

May-July 2023

Issue #6

INTERGOVERNMENTAL INSIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter



CENTER FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS

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RECENT INITIATIVES

Released Yesterday!



Intergovernmental Governance - The Toolkit

The Center released the “Modern Intergovernmental Governance Toolkit” on July 31. This report aimed to design a governance model for intergovernmental partnerships that address some of society’s compelling problems. The Study Team compiled examples and identified the key mechanisms of effective intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation, created a basic typology, and identified the main obstacles of today’s intergovernmental system. This report does not comprehensively document all forms of intergovernmental partnership or assess the effectiveness of each instance. Instead, it presents a set of key practices and tenets and an action plan to implement them based on careful examination of effective partnerships. The result is a high-level agenda for change applicable in various policy contexts and a launch pad for additional research on optimizing the intergovernmental system to address society’s complex modern problems.

The Center is grateful for support from the Jane G. and Mark A. Pisano Fund and the guidance of the four-person Expert Advisory Group – Fellows Basil Gooden, Naim Kapucu, Elizabeth Kellar, and Jan Perry.

[Access the Toolkit](#)



Intergovernmental Governance - The Podcast

The July 31st episode of the Management Matters Podcast, “Tools for Modern Intergovernmental Governance with Dr. Naim Kapucu and Dr. Nancy Augustine” allows you to hear from a member of the EAG and the project's Director. They discuss intergovernmental emergency collaboration, the challenges facing state and local collaboration, and the Center's toolkit that will help solve these challenges.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Modern Public Benefits Delivery: A White Paper



MPBD - The White Paper

In June 2023, the Center released a white paper addressing challenges and recommendations for modernizing the U.S.’s public benefits programs. The white paper captures the key insights from three roundtables where the Center brought together researchers, advocates, practitioners, technologists, and public sector associations to develop a vision for a modernized public benefits system. Participants also recommend strategies to eliminate obstacles to innovation. The paper proposes a vision that moves away from purely compliance-based administrative functions to a holistic customer-centric experience—emphasizing efficacy, efficiency, equity, and expediency.

The Center is grateful to the [Center for Accountability, Modernization, and Innovation \(CAMI\)](#) for

sponsoring the roundtable series and White Paper.

[Read the White Paper](#)

MPBD - The Release Event

The Center hosted a hybrid panel discussion in June to announce the paper. The event featured an overview of the report and three series participants who offered insight into the necessity and opportunity for modernization.



The event featured the following panelists:



Moderator: Stan Soloway

Academy Board Member and Fellow
and Chairman of the Board at CAMI



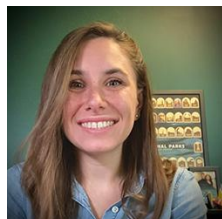
Rashida Brown

Program Director - Health &
Human Services, National
Association of Counties



Doug Howard

Senior Vice President - Human
Services, Maximus



Jessica Maneely

Assistant Director - Process
Innovation, American Public
Human Services Association

[View the Recording](#)



MPBD - The Podcast

The June 12th episode of the Management Matters Podcast offers another opportunity to learn more about this exciting work. “A Different Approach to the Design of Government Social Services Projects with Stan Soloway and Dr. Nancy Augustine” provides additional insights into how our public benefits systems would benefit from modernization, flexibility, and innovation.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

MPBD - The Intergovernmental Matters Blog Post

Prior to the release of the white paper, Stan Soloway co-authored an article on the importance of extending COVID-19 flexibilities. This topic directly connects to the white paper, as so many modernization efforts focus on flexibility and innovation. *(Originally posted on Roll Call 05/03/23)*



Why Congress should extend key COVID-19 flexibilities on programs like Medicaid, CHIP

By: *John Faso*, Center for Accountability, Modernization, and Innovation (CAMI), and *Stan Soloway*, CAMI and Academy Fellow

[Read the Blog Post](#)

RESEARCH & REPORTS

Intergovernmental Dimensions of Homelessness

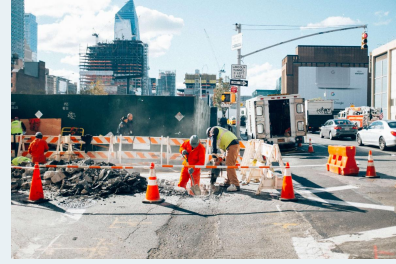
Homelessness is a complex problem. Many factors lead to people living without permanent housing or the means to secure it, and many organizations, including federal, state, and local governments must collaborate across functional and geographical boundaries to solve the problem. In December 2022, two members of the Academy's Intergovernmental Systems Standing Panel, Fellows [Steve Redburn](#) and [Rich Callahan](#), established a working group to study intergovernmental approaches to address homelessness. The working group is using the Academy's expertise and convening capabilities to share knowledge and deepen understanding of how an integrated intergovernmental approach can improve outcomes for unhoused individuals and families.

