



Request for 8A Firms' Capabilities Statements on Evaluation, Data Analysis and Evidence-Building

About 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.

Example Projects and Activities for 8As

CEO is looking for 8A firms with the capabilities to help with the following:

- Evaluation technical assistance, supporting reviews of evaluation plans, reports, datasets and other deliverables, and providing evaluation development technical support to state- and local-level grantees of DOL programs.
- Evaluation and econometric research, for example, conducting academic-quality literature reviews and syntheses.
- Econometric analyses of administrative and other big data, and related analysis support activities, to help DOL agencies understand specific labor-related questions. Activities could include data quality assessments, web scraping, data merging/wrangling, statistical estimations, hypothesis testing, data visualizations and machine learning.
- Communications that effectively translates technical findings for non-technical audiences in a compelling manner, including through briefings, presentations, data visualizations, graphics that meet Section 508 compliance standards.
- Development of technical skills trainings for DOL staff on topics including evaluation, social science research methods, data analytics, clear communication and translation of research findings and more.
- Design, development and logistical support for research-related roundtables, presentations and discussions, including identifying and recruiting experts.
- Design, fielding, and analysis of electronic surveys, including questionnaire design, cognitive testing, survey programming, data processing and analysis, and developing reports and presentations to disseminate results.
- Development and management of research contracts and grants programs for academic scholars and other experts (see [past programs here.](#))



The types of skills CEO needs:

- Expertise in rigorous social science research methodologies and evaluation designs, such as sampling methods, power calculations, randomized control trials and quasi-experimental methods, such as propensity score matching and difference in difference designs.
- Expertise in a wide range of statistical and analytical areas including survey research methodology, statistical inference and analysis, power analysis, and understanding the relative strengths and weaknesses of analytical approaches with respect to the goal of the analysis, the quality of the data, and issues that will impact measurement reliability and validity and internal and external validity.
- Expertise in designing, organizing and executing research-related meetings, including larger meetings such as forums, workshops, roundtables, symposiums, and conferences, and facilitating the participation of experts/consultants and the development and dissemination of summary materials.
- Expertise developing and reviewing white papers, literature reviews, issue briefs, and reports of academic quality on labor-related topics like: employer compliance; health and safety; employment and training; earnings and wages; labor equity, unemployment insurance, education and skill gains and public benefit receipt.
- Expertise in adult and online learning for technical topics.
- Expertise in communicating and disseminating complex evaluation findings to a range of stakeholders, including program and policy audiences, through the development of compelling graphics and communications materials.
- Expertise in statistical and econometric analyses, including but not limited to random and fixed effects estimators, limited dependent variable models, propensity score matching algorithms; standard time-series & forecasting tools such as VAR models using statistical packages such as R, STATA or SAS; and web scraping, data and text mining techniques using R or Python.

Next Steps for 8As

Do your capabilities match our needs? Contact us at ChiefEvaluationOffice@dol.gov with a 2-page capabilities statement, and in addition to sharing your firm's skills that are relevant to our needs as outlined above, please be sure to highlight subject matter expertise as it aligns with specific [DOL agencies](#) and [topics](#) on which CEO conducts research on behalf of the department. If your capabilities seem like a good fit, CEO will contact you to set up an informational meeting to discuss your work and potential projects. 8A firms are welcome to send statements at any time of year, but sharing statements as soon as possible will allow your firm to be considered for emerging needs.