



# RESEA Evaluation Virtual Learning Series: An Overview

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## WHAT IS THE RESEA EVALUATION VIRTUAL LEARNING SERIES?

This virtual learning series is comprised of multiple short, asynchronous recorded modules intended to provide a **foundational overview of program evaluation for RESEA programs**. Modules can be accessed whenever and as many times as needed. The virtual learning series was designed primarily for state and local staff who administer RESEA programs and who are relatively unfamiliar with RESEA evaluation, and perhaps with program evidence-building activities in general. Learning series content can also serve to refresh or clarify aspects of RESEA program evaluation for staff who are more familiar with or have experience planning and carrying out evaluations.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE VIRTUAL LEARNING SERIES

The learning series is organized into **nine modules**, each with clearly defined learning objectives, as seen in the figure below. The modules are generally arranged chronologically based on how a state might typically learn about, prepare for, and then conduct a RESEA evaluation.

**Learning Modules 1 – 5** cover the **foundations of program evaluation for RESEA programs**. They provide an overview of important information state staff need to know about the purpose of evaluation, types of evaluation, and how to prepare for an evaluation.

**Learning Modules 6 - 9** provide an overview of important information state staff need to know to **conduct a RESEA evaluation**.

If you are new to or need an overall refresher on the foundations of program evaluations for RESEA programs, it is recommended that you view each module in the series in order. For those who already have a general understanding of the material, you may wish to view those modules that correspond to where your state currently is in the process of its RESEA evaluation. Most modules will include a set of suggested **action steps** state staff can consider taking to advance their RESEA evaluation based on the content presented in the module.

## HOW TO ACCESS THE VIRTUAL LEARNING MODULES

The table below shows the nine modules comprising the RESEA Evaluation Virtual Learning Series. It also identifies the **learning objectives** for each module and **links to additional resources**. You can access and **view each learning module** from the [WorkforceGPS RESEA Evaluation and Evidence Resources website](#).

| Learning Module                                                    | Learning Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Resource Links                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <b>Foundational Modules</b>                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1. Why evaluate our RESEA program?                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand what evaluation is and how it differs from performance measurement.</li> <li>Understand how using evaluation for ongoing evidence-building can help program administrators.</li> <li>Envision what a state with a strong culture of evidence looks like.</li> <li>Feel inspired and encouraged to conduct RESEA evaluations.</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">RESEA Evaluation Toolkit</a>, Chapter 1 (2021)</li> <li><a href="#">Understanding the Legislation on RESEA Evidence and Evaluations</a> (2023)</li> <li><a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions about RESEA Evaluations</a> (2020)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Unemployment Insurance Program Letters (UIPL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Expectations for States Implementing RESEA Program Requirements for Conducting Evaluations and Building Program Evidence</a> (No. 01-20)</li> <li><a href="#">FY 2023 Funding Allotments and Operating Guidance for UI RESEA Grants</a> (No. 02-23)</li> </ul> </li> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Webinars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Overview of Evaluation and Evidence Requirements</a> (2019)</li> <li><a href="#">How Does Evaluation Help My State and Where Do We Start?</a> (2019)</li> </ul> </li> <li>U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul> |
| 2. How do we decide what we want to learn about our RESEA program? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand what Learning Goals are and how they are part of a Learning Agenda.</li> <li>Know what questions to ask and which people and departments to engage in establishing learning goals.</li> <li>Understand how establishing learning goals leads to crafting research questions.</li> <li>Be motivated to develop learning goals and engage others in the process.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <a href="#">RESEA Evaluation Toolkit</a>, Chapter 2 and Appendices D, E, F, and I (2021)</li> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Webinar: <a href="#">Evaluating RESEA: How Does it Help My State and Where Do We Start?</a> (2019)</li> <li><a href="#">Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research Webpage</a></li> <li><a href="#">U.S. Department of Labor Chief Evaluation Office Completed Reports Webpage</a></li> <li><a href="#">U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Research Publications Webpage</a></li> <li>U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Learning Module                                                     | Learning Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Resource Links                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| 3. What types of evaluations are there and how do we select one?    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware of the primary types of evaluations and the research questions that each can address.</li> <li>• Understand when to use each type of evaluation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <a href="#">RESEA Evaluation Toolkit</a>, Chapters 4, 5, and 6</li> <li>• Unemployment Insurance Program Letters (UIPL): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Expectations for States Implementing RESEA Program Requirements for Conducting Evaluations and Building Program Evidence</a> (No. 01-20)</li> <li>• <a href="#">FY 2023 Funding Allotments and Operating Guidance for UI RESEA Grants</a> (No. 02-23)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• RESEA Evaluation TA Webinar: <a href="#">Which Evaluation Designs Are Right for My State?</a> (2019)</li> <li>• <a href="#">U.S. Department of Labor Chief Evaluation Office Completed Reports Webpage</a></li> <li>• U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul>                                                      |
| 4. How do we develop an evaluation Statement of Work?               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand what steps to take to create an evaluation statement of work.</li> <li>• Be able to develop a logic model for your RESEA program.</li> <li>• Understand exploratory and confirmatory research questions.</li> <li>• Feel more confident developing a statement of work.</li> </ul>                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RESEA Evaluation Technical Assistance Webinar: <a href="#">Considerations When Writing a Statement of Work for an Evaluation</a> (2020)</li> <li>• RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RESEA Evaluation Toolkit</a>, Chapters 2.3, 7.3 and Appendix F (2021)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5. How can CLEAR help in meeting our RESEA evidence-building needs? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand CLEAR's aims and content.</li> <li>• Understand the linkage between study ratings and intervention ratings.</li> <li>• Know more about how RESEA evaluations can contribute to the evidence base in CLEAR.</li> <li>• Feel more confident in using CLEAR.</li> <li>• Understand how to submit a completed study to CLEAR.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">CLEAR Causal Evidence Guidelines</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research website</a></li> <li>• RESEA Evaluation Technical Assistance Webinar: <a href="#">Using the Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR) - A Demonstration</a> (2019)</li> <li>• RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Common Pitfalls in Designing RESEA Causal Evaluations</a> (2023)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Using the Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR) to Build Evidence on RESEA Programs</a> (2023)</li> <li>• <a href="#">RESEA Tip Sheet: Considerations for Assessing the External Validity of Evaluation Evidence</a> (2023)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul> |

