Lesson Two

Introduction To Policy Analysis

What is Policy?

• As it applies to government.
• Policy is bringing together the resources of government—money and authority—into the service of political objectives and by those resources influences the behavior of institutions, organizations, and individuals.

Another Definition of Policy

• Policy is an officially accepted statement of objectives tied to a set of activities that are intended to realize the objectives in a particular jurisdiction.

The Purpose of Government

• “We last ‘reinvented’ our governments during the early decades of the twentieth century, roughly from 1900 through 1940. We did so during the Progressive Era and the New Deal, to cope with the emergence of a new industrial economy, which created vast new problems and vast new opportunities in American life.” (Osborne, D. & Gaebler, T., Reinventing Government)

What is Policy Analysis?

• Substantive policy analysis is concerned with the relationship between conditions considered problematic by the individuals or groups affected and the means available for the collective resolution of such problems in ways that are thought to be superior in terms of the public interest.

Emerging Government Functions

• “At one time, no one expected government to take of the poor; the welfare state did not exist until Bismarck created the first one in the 1870s. Today, not only do most governments in the developed world take care of the poor, they pay for health care and retirement pensions for every citizen.” (Osborne, D. & Gaebler, T.)

“At one time, no one expected governments to fight fires. Today, no government would be without a fire department.”

• “At one time, government were active investors in the private economy, routinely seeding new businesses with loans and grants and equity investments.” (Osborne, D. & Gaebler, T.)