

**U.S. Department of Labor, Chief Evaluation Office:
Fiscal Year 2019
Evaluation Plan and Plan for Use of Set Aside**

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) directly funds and sponsors program evaluations and also collaborates with other DOL agencies and programs to design and conduct evaluations that those agencies sponsor. The Department’s annual set-aside plan is based on priorities identified in agencies’ Learning Agendas, the Department’s Strategic Plan priorities, statutory requirements for evaluations, and continuing discussions with agency leadership and program staff.

Division H, Title I, Section 107 of Public Law 115-245 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 (the Act) authorizes the Secretary of Labor to reserve not more than 0.75 percent from specific budget accounts for transfer to and use by the Office of the Chief Evaluation Officer for departmental program evaluation. Evaluation set-aside funds are transferred to CEO and are available for evaluations of programs administered by the agencies specifically listed in the statute fifteen days after notifying Congress of the intent to transfer funds and the planned projects.¹

Evaluation set aside dollars must be obligated within two years. Below is the lists of evaluation projects projected to be funded at least in part with Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 dollars transferred to the Chief Evaluation Office through the set aside process and projected to be initiated through FY 2020.²

Evaluation Activities Planned and Use of Set Aside for Fiscal Year 2019³

SUPPORT Act Pilot Grant Evaluation. The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act), Public Law 115-271, authorizes the Department of Labor to pilot demonstration projects that provide education and training services to individuals impacted by the opioid crisis. This study will rigorously evaluate the employment impacts and/or outcomes of the SUPPORT Act pilots, which are anticipated to be funded in Fiscal Year 2020.

WIOA Title 1 Third Party Review Research Study Design. This research design study will develop options for addressing the requirement in Section 169 of WIOA for periodic independent evaluations of the programs and activities carried out under Title 1 of the law.

Direct Assistance Transfer Pilot Evaluation. This study will rigorously document and assess a pilot program of direct assistance transfers in lieu of employment and training services offered through the public workforce system.

¹ “The accounts referred to in subsection (a) are: “Training and Employment Services,” “Job Corps,” “Community Service Employment for Older Americans,” “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations,” “Employee Benefits Security Administration,” “Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs,” “Wage and Hour Division,” “Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs,” “Office of Labor Management Standards,” “Occupational Safety and Health Administration,” “Mine Safety and Health Administration,” “Office of Disability Employment Policy,” funding made available to the “Bureau of International Labor Affairs” and “Women’s Bureau” within the “Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses” account, and “Veterans Employment and Training”

² Senate report 115-289, the report accompanying the FY 2019 Senate Appropriations bill, notes that the set-aside has historically been funded from ETA programs and requests a discussion of options in the FY 2019 evaluation plan for developing greater contributions to the set-aside by other agencies, such as a mechanism that would require agencies to contribute unless such action would cause the agency to be unable to meet its statutory obligations. The Senate requested that the Department explore options to develop contributions by agencies other than ETA, including requiring each agency to contribute to set-aside projects that support that agency’s programs. There was no need to implement such a mechanism in FY 2019, because all projects funded by the set-aside support ETA programs.

³ Evaluation activities listed in this section will use dollars appropriated and transferred to CEO in FY 2019, and will be initiated by the end of FY 2020.

Evaluation Activities Identified in the DOL Fiscal Year 2018 Evaluation Plan and to be Initiated in Fiscal Year 2019⁴

Skill Development and Employment Strategies

- Apprenticeship Evaluation. This study will build evidence about apprenticeship by identifying and examining innovative and promising models, practices, and partnerships to expand apprenticeship opportunities in high-growth occupations and industries.
- Study of Apprenticeship for Special Populations. This study will examine strategies for enhancing existing or building new apprenticeship models to better serve, recruit, and retain individuals typically underserved, such as those with disabilities, women, and veterans and their spouses.

