

Research and Evaluation Notes

March 2024



To support the public workforce system's research and evaluation (R&E) efforts, these notes share:

- Select R&E initiatives, reports, and resources relevant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs, services, and customers.
- Technical assistance (TA) information to support positive customer and service delivery outcomes through research, evaluation, and evidence-based program design.

Highlights from this issue:

- A report examining findings from an evaluation of America's Promise Job-Driven Training grants, which were allocated to 23 sites to expand regional workforce partnerships across 28 states.
- An introduction to the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Evidence to Action (E2A) portfolio and process study and the accompanying tool kit, which was designed to help research teams create effective E2A research products.
- A report on the Health Professions Opportunity Grant Program demonstrating that participants in occupations with longer training periods received higher earnings than those in programs with shorter-term training.

SELECT READING

[The Impact of Regional Sectoral Training Partnerships: Findings from America's Promise](#)

This recent [report](#) presents findings from the impact evaluation of America's Promise Job-Driven Training (America's Promise) grants, drawing on findings from a previous implementation study. In 2016, DOL awarded \$111 million in America's Promise grant funds to 23 sites across 28 states to create and expand regional workforce partnerships intended to prepare workers for careers in middle- to high-skilled jobs. Participants typically received a range of education and training services, including work-based learning. The final evaluation report estimates the impact of program participation on earnings and employment outcomes, relative to a comparison group that received only basic employment services. Impact findings from America's Promise include:

- Compared to Wagner-Peyser participants with similar demographics and earnings history, participants in America's Promise had a 6-percentage point higher employment rate in the fourth quarter after program enrollment and a 4-percentage point higher employment in the eighth quarter after enrollment. Both were statistically significant.
- Relative to the same group of Wagner-Peyser participants, participants in America's Promise earned \$2,697 more in the second year after program enrollment. This effect was statistically significant.
- The impact of America's Promise participation varied by participant and program characteristics. Notably, impact estimates were larger for White participants than for Black or Hispanic participants.

To explore the America's Promise evaluation further, refer to the [March 2023 Research and Evaluation Notes](#). The resource presents findings from the [implementation evaluation](#) of the program and provides links to [issue briefs](#) on employer perspectives, employer engagement strategies in regional partnerships, and lessons on conducting sector training strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPOTLIGHT

New Events:

- [NAWB \(National Association of Workforce Boards\) Forum](#), March 23–26, 2024. Washington, DC. The annual meeting provides an opportunity for workforce leaders to network; learn about workforce policy, initiatives, and trends; and attain skills. The theme of the March 2024 Forum is "Forging Tomorrow's Workforce Today."
- [2024 Webinar: The Impacts of Sectoral Employment Training and Career Advancement Programs](#), March 13, 2024. A panel will present findings from impact evaluations of sectoral employment programs and career advancement initiatives, emphasizing non-college-educated workers.

EVIDENCE IN ACTION

[Evidence to Action \(E2A\) at DOL: Portfolio Project & Process Study](#)

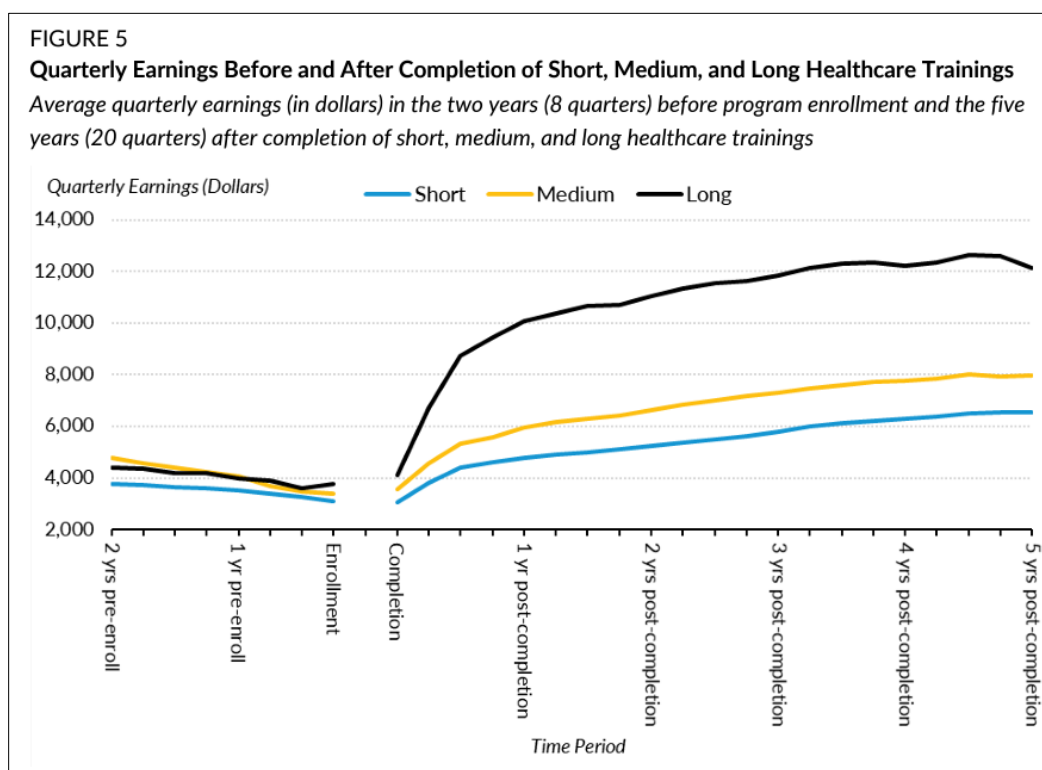
This [portfolio project](#), initiated by the Chief Evaluation Office of DOL, aims to build capacity and grow the culture of evidence at DOL. It presents an opportunity for DOL agencies and their partners to access and effectively use reliable research and evaluation evidence to inform policymaking, program development, and other evidence-based continuous improvement efforts.

The [E2A Tool Kit: Tips for Developing Great Evidence to Action \(E2A\) Products](#) was designed as part of the E2A Portfolio Project to help research teams plan for and develop effective evidence-to-action research products. The tool kit is a chapter-by-chapter guide to planning E2A products, writing for impact, creating presentations, designing infographics and one-liners, and data visualization.

RESEARCH IN LIVING COLOR

[Employment and Earnings Outcomes by Length and Occupation of Healthcare Training: Results from the Health Profession Opportunity Grants \(HPOG\) Program](#)

A [report](#) on earnings and employment outcomes from the Health Professions Opportunity Program demonstrates that participants earned more the longer they were in training. The figure below compares earnings growth 5 years after training completion for participants in short-term programs (3 months or less), medium-term (4-11 months), and longer-term programs (12 months or more). Those completing longer-term training earned nearly twice as much after 5 years than participants in short-term training and approximately 50 percent more than those in medium-term training. Examples of occupations that require long-term training are Registered Nurses and Dental Hygienist, while those requiring medium- and shorter-length training include Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides and Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides.



Source: Nathan Sick and Pamela Loprest. 2021. Employment and Earnings Outcomes by Length and Occupation of Healthcare Training Results from the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Program. OPRE Report 2021-237. The Urban Institute. Submitted to the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Share research and evaluation questions, suggestions, and resource needs with the
Employment and Training Administration's Office of Policy Development and Research at workforcepractices@dol.gov.
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