Public entrepreneur skills survey

In an initial survey of 412 local government officials from 22 U.S. states in 2019, the GovLab asked about their use of six innovative problem-solving skills.

Problem definition is the process of narrowing an issue down to a more readily actionable smaller problem by hypothesizing why a problem is occurring and identifying its root causes.

Human-centered design is an iterative process that starts with the people you’re designing for and ends with new solutions that are tailor made to suit their needs.

Data analytical thinking emphasizes the value of data to achieve improved outcomes and equities, reduced cost and increased efficiency in how public policies and services are created.

Open innovation describes the collaborative process of working across organizational boundaries to accelerate innovation by asking others for help defining or solving a problem.

Using insights about human behavior from psychology, cognitive science, and social science to develop and test policies and services that encourage individuals to make better decisions.

Agile describes a new way of working that is dynamic, evolutionary and iterative and emphasizes breaking down larger projects into smaller chunks.

We asked if you have used these six innovation skills, whether you have the ability to explain those skills or want to learn more.

Got 10 minutes? We want to hear from you! Take the public entrepreneurship innovation skills survey.

Your answers to this brief questionnaire will enable us to better understand you and your peers’ needs and improve training programs for the next generation of public leaders.

bit.ly/icma-skills-survey

TAKING THE PULSE ON INNOVATION

Public institutions want to become more effective in how they work, taking advantage of data-driven and human-centered skills to improve decisionmaking. But they know too little about current skills and competencies.

Public servants are trying to solve today’s problems with yesterday’s toolkit. Innovation skills are not in widespread use. But those who use them, do so frequently.

Here’s what we learned.

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% of respondents who have used the skill

INNOVATION SKILLS USAGE IS NOT PREVALENT

Those who use these skills, use them frequently

FREQUENCY OF SKILL USE

1x 2x 3x 4x 5x 6+ Times
The GovLab's mission is to improve people's lives by changing the way we govern. Our goal is to strengthen the ability of institutions – including but not limited to governments – and people to work more openly, collaboratively, effectively and legitimately to make better decisions and solve public problems. We believe that increased availability and use of data, new ways to leverage the capacity, intelligence, and expertise of people in the problem-solving process, combined with new advances in technology and science can transform governance.

To learn more, visit www.thegovlab.org

About the Governance Lab

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