

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 Jobs Driven Grants program. This program aims to support regional partnerships working to prepare the domestic workforce to enter middle- and high-skilled and high-growth industries historically relying on the H-1B visa program to hire skilled foreign workers. The target population includes unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers—including disadvantaged populations such as low-income individuals, those underrepresented in the targeted industry, dislocated workers, and others with training and employment barriers.

In fall 2017, DOL's Chief Evaluation Office contracted with Mathematica Policy Research and Social Policy Research Associates to conduct a five-year evaluation of America's Promise. The overall objective is to identify practices associated with stronger regional coordination and estimate the effectiveness of America's Promise services.

Evaluation components	The evaluation has two main components: (1) an impact evaluation to examine the effect of grantee strategies on training and employment, and (2) an implementation evaluation to describe how all America's Promise partnerships operate and evolve over time, the services provided, the participants served, and implementation lessons.
Evaluation benefits	This evaluation will contribute to the knowledge base about the success of strategies aimed at improving the skills and competitiveness of American workers to meet the needs of growing industries. The evaluation will draw lessons for both practitioners and policy makers to inform continuous program improvement, provide evidence to guide program development, and inform future funding decisions at the Federal and regional levels.
Timeline	The evaluation will run from 2017 into 2022.
Evaluation activities	The evaluation team will work with grantees and states to conduct the following activities: • A 90 minute telephone call with all 23 grantees to clarify information presented in their grant applications. (Completed in summer 2017.) • A brief, electronic survey of all 23 grantees to collect information on partnerships, service delivery, and challenges and successes. (Completed in spring 2019.) • A brief, electronic survey of up to 25 partners from 6 selected regional partnerships to learn about their characteristics, the focus and frequency of communication, and collaboration strategies used in spring 2019 and winter 2020. • Site visits to 12 selected grantees for two to three days in fall 2019 to conduct interviews and focus groups with staff, participants, employers, and partners to learn about partnerships and program implementation. • Two-hour telephone interviews with the other 11 grantees in fall 2019 to learn about their implementation experiences. • An impact or outcomes study using administrative data to compare America's Promise participants to non-participants. The evaluation team will reach out in summer 2019 to set up data use agreements so the evaluation can learn about outcomes for individuals.
Products	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	Contact DOL: <i>Megan Lizik</i> (lizik.megan@dol.gov) Contact Mathematica: <i>Jeanne Bellotti</i> at (609) 275-2243 or jbellotti@mathematica-mpr.com