tool allows multiple public and private agencies that are funding services in a community to securely enter information on how their dollars are invested. Once data has been entered, the tool easily runs analyses across multiple agencies that can be tailored to focus on particular outcomes, age ranges, or types of services. The tool helps state and local leaders to bring together information across agencies and departments that not only sheds light on the amount of funds invested in key services but also on how effective and aligned those investments are with priority outcomes.

What Is Fund Mapping?

Fund mapping is a process of collecting and analyzing budget, administrative and contract data from multiple funders to better understand how effectively current dollars are spent and identify opportunities to invest dollars more effectively.

How Does the Fund-Mapping Tool Work?

The fund-mapping tool is a web-based data collection tool with data templates designed specifically for each of the major public systems serving children and families, as well as foundations. These data templates can be tailored to collect information in a way that is most relevant and helpful to different initiatives using the tool. Each agency that is collecting information will receive sign-on information that will take them to secure online data templates where they will enter data. Once data are entered, the fund-mapping tool has built-in analyses that can easily be run to provide an overview of how much you are investing in different outcomes and service categories, what particular categories of services cost and what is known about their effectiveness.

What Data Does the Tool Collect?

The fund-mapping data collection tool contains web-based data templates designed for each of the major public agencies serving children and families as well as foundations that typically fund child and family services, including:

- Child Welfare
- City/County Government
- K–12 Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Public Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- Social Services
- Labor/Workforce Development
- Housing Authority
- Foundations and United Way



The fund mapping templates have built in fields asking for information on how the major funding streams typically administered by these agencies are invested. The templates can be tailored to reflect the interests of unique child and family initiatives.

What Analyses Can the Tool Provide?

Once the requested data is entered, you can easily run a variety of analyses, including:

- How much you are investing in particular child and family outcomes
- How much you are investing in particular service types (for example, early childhood programs, youth programs, home visiting)
- To what extent investments are supporting proven programs and what you know about the effectiveness of program models you are supporting
- How much key categories of services cost per participant
- How much funding is currently invested in prevention versus remediation

Who Has Access to Data in the Fund-Mapping Tool?

The fund-mapping tool is structured so that each of the public agency and foundation partners entering data **only has access to their own data**. Only the individuals designated as administrators of the data have access to all of the data in the fund-mapping tool so they can support the data entry efforts of individual agencies and run cross-agency analyses.

What Are the Benefits of Fund Mapping?

For individual agencies, the fund-mapping tool provides a way of looking at your spending that can help to inform annual budget decisions and agency priority-setting. The analyses give you a quick snapshot of your spending in key areas — how much you are investing in key service categories, how much you are investing in prevention versus remediation, how much the services of different providers cost per participant and how much you know about the effectiveness of services.

For partners in collaborative efforts, fund mapping allows multiple public agencies and foundations to see where their investments align and where there is duplication so you can better coordinate investments and make decisions about investment priorities.

For More Information

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