

SSEEP Evaluation Overview for BP & NEG Grantees- 20240411 1644-1

0:15

Welcome everyone.

0:16

We're going to give everyone a couple more minutes to to make it in and then we'll get started.

1:04

Good morning, Good morning.

1:09

All right, so we got a good amount of people in the room.

1:11

I'm sure a few more will join us, but we'll go ahead and get started.

1:14

I want to thank you all for joining us today.

1:17

And this today's webinar is going to be providing an overview of the sectoral strategies and employer engagement portfolio evaluation or as we also call it the SEEP evaluation.

1:30

My name is Evan Murphy and I'm an evaluation specialist with the Department of Labor's Chief Evaluation Office.

1:36

I'm also the project officer overseeing the sectoral strategies and employer engagement evaluation along with my colleague Suchi Agmachi, which includes both the building Pathways to infrastructure jobs grants as well as the nursing expansion grants.

1:51

Go to the next slide.

1:56

You all might be wondering why you're here today and what's this evaluation has to do with your grants.

2:00

This webinar will hopefully make it clear how those two things are related and your important role in helping us build knowledge about sector strategies.

2:09

As you might know, sector strategies are promising approach to helping workers build skills that lead to quality jobs and better earnings.

2:17

The SEEP evaluation is an opportunity to learn about how sectoral strategies can engage workers.

2:22

Employers, promote job quality, and diversify and support the workforce, especially from populations that have been historically been excluded from high quality jobs.

2:33

You are all here today because your organization received either a Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grants or Nursing Expansion grants.

2:42

These two programs have common elements related to sector strategies and worker centered approaches, and both grant programs are included under the SEEP evaluation.

2:57

The C evaluation is going to help us learn about all the great work you're doing to implement sector strategy programs and help people improve their skills and attain good jobs.

3:06

Although both of these programs are focused on very different areas, they have a lot of similarities and the evaluation approaches to both programs are going to take similar paths.

3:16

So we're convening the grants to get together today from both initiatives to share information about the portfolio and about evaluation.

3:26

Next slide, the seat portfolio and it's related evaluations are funded by the US Department of Labor's Chief Evaluation Office in collaboration with the Employment and Training administration.

3:41

You're all probably very familiar with ETA, since ETA awarded you your grants for building pathways and nursing expansion and your grant reporting is already done through ETA.

3:52

You all might be very less familiar with the Chief Evaluation Office, so I want to spend a moment to kind of give you a little bit of background.

4:00

DOLS Chief Evaluation Office was started and established in 2010 to coordinate and support research and evaluation within the Department of Labor.

4:11

The Chief Evaluation is a department level office supporting all of DOL in developing and disseminating independent, credible information and data about DOL programs, policies, operation and activities.

4:24

So put a little bit more simply, our role is to help DOL learn about its programs, including programs like Building Pathways and the Nursing Expansion Grant, all the work that you are doing for the study.

4:38

We have developed the overall focus and initial research questions by talking to a wide range of folks at ETA, talking to previous grantees and other policy, programmatic and research experts.

4:51

To complete this work, we've also brought on a team of experienced evaluators led by Apartment Global who study workforce development policy and you're going to hear from them today.

5:01

Dina Schwartz, the project Director and Elizabeth Copson, the implementation study lead, both from Apartment next slide.

5:12

So the purpose of today's webinar is to Orient you all to the evaluation and data collection plans for this evaluation research.

5:20

We'll cover a little bit of background, talk about some of the research questions guiding this work.

5:25

We'll discuss some of the evaluation approaches we're taking.

5:28

And then we'll discuss the implementation study and some data collection activities that are ongoing and that will be coming up in the near future.

5:37

Next slide.

5:40

Before I turn it over, I wanted to go over a little bit of housekeeping items.

5:43

We're recording today's webinar so that can be available for those who couldn't attend.

5:48

Or for reference, in the future we're going to make this webinar recording available on Workforce GPS S H1B Skills Training Grants web page, so we can circulate that after this meeting as well.

6:01

During the presentation, we ask that you keep yourself muted and type any questions you have in the Q&A section at the bottom of the screen.

6:09

If you see that little green S on the bottom right, you can click on it and AQ and A section will pop up.

