

NATIONAL EVALUATION OF THE APPRENTICESHIP BUILDING AMERICA GRANT PROGRAM

Great Hall | 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Speakers:

- *Karen Gardiner*, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute
- *Ed Trumbull*, ABA Project Director and Vice President, ICF (*Facilitator*)



EVALUATION OF APPRENTICESHIP BUILDING AMERICAN GRANT PROGRAM

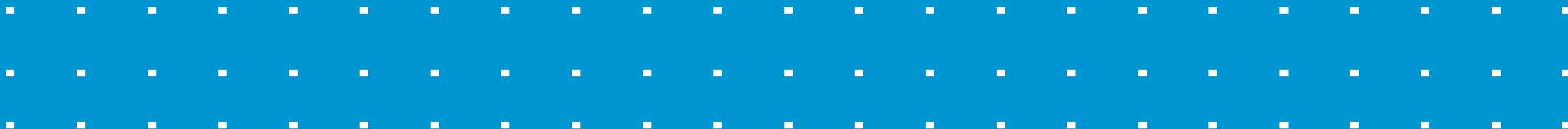


Project Goals

1. Evaluate strategies used by the Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) grants to enhance and expand Registered Apprenticeship opportunities
2. Conduct implementation studies of grantee activities and an impact study and a cost-benefit study of pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to registered apprenticeship (RA) programs
3. Coordinate across the portfolio of projects at CEO to facilitate sharing of findings, methods, and learning about apprenticeship broadly across research teams



How We Use Data



Project Deliverables

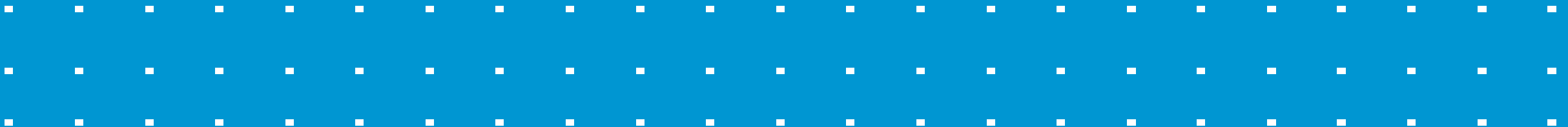
- Literature Review of previous apprenticeship findings – August 2023
- Implementation studies - Spring 2027
 - State Apprenticeships
 - Youth Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship
 - Apprenticeship Hubs
- Impact study – Fall 2027
- Briefs
 - Apprenticeship as Tool to Improve Diversity in Construction – March 2024
 - Scaling and Expanding New Apprenticeships- in review
 - Apprenticeships in New and Emerging Industries- in review
 - Using Apprenticeship to Recruit Women to Cybersecurity – in review
 - Employer perspectives--one-page summaries (IT and healthcare)
 - The Role of Pre-apprenticeship in Fostering Career-Readiness Skills in the AI Era
- Interactive summary of studies—in review

Apprenticeship Research Network

- Coordinates across the portfolio of projects at CEO and beyond to facilitate sharing of findings, methods, and learning about apprenticeship broadly across research teams
- Activities include:
 - Literature review and brief reports drawing from findings from this project and others in the portfolio.
 - Quarterly meetings of research staff from relevant projects across the portfolio to discuss methods and findings.
 - Periodic presentations of cross-project findings on targeted topics of interest for DOL and potentially a broader audience.
 - Quarterly newsletter of ongoing activities across CEO portfolio.



ABA Studies



Implementation Study

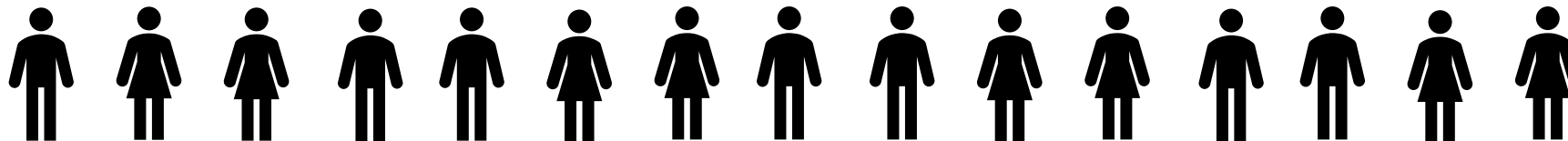
- Document strategies used by the ABA grants to enhance and expand RAP opportunities
 - program goals, components, roles of partners, outreach, expected outcomes, implementation challenges, customer perspectives (apprentices/pre-apprentices, employers, other partners)
- Data sources
 - Grant materials
 - Site visits
 - Employer interviews
 - Grantee survey
 - Participant survey

Impact Study

- Will answer the question *Do pre-apprenticeships improve participant employment, earnings, and success in registered apprenticeships?*
- Findings from this study will inform future DOL strategies and grant programs
- To provide the most reliable information to DOL and the field generally we are using a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design
 - “Gold Standard”: Helps ensure average characteristics of the groups that might be expected to influence outcomes, both observed and unobserved, are the same.
 - Information collected will be combined across all participating grantees

How RCTs Work

Step 1: Individuals apply to pre-apprenticeship program.



Step 2: Eligible applicants consent to participate in the study.



Step 3: Using a lottery, some eligible applicants are enrolled.



These applicants can enroll in pre-apprenticeships.



These applicants can enroll in other services.

Grantee Involvement in Studies

- Implementation Study
 - Round 1 Grantees: All grantees participate in survey; subset of grantees participate in site visits
 - Round 2 Grantees: Subset of grantees participating in the impact study
- Impact Study
 - Round 1 Grantees: Subset of **Category 2** (*Expansion of RAP Opportunities for Youth*) and **Category 3** (*Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways through Pre-Apprenticeship Leading to RAP enrollment and Equity Partnerships*) grantees
 - Round 2 Grantees: Subset of **Category 1** (*Ensuring Equitable RAP Pathways and Partnerships Through Pre-apprenticeship Leading to RAP Enrollment*) and **Category 2** (*Creation of Education System-aligned Pre-apprenticeship Programs and RAPs*) grantees

Evaluation Activities/Timeline

- Implementation Study (Round 1 grantees, all categories)
 - Administer grantee survey (completed)
 - Select grantees for site visits: Fall 2024
 - Conduct site visits: Fall 2024-Spring 2025
- Impact Study (Round 1 (categories 3 and 4) and 2 (categories 1 and 2) grantees)
 - Clarification calls with subset of grantees: Summer 2024-Fall 2024
 - Select grantees for impact study: Summer 2024-Fall 2024
 - Design study procedures in partnership with grantees: Fall 2024-Winter 2025
 - Begin random assignment – Fall 2024-Spring 2025

Contact Information

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Chief Evaluation Office

U.S. Department of Labor

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