LEADERS FOR A BETTER LOUISIANA
C100 + CABL

Using Data to Drive Positive Change

Overview

Our vision at Leaders for a Better Louisiana is to transform our state into a dynamic, future-ready economy that offers every citizen and business the opportunity to thrive. To do that, we must have the information we need to make good decisions and establish real priorities. That can be done in many different ways. We believe it starts by using accurate and reliable data to drive effective public policy solutions.

Project Description

In 2024 Governor Jeff Landry coined the term "Louisiana Forward" to describe a package of policy initiatives he presented to the Legislature. Its goal was to move the state in a positive direction to spur economic growth. While certainly a desirable aspiration, there is a problem: Louisiana does not have an established system in place to determine whether the policies we implement are indeed improving our outcomes.

There are, of course, national groups that publish various types of state rankings, but they tend to use specialized methodologies that sometimes produce conflicting results. They generate some headlines, but do not seem to command the attention of state policy makers.

With this project, Better Louisiana seeks to develop a Louisiana-based initiative that will allow us to truly measure our state and local progress across a broad list of indicators critical to our overall wellbeing. It will build on ideas already tested in other states, but will be unique to Louisiana and unlike any existing efforts in the state. With it we will:

1. Build a unique, interactive online platform with high-quality visualizations to measure Louisiana's overall wellbeing based on a list of approximately 35 indicators.
2. Compare the statewide data to a limited number of peer states based on their regional, demographic, and economic similarities to Louisiana.
3. Collect the same data as available down to the parish level to allow localization for funders and policy makers to assist their communities
4. Focus the indicators in key issue areas such as education and workforce, the state's economy, the health and wellbeing of our citizens, and critical infrastructure.
5. Establish a specific goal for each indicator and use it to measure Louisiana's progress over time.
6. Use the data to make recommendations to drive positive public policy outcomes for the betterment of the citizens of Louisiana.

We know Louisiana faces many challenges. Looking across the country we have seen how nonpartisan organizations in other states have used data as a foundation for establishing public policy priorities to drive positive change. We believe data can drive change that unlocks Louisiana's potential.