6:16

Feel free to put any questions or comments you have in the chat there and we will address the questions as we go.

6:24

And we'll also have some dedicated time at the end for any questions or discussion.

6:29

And at that time, we can ask you to unmute and you're welcome to to ask your questions yourself.

6:35

With that, again, I want to thank you all for joining us today.

6:37

We look forward to hearing from you and I'm going to turn it over to Dina to get into the presentation.

6:45

Thank you, Evan.

6:46

And thank you all for joining us As All right, next slide.

6:51

Yeah, I did want to pause just in case there are questions.

6:54

So far, I don't see anything in the chat, but if anyone does want to come off mute now, now's the chance, although we'll we'll have chance in a couple minutes too.

7:08

All right, I'll, I'll move forward.

7:11

So, yeah, again, thank you for joining us today on behalf of the evaluation team.

7:16

We've been really impressed by what we've learned so far about the work you're doing from our review of the grant applications and from the hearing from the ETA program office, and we look forward to getting to work with you more over the course of the grants.

7:30

I do want to note that we'll be covering a fair amount of background on the overall focus of the seats of seats and the evaluation plans for both BP and N e.g.

7:40

and most of it's for your awareness and broader understanding.

7:43

We'll be sure to highlight anything specific that you should be on the lookout for as it pertains to your work going forward, especially in the near term.

7:51

And we're also hoping to have time towards the end of the call to hear about what you'd like to learn.

8:01

So as you no deal all funded both of these grant programs as part of a longer history of investing in sector strategies, that is workforce development strategies that emphasize developing relationships with employers and a specific sector to develop and tailor training in a way that leads to both a well trained workforce and good job for the participants you work with.

8:22

There's also been a lot of research on this approach, some of it done by asked and our partners on the evaluation team.

8:30

That suggests it's promising and can work really well at meeting those goals.

8:34

But then we also have a lot to learn about how best to design and deliver those services.

8:39

In particular, as I'm sure you all found the funding opportunity announcements that you responded to with the current grant.

8:47

DOL is especially interested in learning about what it means to take a more worker centered, a more worker centered approach, how to best develop career pathways and how DEIA strategies fit into this work, as well as how to think about and improve various dimensions of job quality.

9:04

Next slide.

9:10

So those are the things the 2 grant programs have in common.

9:13

Since we have attendees from both programs on the call, I also wanted to give a little bit of background on each 1st for the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Job Grants, BP.

9:24

The grants are intended to focus on sectors that support infrastructure investments through the bipartisan infrastructure law.

9:32

And then if you click for the animation, the BP program made thinks two types of grants, scaling grants, which are to increase the reach of existing programs and development grants to establish newer programs under that broad umbrella of infrastructure.

9:50

21 of the grants are focused on the renewable energy sector, 17 on transportation and 10 on broadband infrastructure.

9:58

Next slide, next slide.

10:05

So the nursing expansion grants focus on nursing and there's again two types of grants if you could click for the animation.

10:15

The the two types are nurse education programs to train nurse educators to build the workforce that way and nursing career pathways for middle and high skilled nursing occupations.

10:30

Next slide, that's the background information on the grants.

10:39

And now I'm going to talk a little bit more about the evaluation.

10:43

As Evan mentioned, the research questions were developed through a process following CEO's learning agenda and in consultation with ETA as well as previous grantees, other experts in the field.

10:56

And I have some of the overall broad questions on the screen.

10:59

We're also going to have more specific questions for both the BP and NEG grant programs and for the 2 tracks within each program.

11:08

We're going to be refining these questions as we learn more from you about your programs and especially want to hear what you want to learn and think would help you and others in your shoes to deliver effective programs.

11:18

So our guiding research questions as they stand now are, how are the BP and NEG programs being implemented across grantees?

11:26

What strategies do grantees use to reduce barriers to employment and support the attraction, retention, and advancement of members of populations that have historically been marginalized or underrepresented in the targeted sectors?

11:40

And how are employer engagement strategies incentivized, organized, and implemented through sector partnerships?

11:46

What strategies do grantees use to incorporate work for worker voice and what strategies do they use to improve job quality and the availability of good jobs?