The Center's Research Associate, [Brad Riley](#), and Research Consultant, [Lauren Boczkowski](#), assist the working group. Brad is exploring intergovernmental collaborations between municipal judicial systems and nonprofit organizations to administer homeless courts. He's also reviewing the impact of alternative sentencing guidelines that seek to improve public health, literacy, and employment, recognizing that punitive sentencing can drive homeless people further from society. Lauren is examining states' current and potential use of Medicaid waivers to address homelessness and adapting an ecological model of homelessness for state and local government partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

RESOURCES ON THE WEB

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MATTERS (IGM) ARTICLE SPOTLIGHT

Transforming the Infrastructure Workforce: Takeaways from a Center and National Academy of Construction Infrastructure Workforce Event (07/18/23)



By: **Coleman Stallworth**, Center Research Associate

A robust infrastructure workforce is a key component in addressing 21st-century problems. However, maintaining a steady pipeline of these workers becomes challenging as many retire or leave these sectors for other opportunities. On May 16th, 2023, the [Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships](#) (the Center) convened leaders from the [National Academy of Construction](#) (NAC) and other infrastructure-related groups to discuss challenges and solutions to recruiting, training, and retaining a robust workforce.

[Read the Full Article](#)

Recent Intergovernmental Matters Posts

- [Bringing Lessons from Autism IT Initiatives to Everyone](#) (07/21/23)
- [State Innovations in Public Benefits Eligibility Determinations and Data Sharing](#) (06/29/23)
- [How Intergovernmental Partnerships Advance Defense Readiness through the Selective Service System](#) (04/05/23)

In Case You Missed It

The Center Welcomes Summer Interns



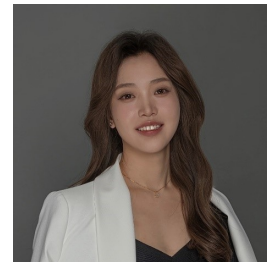
Sierra Edstrom

Sierra is a Master's in Public Policy student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she also just graduated with a B.A. in Political Science.

While an intern at the Center, Sierra has been working on a 50-state inventory of vote-by-mail processes, specifically looking at their equity and accessibility to citizens. In the future, Sierra hopes to continue her work in policy and intergovernmental policy while working for or with all levels of government. Being from Colorado, Sierra also likes swimming, hiking, skiing, and spending time outside in the Colorado sunshine.

Wendy Lau

Wendy is a Master of Public Administration student at Cornell's Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, with a concentration in government.



While an intern with the Center, Wendy is involved with client research and analytical work to develop her interpersonal and professional skills. Currently, she is working on a blog post about the role of reentry programs in community engagement and contributes to ongoing research projects. Wendy is still exploring her interests and designing her future; she sincerely hopes to change the community through public service and advocacy work. On weekends, you might find Wendy on a hiking trail with Winnie, her chocolate Lab!

The Center Releases Its Year-End Report

At the end of December 2022, the Center published its Year-End report outlining key activities, achievements, and plans for the coming months. The Center is incredibly grateful to Fellows, underwriters, supporters, and others who make its work possible through collaboration, thought leadership, service, and support.

[Read the Year-End Report](#)

State Regulatory Compliance Processes: Lessons Learned From COVID-19

Supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Academy's Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships analyzed states' actions related to their regulatory compliance processes. The report noted several important implications and detailed additional opportunities for research into lessons learned and preparations for future crises.

[Access the Report](#)

[Listen to Panel Chair Neil Kerwin and Academy President and CEO Terry Gerton Discuss the Impact of this Study](#)

Support Intergovernmental Partnerships



The Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships at the National Academy of Public Administration

Recognizing that no significant public problem fits entirely within one government agency or even one level of government, the Academy established the Center in September 2021. The Center helps identify gaps and serves as a forum for dialogue and problem-solving. It aims to improve the intergovernmental system for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, nonprofits, and federal agencies.

[Learn More](#)

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[Aid the Academy's](#)

Collaboration and financial support are critical to advancing the Academy's work on intergovernmental partnerships. When you support the Center, you are helping rebuild the collaborative capabilities necessary to develop and implement effective policies and programs across levels of government.

Please, join our community of support today or renew your support at <https://napawash.org/about-us/donate>! To learn more about other ways you can support the Academy and leave your legacy in public administration, please get in touch with our Director of Development, [Tony Spearman-Leach](#), at [\(202\) 204-3650](tel:(202)204-3650) to discuss donations.

Efforts to Promote Intergovernmental Partnerships

The Center team welcomes opportunities to connect with others working to promote intergovernmental partnerships. Please contact our Center' Director, [Dr. Nancy Augustine](#), or our Senior Research Analyst, [Miles Murphy](#), to share ideas or get more information on activities. We encourage you to share this newsletter with anyone you think might be interested.

Sign up to receive future issues of Intergovernmental Insight.

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We recognize and thank the [Kerr Foundation, Inc.](#), the [National Association of Counties](#), and the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) for their generous contributions to the Academy. This newsletter and other Center activities would not be possible without their support.



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