Suggested Projects: White House Innovation Fellows
6 - A MyGov Prototype: Citizen Questions for State and Local Government and a National Rapid Learning System

I [suggest] a MyGov prototype for a national Rapid Learning System to empower citizens and support informed decisions by state and local governments: 1.) Individual citizens, groups, and state and local government officials will submit researchable policy questions to a national Rapid Learning Center; 2.) Advisory panels will rank the questions; 3.) If answers are known, they will be posted online or government databases will be linked with good user interfaces; 4.) For other questions the Rapid Learning Centers will develop, publish, and begin to implement responsive, national rapid learning plans.

This will organize demand for knowledge that (as a public good) is under-supplied. Members of Congress can see the frequency of questions from constituencies. Federal IT resources and science partnerships will be available to respond to citizen questions and state/local needs.

K-12 (esp. STEM) education could be a good startup. We have school boards and committed citizens across the country - many whose minds have mastered calculus - with few places to go for the answers that they want. The new Centers also can identify learning-oriented partners and develop plans for Big Data databases for continuous improvement.

Lloyd S. Etheredge
June 5, 2012