Worker Benefits

- Evaluation of Work Search Error Prevention Strategies to Avoid Improper UI Payments. This study will examine state policies and practices related to work search requirements and their implementation as well as strategies being used to prevent, detect, and uncover UI improper payments.
- Evaluation of How ETA's Current Programming Would be Impacted by the Institution of Application Fees in Certain Places. This study will review existing relevant literature and examine the potential effect of instituting application fees in certain ETA programs.

Evaluation Activities Initiated to Date and Continuing in Fiscal year 2019 and Beyond⁵

- Administrative Data and Research Analysis. Under this project, multiple studies and statistical analyses using administrative data for selected programs and target populations of the DOL will be conducted. Project duration: September 2018 to September 2023.
- Career Pathways Descriptive and Analytical Study. This project builds on the evaluation design work CEO completed in 2018 to build evidence about the implementation and effectiveness of career pathways approaches and help to meet the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act statutory requirements about building evidence about these approaches. It will include a meta-analysis of existing impact evaluation results as well as examine how workers advance through multiple, progressively higher levels of education and training, and associated jobs, within a pathway over time, and the factors associated with their success. Project duration: September 2018 to September 2021.
- Evaluation Logistics and Technical Support. This project will enhance DOL's production and use of rigorous research for evidence-based policy by providing logistical and evaluation support in leveraging existing data and expertise to assemble knowledge and answer questions of interest to DOL. Multiple projects will be implemented to assemble expertise; plan and convene meetings, symposiums, or other opportunities to build and share knowledge on the topic; facilitate the development of secondary analysis; and

⁴ Projects listed in this section were identified and approved in the FY 2018 DOL Evaluation Plan. They will be funded with dollars appropriated and transferred to CEO in FY 2018, and initiated by the end of FY 2019.

⁵ Evaluations activities in this section are funded with prior year appropriations and will continue into FY 2019 and beyond.

disseminate findings to a broad range of stakeholders. Project duration: September 2018 to September 2023.

- The Great Recession: Lessons Learned for the Unemployment Insurance System. The evidence review examines key lessons learned, best practices, and challenges that states faced administering the unemployment insurance (UI) program during the recession that began in 2007. The study will also be informed by findings from a survey of states. Project duration: September 2018 to September 2021.
- National Health Emergency Demonstration Grants to Address the Opioid Crisis: Implementation Evaluation. This evaluation will document and identify promising practices grantees use to combat the economic and workforce impacts associated with the opioid health crisis and encourage more individuals to enter professions that could address the crisis. Project duration: September 2018 to August 2021.
- OFCCP Compliance Officer Training Study. This study examines the effects of compliance officer training on compliance officer behaviors and post-case audits. Project duration: September 2018 to September 2021.
- Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments and Implementation Study. This study builds evidence about RESEA implementation and effectiveness and meets the requirements in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123). Project duration: September 2018 to September 2021.
- Workers' Compensation and the Opioid Epidemic: Analysis and Research Design Options. This includes a systematic review of existing research to determine how the factors that led to the current epidemic impacted and were addressed by workers' compensation programs administered by public and private payers. Project duration: September 2018 to March 2021.
- Employer Adoption of Voluntary Health and Safety Standards. This study examines employer awareness and perceptions of the relative advantages and challenges in adopting a voluntary health and safety standard framework. The study will look at existing national and international standards as well as OSHA's voluntary compliance programs. Project duration: August 2018 to August 2021.
- Employer Performance Measurement Analysis. This study is examining employer services and potential associated measures that support One-Stop Centers' focus on continuous improvement in serving employers. It supports the WIOA requirement for DOL to examine and establish an employer measure as an indicator for effectiveness in serving employers. Project duration: September 2017 to September 2020.
- Evaluations of Behavioral Interventions in Labor Programs. This project includes multiple tests of behavioral strategies designed to improve program operations or outcomes in such areas as guidance, customer service, compliance assistance, and service delivery. Project duration: September 2017 to September 2022.
- Evaluation Research on Wage and Hour Division's Compliance Strategies. This evaluation is examining the effectiveness of WHD compliance approaches, compliance assistance, and strategic planning. The study also includes an evaluation design of a behaviorally informed intervention in compliance assistance. Project duration: September 2017 to March 2020.

- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Evaluation. This study is assessing the effectiveness of the HVRP program on improving homeless Veterans' employment outcomes and will build knowledge about program models including variations that influence outcomes. Project duration: September 2017 to September 2022.
- Microsimulation Model on Worker Leave. This project is developing a simulation model that provides detailed estimates of the utilization and cost of alternative worker leave scenarios, at the national and state level, based on actual known leave-taking behavior and working population demographic characteristics. Project duration: September 2017 to March 2020.
- Reentry Employment Opportunities Evaluation. This study is advancing the evidence on reentry employment strategies and practices used to guide training and service provision for justice-involved individuals. The study is evaluating the Department's Reentry Projects. Project duration: September 2017 to September 2022.
- Stay at Work/Return to Work Study. This project is building evidence about SAW/RTW strategies, documenting current promising programmatic directions and characteristics of target populations, including those who may apply for or enter SSDI. Project duration: September 2017 to January 2020.
- Trade Adjustment Assistance Study. This study is continuing to build evidence about TAA implementation and effectiveness. Project duration: September 2017 to September 2021.
- Unemployment Insurance Deficit Financing Study. This study is examining the methods, costs, and perceived benefits associated with several methods for obtaining funds to cover shortfalls in state Unemployment Insurance programs. Project duration: September 2017 to December 2019.
- America's Promise Job-Driven Grant Program Evaluation. This study examines the effectiveness and implementation of strategies used in the America's Promise Grant Program. Project duration: May 2017 to May 2022.
- ILAB Evaluation of EMPOWER: Increasing Economic and Social Empowerment. This study is evaluating the outcomes of ILAB's EMPOWER grant which aims to combat serious child labor issues in Zambia, particularly for vulnerable girls and their families working in agriculture. Project duration: March 2017 to March 2021.
- Labor Research and Evaluation Grants (multiple projects). Research and evaluation grants were awarded to nine academic researchers in post-secondary universities to conduct labor-related research, evaluation, and analysis related to DOL programs, particularly using administrative data. Project duration: January 2017 to November 2019.
- Analysis of the Implementation of WIOA. This study examines the implementation of WIOA as it pertains to the core programs in Titles I and III. Project duration: September 2016 to September 2021.
- Evaluation of Strategies Used in the TechHire and Strengthening Working Families Initiative Grants Programs. This study is examining the implementation and effectiveness of approaches to connect individuals with barriers to good jobs in technology and other in-demand fields. Project duration: September 2016 to September 2021.

- Survey of Employer Policies on the Employment of People with Disabilities. The purpose of this project is to design and administer a survey to collect information from employers about organizational policies, practices, successes and challenges as well as attitudes and beliefs in the recruitment, retention, and advancement of people with disabilities. Project duration: September 2016 to March 2020.
- Working Conditions and Health in Central America Evaluation. The study is assessing the prevalence, nature, and possible consequences of working conditions on employment and health status of the Central American workforce, with a particular focus on work-related violence. Project duration: September 2016 to March 2020.
- Family and Medical Leave Act Wave 4 Survey. This study involves two surveys, one of employees and the other of private-sector businesses, to update and expand the evidence about FMLA use and leave-taking that has been generated by three prior ‘waves’ of surveys (1995, 2000, and 2012). Project duration: August 2016 through April 2020.
- DOL Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research - CLEAR. This project is developing the Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR), to provide practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and others in the general public with a central and trusted source of evidence on labor topics relevant to DOL. Project duration: May 2016 to May 2020.
- Job Corps Cascades College and Career Academy Pilot Evaluation. This is an evaluation to assess the impact of the Job Corps pilot program, the Cascades Job Corps College and Career Academy. The goal of this project is to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of the program by conducting an impact and implementation evaluation using rigorous experimental methods. Project duration: May 2016 to May 2021.
- Evaluation of the American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI). This evaluation examines the implementation of the AAI grants, the outcomes of the grant participants, and includes a separate return-on-investment study to estimate the benefits and costs of apprenticeship to employers. Project duration: April 2016 to April 2021.
- Department of Labor Scholars Program (multiple projects). This project promotes and expands labor research through commissioning independent research conducted by scholars in the labor field. Project duration: September 2015 to September 2019.
- Paycheck Plus Subsidized and Transitional Employment Demonstration Evaluation. This study is a collaboration between DOL and HHS/Administration on Children and Families to evaluate the impact of a demonstration testing an enhanced EITC for low-income individuals without dependent children in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Project duration: September 2015 to September 2020.
- A Study of Customer Satisfaction with the Office of Disability Employment Policy's Technical Assistance Centers. This study examines the extent to which customers are satisfied with the technical assistance provided by the TA Centers. It also documents the processes used by the TA Centers to encourage the adoption and implementation of ODEPs policies and practices by targeted and untargeted customers. Project duration: September 2015 to September 2020.
- Performance Partnership Pilots for Disconnected Youth (P3) Evaluation. This study involves an implementation evaluation of P3 pilots across the nine, round one grantees,

