



Overview of the Chief Evaluation Office

The [Chief Evaluation Office](#) (CEO) is an independent evaluation office that coordinates, manages, and implements the Department of Labor's (DOL) evaluation program. CEO works closely with all offices and sub-agencies ('agencies') throughout DOL to develop and implement evaluations and analytics projects that address priorities set by the Secretary and the agencies. In our work, we ensure that evaluation research is conducted with scientific integrity, by upholding the five key principles of rigor, relevance, transparency, independence and ethics of the Department's [Evaluation Policy](#). Chief Evaluation Officer Dr. Christina Yancey, as the department's named [Evaluation Officer](#) and Scientific Integrity Official, oversees several key evidence-building activities required by the [Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 \("Evidence Act"\)](#) (Title 1), including the development and publication of three related documents – the [Evidence-Building Plan, Evaluation Plan, and Capacity Assessment](#) – as well as efforts to improve the capacity of the Department to generate, access and use evidence.

About CEO

CEO works in a number of ways to advance understanding and disseminate knowledge on labor topics to inform program and policy decisions, including, but not limited to: sponsoring evaluation studies through contracts and grants, conducting or sponsoring secondary analysis of existing data, disseminating research products, assembling expertise through subject matter experts or technical working groups, and sponsoring meetings and conferences. The audience of CEO's work is varied, and can include technically minded research and evaluation staff, program and policy administrators, Congress, media, as well as state and local governments and the general public.

At any given time, CEO has around 50 evaluations and research [projects underway](#), primarily conducted by third-party contractors. CEO-sponsored studies use a variety of methodologies and designs, statistical analysis, exploratory and implementation studies, evidence syntheses and literature reviews, and formal evaluations of programs impacts and outcomes. Completed reports of findings are posted on the [CEO website](#). CEO also has a behavioral interventions team and maintains ongoing contractor support for [behavioral science-based research](#) studies that aim to improve DOL programs.

DOL staff and the public can also access evidence via CEO's [Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research \(CLEAR\) website](#) (more on CLEAR below). In 2012, CEO established [CLEAR](#) to provide practitioners, policymakers, researchers, the media and the general public with a central and trusted source of evidence summaries and reviews on labor-related topics and strategies of relevance to DOL. CLEAR contractors work with CEO staff to use evidence standards for certain methodologies to conduct high quality, transparent evidence reviews, the development and deployment of how-to seminars, dissemination events and trainings, and maintenance of the CLEAR website.



In addition to CEO's public-facing products and activities, CEO also contributes directly to building a robust evidence culture in DOL through coordinating and conducting internal seminars and research roundtables on varied evidence topics, such as survey methods, equity in community colleges, or improving generalizability in evaluation; supporting internal DOL capacity to develop and apply evidence with trainings and analyses; bringing in outside experts through [engagement with academia](#); and directly supporting agency stakeholders in improving data utility, relevance, and quality. Contractor support is key to the success of each of these efforts.

A key way CEO assists DOL agencies is through assistance provided by CEO's Data Analytics team. Data Analytics is a team of applied statisticians who support DOL's agencies by applying rigorous econometric techniques to administrative data from DOL and other agencies to gain valuable insights for DOL's program and enforcement departments. The team builds and maintains complex data sets so that they and other researchers can use them to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of DOL's programs, including through the ongoing development of a Restricted Use Data Access Program. Data Analytics also serves as an in-house consulting group for CEO and DOL in-general on economic and statistical issues and is frequently asked to review research proposals, methodology, data needs, and final output. The Data Analytics team uses contractor support to expand and extend their bandwidth to support DOL sub-agencies.