

Traditional policy approaches have failed to catalyze significant and lasting change for many complex social problems, such as homelessness, justice involvement and reentry, and educational achievement. Social innovation is an iterative, inclusive process that intends to generate more effective and just solutions to solve complex social problems. This approach provides an alternative to traditional problem-solving approaches. The Price Center conducts research on all aspects of social innovation, which offers both new processes and new models for solving society's most persistent social challenges.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

■ [Social Impact Bonds 2.0 Brief Series](#) (2021)

The Price Center and the Policy Evaluation Research Unit at Manchester Metropolitan University launched a series of briefs that examined the future of social impact bonds.

■ [Towards a Theoretical Framework for Social Impact Bonds](#) (2020)

Kevin Albertson, Chris Fox, Chris O'Leary, and Gary Painter

This paper considers two broad approaches to theorizing social impact bonds. One draws on public administration theories, the other on innovation theories. The paper finds that no one model is entirely satisfactory as an explanatory framework for SIBs. Instead, a combined theoretical framework might be a productive approach for the next generation of SIBs.

■ [From Citizen Control to Co-Production: Moving Beyond a Linear Conception of Citizen Participation](#) (2019)

Jovanna Rosen and Gary Painter

Sherry Arnstein's classic "A Ladder of Citizen Participation" still shapes our understanding of citizen participation within and beyond planning. However, Arnstein's citizen control offers communities only partial authority. In response, this paper describes a co-production participation model for inclusive participation to help communities confront the political and economic power relationships that limit their influential participation.

■ [Payment by Results and Social Impact Bonds: Outcome-based payment systems in the UK and US](#) (2018)

Kevin Albertson, Chris Fox, Chris O'Leary, Gary Painter, and Kimberly Bailey

Social Impact Bonds (SIBs), also known as "Pay for Success" financing in the US, are a model of payment by results contracts where the resources needed to make the contract work is provided by private finance, rather than the service provider. This short book asks whether and under what circumstances SIBs are an efficient way to unlock new capital investment and advance social goods.

"At the Price Center, we examine how social innovation processes can achieve more just and effective solutions to some of the most persistent and intractable challenges of our time, including homelessness and housing stability, the criminal legal system, and education. Our work aims to redefine who the experts are, and engage in a truly collaborative process of co-designing, piloting, and scaling promising approaches to systems change."

—Dr. Gary Painter
 Director, USC Price Center for Social Innovation
 Director, Homelessness Policy Research Institute

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