



## CSI News: Government Performance Strategy Academy

*April 21, 2010, Des Moines, Iowa*

The [Center for State Innovation](#) organized a one-day academy for senior staff and key decision makers from the Governor's Office, the state Budget Office, the Board of Regents, and relevant Iowa agencies to assist Iowa policymakers with the implementation of efficiency and cost savings reforms in IT and higher education and performance reviews. Non-CSI experts attended from the Center for American Progress, Pew Center on the States, University of Wisconsin, and CommunicationWorks, and several States running model programs... [Read more at the event website](#)

## Spotlight on State Innovation

### Illinois Sunshine Portal: Public Access Government Records



*March 12, 2010*

Illinois [Governor Pat Quinn](#) announced the creation of the [Illinois Sunshine Portal](#), which allows the public to review public records and documents online. The portal is part of the state's [Sunshine Project](#), which aims to make a wide range of information maintained by Illinois agencies available to the public in one location. The portal will make it easier for citizens to find key information about state government and builds on Governor Quinn's government accountability and transparency initiatives.

### Stronger Ethical Requirements

*April 5, 2010*

North Carolina [Governor Beverley Perdue](#) announced the North Carolina Good Government Package, a series of efforts to strengthen ethical guidelines in state government. The initiative prohibits contractors from offering gifts to officeholders, creates strict ethics requirements for appointees serving on boards and commissions, raises ethical standards for state employees, and establishes a "cooling off" period for state employees, prohibiting them from taking jobs with industries they regulated for one year after leaving state service. The proposal is part of a 15-month push to establish stronger ethics, transparency, and accountability in North Carolina state government.

### Stimulus Reporting Website

*April 5, 2010*

The [state of Nevada](#) has redesigned its [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act \(ARRA\) reporting website](#) to improve

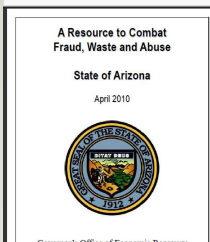


the transparency of the stimulus program for the public. The website is intended to answer the major questions the public has about how the Recovery Act funds are being used in their state. It features an [interactive map](#) that displays how state agencies are using Recovery Act awards by geographic region. The map, graphs and other detailed data are directly updated by state agencies through an innovative reporting system, and enable agencies to directly report actual project expenditures to the public.

### Combating Recovery Act Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

*April 1, 2010*

Arizona [Governor Jan Brewer](#) announced a new initiative designed to ensure prudent management of funds entrusted to the state through the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act \(ARRA\)](#). As part of the initiative, the Governor released a [22-page resource](#) for state agencies providing guidelines for the rigorous oversight



## Recent Publications

### [Doing What Works: Building a Government That Delivers Greater Value and Results to the American People](#)

The [Center for American Progress](#) outlines best practices for promoting more effective and efficient government operations. Although many government executives promote good government as an administrative priority, achieving efficiency and transparency entails a number of challenges. The report calls for governments to do a better job assessing program performance, ensuring that performance results have budgetary consequences, and replicating management strategies that work while abandoning those that don't.

### [But Will It Work: Implementation Analysis to Improve Government Performance](#)

The [Brookings Institution](#) examines the link between effective program implementation and program performance. The report discusses how problems that arise in the implementation process can make it less likely that policy objectives will be achieved. These problems can lower staff morale and diminish the reputation of agencies responsible for these reforms. This brief argues that the United States should adopt a program of "Implementation Analysis" for major legislative proposals in Congress.

### [Broken Politics](#)

[The Brookings Institution](#) recently released a paper summarizing the current dysfunction in US Government Institutions. Despite increasing policy challenges, Congress has largely proven unable to take the bold action necessary to alleviate the array of problems facing the United States. The authors outline reforms to our political system needed to enhance our capacity for innovation, leadership, coalition-building, problem-solving, and implementation.

### [Improving Government Efficiency: Federal Contracting Reform and Other Operational Changes Could Save Hundreds of Billions of Dollars](#)

The [Center for American Progress](#) discusses recent federal efforts to consolidate IT operations and utilize cloud computing. While working on its major legislative goals, the Obama administration has also initiated numerous administrative reforms in procurement, IT, and contracting that have the potential to yield hundreds of millions in savings in future years.

### [Innovation as Narrative](#)

The [Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University](#), outlines how the narratives established by various government performance initiatives differ. It offers suggestions for how public management scholars can incorporate this analysis of narrative into their work, how innovation awards could ask applicants to develop more explicit narratives, and how innovators could make more effective use of narrative in communicating achievements.

### [Golden Goals for Government Performance: Five Case Studies on How to Establish Goals to Achieve Results](#)

The [Center for American Progress](#) summarizes five state and international efforts to utilize data to maximize government performance. The best performance management systems have clear outcome measures, make goals government-wide, encourage agencies to work together, make performance data available to the public, judge new initiatives based on these performance criteria, and have legislative and executive branches that work together on a performance agenda.

*If you have a program or report you'd like other states to know about, something you think we should include in the newsletter, or other questions or comments, please contact us:*

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