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#### **Pew Report Finds States Increasingly Use Data in Policy, Funding Decisions**

Utah has made taking an evidence-based approach to policy, programming and funding decisions a high priority in recent years, demanding greater levels of data and research to support the use of state resources. According to a new report by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Utah is one of five leading states in evidence-based policymaking across the country, and other states are following suit.

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#### **State Fiscal Conditions in Flux**

About one of every three dollars of state revenue comes from the federal government. But with a new Republican-controlled White House and Congress, the future of that funding is unclear. The possibility of a change in federal funding levels comes on top of a slow economic recovery that has impacted states' bottom lines. Uncertainty about federal funding is a top issue on state lawmakers' agendas in 2017.

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## State and Federal Officials Weigh Options to Fund Infrastructure Plan

During a joint address to Congress Feb. 28, President Donald Trump doubled-down on his campaign promise to invest \$1 trillion in infrastructure across the country. House Speaker Paul Ryan has supported this approach, proposing in January that \$40 of private financing should be leveraged for every federal dollar. But state officials have expressed concern that a plan that relies heavily on private financing may not meet the long-term funding needs required to upgrade the country's crumbling infrastructure.

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## Entrepreneurship, Tax Incentives and Procurement for People with Disabilities

Small businesses are a critical sector of the overall U.S. economy, and disability-owned businesses are a valuable component of that. In fact, individuals with disabilities are more likely to be self-employed or entrepreneurs than individuals without disabilities. And states can help encourage entrepreneurship among individuals with disabilities through a variety of strategies, such as training programs, vocational rehabilitation services and procurement policies.

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## States and 'Never Resided' Voters

The Federal Voting Assistance Program calls Americans who were born internationally and who have never resided in the U.S. "never resided" voters. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act grants eligibility for citizens who live outside of the U.S. to vote for federal offices. However, the jurisdiction in which the voter can cast a ballot relies on their last place of residency in the states. This leaves room for confusion when discussing citizens who have never resided in the United States and therefore do not have a "previous residency."

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## President Trump Signs Executive Order on WOTUS

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on March 1 directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to "review and reconsider" the Obama administration's controversial Waters of the U.S., or WOTUS, rule under the Clean Water Act. The rule, finalized in May 2015, was intended to define the term "waters of the United States" as used in the CWA, but states and local governments have objected to numerous aspects of the definition as too broad.

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### **Transportation Funding Activity Expected to Increase in 2017 Legislative Sessions**

The experts who discussed transportation funding during a recent CSG eCademy webcast, "States to Watch in 2017: Transportation Funding," said more activity will likely occur in the area this year, following a slowdown in bills introduced and enacted during the election year. Fifteen states had introduced 33 transportation funding bills by early February 2017.

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### **CSG Policy Experts Announce Top Issues Facing States in 2017**

The Council of State Governments recently released its annual listing of Top 5 Issues in education, energy and the environment, federal affairs, fiscal and economic development, health, international affairs, interstate compacts, transportation, and workforce development. The new presidential administration and what the transition means for states is at the core of many top policy issues on states' agendas this year.

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### **Civics in the States: What It Is and Why It Is Needed**

Tuesday, March 7, 2 p.m. EST  
FREE CSG eCademy webinar  
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### **State Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic**

Tuesday, March 21, 2 p.m. EDT  
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### **Report Card for America's Infrastructure 2017**

Tuesday, April 4, 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy webinar  
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### **Attracting Investment into States**

Tuesday, April 11, at 2 p.m. EDT  
FREE CSG eCademy webinar  
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### **The Legal Landscape of Public Employee Pension Reform**

Tuesday, April 18, 2 p.m. EDT

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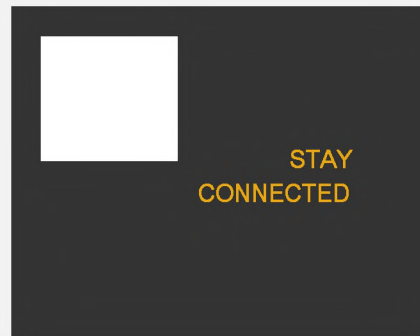
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**Workforce Development: How States are  
Innovating with WIOA**  
Tuesday, May 9, 2 p.m. EDT  
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