as well as evaluation technical assistance to the nine independent evaluators assessing program impacts and outcomes at each of the sites. Further, the national evaluation will synthesize findings across the nine individual evaluations. The P3 program provides communities greater flexibility in using the federal dollars they already have more effectively to support low-income disconnected youth. In turn, the pilots agree to be more accountable for concrete outcomes. Project duration: August 2015 to August 2020.

- National Guard Youth ChalleNGe and Job ChalleNGe Evaluation. This program seeks to improve the life and employment prospects of high school dropouts — age 16 to 18 — absent from the labor market. This evaluation includes an outcomes and implementation study to understand the experiences of court-involved youth in Youth ChalleNGe and Job ChalleNGe. Project duration: May 2015 to May 2020.
- Evaluation of the Reemployment Eligibility and Assessment Program. This project is replicating and expanding upon prior research to better understand how and why the various program components produce effects. Project duration: September 2014 to September 2019.
- National Evaluation of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Evaluations. This evaluation includes an implementation analysis of TAACCCT grants rounds 1-4; an outcomes analysis of promising and testable models in select Round 4 sites; a synthesis of findings from third-party evaluations carried out in Rounds 1-4; and an employer perspective study to better understand employer involvement and the nature of the grantee/employer relationship. Project duration: September 2014 to March 2020.
- Community College Interventions for Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities Evaluation. This evaluation consists of an implementation study and a descriptive outcomes study to examine innovative models for providing integrated education and career development services to youth and young adults with disabilities developed in the Pathways to Careers grants. Project duration: August 2014 to August 2019.
- Transition Assistance Program and TAP Enhancement Pilots Evaluation. This study evaluates the impacts of the VETS' TAP program on employment outcomes of participants, and evaluates interventions to better connect TAP participants to the workforce system. Project duration: June 2014 to December 2019.
- Youth Career Connect Evaluation. This study is rigorously evaluating how the YCC programs, which aim to build youths' skills and workplace competencies by combining aspects of career academies and sector-based initiatives, strengthen students' college and career readiness. The evaluation is examining student education and employment outcomes, and has three components: a randomized controlled trial impact evaluation, a large-scale quasi-experimental design impact study, and an implementation study. Project duration: June 2014 to December 2019.
- Ready to Work Evaluation of Technical Skills Training. The goal of this evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of the H-1B grant-funded programs in improving the labor market outcomes of program participants. The evaluation will employ a random-assignment impact study and an implementation study. Project duration: April 2013 to May 2022.

- Pell Grant Experiments. This study is a collaboration between DOL and the Department of Education to evaluate the impact of expanding eligibility for Pell Grants to students who already have bachelor's degrees and expanding eligibility for Pell Grants to students who enroll in certain short-term vocational or career training programs. Project duration: September 2012 to September 2019.

Recently Completed Projects

See CEO's website for a list of reports of findings from recently completed evaluations:

<https://www.dol.gov/asp/evaluation/CompletedStudies.htm>