2023 EvalPLC Fact Sheet

What is the Evaluation Peer Learning Cohort?

The Evaluation Peer Learning Cohort (EvalPLC) is an interactive technical assistance forum comprised of cross-agency representatives from up to six states. State teams who represent core Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs will collaborate and develop capstone projects (e.g., research design for a specific project, statement of work for a request for proposal for an evaluation, state Evaluation Action Plan) to support their development and implementation of state and/or local research and evaluations. Participants will:

- Learn from experienced evaluators, state and national subject matter experts, and each other to develop evaluation capstone projects.
- Use the Evaluation Toolkit: Key Elements for State Workforce Agencies and two evaluation self-assessment tools to build evaluation capacity:
    - Evaluation Readiness Assessment: Assess the degree to which each state is ready to implement research evaluation activities and projects; and
    - Evaluation Design Assessment: Determine capacity to design and implement evaluation projects.

What Are the Benefits for States by Participating in the EvalPLC?

The benefits for states that participate include:

- Virtual, online space and meetings to give state teams the time to focus on evaluation activities.
- Ongoing support to strengthen the state's readiness capacity to conduct evaluations.
- Expert presentations to identify evaluation needs, develop research questions and design an Evaluation Action Plan to move state teams toward a statement of work or evaluation design plan.
- Coaching and assistance to provide guidance, advice, and feedback during state teamwork.
- Interactive work with a small, committed group of participants to share experiences, consider challenges, explore opportunities, learn from other states, and shape future plans for research and evaluation technical assistance.

What is the Timeline for Participation in the EvalPLC?

Over the course of six months, the EvalPLC will use virtual 90-minute work sessions and custom coaching sessions to build knowledge, facilitate peer learning, and develop specific next steps to further evaluations of WIOA adult and youth activities.

What Do States Take Away from the Experience?

Each participating state completes a capstone project suited to their strengths and challenges with evaluations. The state may use an Evaluation Action Plan template to develop goals and strategies that address evaluation culture and awareness; identify funding strategies; manage data and data collection; build staff skills, capacity, and knowledge; and support strategic planning.