

About the America's Promise Evaluation

In January 2017, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provided \$110 million to 23 grantees for the America's Promise Job Driven Training Grants program. This program aims to create or expand regional partnerships that will identify the needs of specific industry sectors relying on the H-1B visa program to hire skilled foreign workers and prepare the domestic work force for middle- and high-skilled, high-growth jobs in those sectors. Recognizing the opportunity to learn from grantee experiences, DOL is funding an evaluation that will identify practices associated with stronger regional coordination, employer engagement, and worker outcomes, as well as provide an understanding of the effectiveness of strategies to improve the outcomes of those they serve. DOL contracted with Mathematica Policy Research and Social Policy Research Associates to conduct the evaluation.

What is the focus of the evaluation?

The evaluation has two core components: (1) *the implementation evaluation* will document how all 23 America's Promise partnerships operate and evolve over time, the services provided, the participants served, the partnerships developed, and common implementation successes and challenges; and (2) *the impact evaluation* will investigate the effect that the strategies of 3 to 5 grantees have on the training and employment outcomes of participants.

What will grantees gain by participating?

Through their active participation in the evaluation, grantees will contribute to the knowledge base about the success of strategies aimed at improving the skills and employment of American workers to meet the needs of industries that typically rely on the H-1B visa program. The evaluation will draw lessons for both practitioners and policy makers that can help inform continuous program improvement efforts, provide evidence to guide future programs, and help inform future funding decisions at the Federal and regional levels. Grantees participating in the impact evaluation will receive evaluation-related training and ongoing support as well as a report that summarizes their grantee-specific results.

When will it happen?

The evaluation will run from 2017 into 2022.

What should participating grantees expect?

The Mathematica/SPR evaluation team will work with grantees to conduct the following activities:

- A 90 minute telephone call with all 23 grantees in **summer 2017** to clarify information presented in their grant applications.
- A one-day site visit to a subset of 5 grantees in **summer/fall 2017** to discuss the feasibility of implementing the impact evaluation.
- A brief, electronic survey of all 23 grantees in **spring 2018** to collect information on partnerships, service delivery, and challenges and successes.
- A partner survey with members of 6 regional partnerships to learn about partner characteristics, the focus and frequency of communication, and collaboration strategies used. A subset of selected grantees will provide a list of regional partners, and up to 25 organizations per partnership will be asked to complete an electronic survey in **summer 2018** and **winter 2020**.
- Site visits to a subset of 12 grantees for two to three days in **summer/fall 2019** to conduct interviews and focus groups with staff, participants, employers, and partners to learn about partnerships, implementation, lessons learned and challenges.
- Two-hour telephone interviews with the remaining 11 grantees in **summer/fall 2019** to learn about their implementation experiences.
- DOL, in collaboration with the Mathematica/SPR evaluation team, will select 3 to 5 grantees to participate in an impact evaluation. Customized impact evaluation procedures will begin in selected sites in **spring-summer 2018**. The evaluation team will work in partnership with selected grantees to develop customized evaluation procedures that minimize burden on local staff and participants, conduct in-person training to prepare local staff for the impact evaluation, and provide on-going support through a dedicated evaluation liaison.

What will the evaluation produce?

To keep key stakeholders apprised of study findings, the evaluation team will produce a variety of dissemination products such as a series of issue briefs, fact sheets, and briefings. A final report in 2022 will summarize evaluation findings.

To find out more

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