| Learning Module                                                           | Learning Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Resource Links                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>Conducting Your Evaluation</b>                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6. What are the fundamentals of conducting an impact evaluation?          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand experimental and quasi-experimental research designs and common data sources.</li> <li>Understand advantages of experimental studies.</li> <li>Know what intervention and comparison groups are and what is meant by “baseline equivalence”.</li> <li>Be better prepared to consider an impact design for your state's next evaluation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <a href="#">RESEA Evaluation Toolkit</a>, Chapter 4 and Appendices F, G, and H (2021)</li> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Webinars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">What Evaluation Designs Are Right for My State?</a> (2019)</li> <li><a href="#">Evaluations Using Your Existing Administrative Data: Quasi-Experimental Designs</a> (2019)</li> <li><a href="#">De-Mystifying Random Assignment Designs for RESEA</a> (2019)</li> </ul> </li> <li>U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul> |
| 7. What are the fundamentals of conducting a component impact evaluation? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand what is meant by “component evaluation” and the research questions they can address.</li> <li>Be able to identify RESEA components that can be studied through a component evaluation.</li> <li>Understand sample size considerations for component evaluations.</li> <li>Be better prepared to consider evaluating a component of your RESEA program.</li> </ul>                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <a href="#">RESEA Component Evaluations</a> (2023)</li> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Webinars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Introducing Component Evaluations</a> (2022)</li> <li><a href="#">Conducting Component Evaluations</a> (2022)</li> <li><a href="#">Evaluation Strategies for States with Smaller RESEA Programs</a> (2020)</li> </ul> </li> <li>U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul>                                                                                      |
| 8. What to consider when identifying an evaluator for RESEA evaluations   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the different types of independent evaluators.</li> <li>Understand the factors to consider when selecting an independent evaluator.</li> <li>Have a sense of the steps for procuring an evaluator, such as developing a statement of work and request for proposal and selecting an evaluator.</li> <li>Learn about the common elements to include in a statement of work.</li> <li>Feel more confident that you can find the right evaluator for your needs.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">RESEA Evaluation Toolkit</a>, Chapter 7 and Appendix F (2021)</li> <li><a href="#">Sample Evaluation Requests for Proposals (RFPs)</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Webinars: <a href="#">Procuring &amp; Selecting an Independent Evaluator</a> (2019)</li> <li>U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                   |
| 9. Our evaluation has launched—now what should we be doing?               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be better prepared to set up strong processes for ongoing communications with your evaluator.</li> <li>Understand what to communicate with your evaluator about during each evaluation stage.</li> <li>Be aware of the roles of state and local staff in carrying out and monitoring evaluation activities.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Resource: <a href="#">RESEA Evaluation Toolkit</a>, Chapter 8 and Appendices G, H, and I (2021)</li> <li><a href="#">Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects 45 C.F.R. § 46</a> (2018)</li> <li><a href="#">Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research Webpage</a></li> <li>RESEA Evaluation TA Webinar: <a href="#">Reporting RESEA Evaluation Findings</a> (2023)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Learning Module | Learning Objectives | Resource Links                                                                                                                                         |
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|                 |                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Department of Labor RESEA Helpline (<a href="mailto:resea@abtassoc.com">resea@abtassoc.com</a>)</li> </ul> |

## A COMPLEMENT TO OTHER RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Labor funded this virtual learning series as part of a suite of evaluation technical assistance (TA) resources for states conducting evaluations of their RESEA programs. Many other resources as well as direct evaluation technical assistance are available to state staff and their evaluators. While this online series offers a basic grounding in RESEA evaluation and suggests steps to take to launch an evaluation, these other resources can provide states with more in-depth and individualized support.

To help you understand what other support is available, each learning module will conclude with a list of resources that are relevant to the topics covered in that module. The resources associated with each module must be accessed using the links in the table above as the recorded modules do not contain links.

In general, most written tools and resources can be found on the [WorkforceGPS RESEA Evaluation and Evidence Resources website](#).

States and their evaluators can also receive evaluation technical assistance tailored to their specific needs by contacting DOL's RESEA Helpline at [RESEA@abtassoc.com](mailto:RESEA@abtassoc.com). For other questions about this evaluation TA series, please contact the Chief Evaluation Office at [chiefevaluationoffice@dol.gov](mailto:chiefevaluationoffice@dol.gov).

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### Additional Resources and Information

Study reports, publications, and other materials are available here:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasp/evaluation/completedstudies/RESEA-Evidence-Building-Implementation-Study>

**Chief Evaluation Office**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



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