11:55

We also have this question at the end.

11:56

What do we know about the effectiveness of sectoral strategies?

11:59

That's really going to be drawing on lessons across the broader portfolio, both from your experiences but also you know, potentially from other information.

12:11

And we'll talk a little bit more about how to get there in a little while.

12:16

Next slide.

12:23

So those are the questions we we're starting with and Lizzie's going to talk a little bit more about our our specific next steps.

12:30

I want to back up a bit and reiterate some of the points that have been touched on about evaluation of the learning process and how the app team and CEO approach evaluation and learning.

12:42

First, it's important to note that evaluation is complementary but distinct from the kind of performance reporting and compliance that you're probably familiar with.

12:53

Some of our activities and questions will look similar to what happens in your grant reporting and in some cases we might use some of the performance data that you enter for our evaluations.

13:02

But the purposes of looking at that data are a bit different.

13:06

While performance reporting helps us understand how well programs are doing in meeting their specified goals and targets, evaluation adds to that with a somewhat broader lens to focus on learning across grantees and even across grant programs.

13:20

In other words, evaluation is the way to learn about programs for the purposes of identifying what works, and then we can use that information to make adjustments and refinements and to inform future grant opportunities.

13:32

So this graphic shows that cycle of using evaluation to help us understand how strategies work, for whom they work, and how programs can be improved.

13:42

Evaluation is rarely a one-time event.

13:46

It's part of a learning process through which we continually ask questions about programs, answer those questions and by studying the programs and in partnership with grantee staff like yourself and then use what we can learn, what we learn to make modifications.

14:04

So this process is how we can refine programs to better work for the people they serve, which I think is something that as much as all of us on the call come to this work from different angles.

14:16

It's a shared goal to make sure that our programs are working well for the people they're intended for.

14:24

Some of you have probably participated in past evaluations.

14:28

I think we even have grantees that have participated with evaluations with after MDRC or some of our other partners.

14:37

So you might know a bit about evaluation and I do want to note that there are a lot of different types of studies we do as part of evaluations, especially kind of a large multi faceted one like we're doing with the seat portfolio.

14:51

Sometimes we focus on things like does this program work better than other other services in the community to increase earnings and we do that through what we call an impact study.

15:01

We can also do something similar to figure out if a specific program component or strategy is what makes a difference on something like employment or earnings.

15:10

But we also through evaluation address questions like how do you grantees work with employers, what's challenging about that, what seems to work well?

15:18

And we do that through what is known as an implementation study.

15:22

And for any of those, we might be gathering a variety of data.

15:27

So talking to you and other staff at your organization, partner staff, participants in the program, we'll also conduct surveys and looking at some of performance data are those are some of our data collection strategies.

15:45

The important thing for you to know now is that while we have some of some parts of the evaluation planned, we're still working out the design for a lot of it.

15:54

And that's because we have a lot more to learn from you about the work you're doing and what you want to learn.

16:00

So we can design an evaluation that meets those goals.

16:04

With that, I'm going to turn it over to Lizzie in a minute to talk through some more of the specifics.

16:09

I think we can go to the next slide and see if anyone has any questions.

16:17

So far, no questions in the chat.

16:20

Maybe we'll pause for a second and see if anybody wants to come off of mute with a question.

16:31

All right, Not your last opportunity.

16:33

So we have one more section at the end.

16:36

Yeah, Yeah.

16:36

And then we'll have Q&A at the end.

16:38

So we look forward to more discussion there.

16:42

So Dina talked about what we want to learn through SEEP and how learning about your grant programs through evaluation can help us answer those questions.

16:49

I'm going to go over the main activities we'll be doing and how you as grantees are involved next.

16:59

So this slide shows the main components or parts of the evaluation.

17:03

The left side of the screen shows what we have underway and what we want you to be aware of right now.

17:08

With the knowledge building component, we've been reviewing what's already been studied and written about sectoral strategies, and we're synthesizing that information, including what other studies have documented and found already.

17:22

This will help us to get a lay of the land and identify gaps in what we know about sectoral strategies that seep in this project might be able to help address.

17:31

There isn't anything extra that you all as grantees need to do for this knowledge building component, although some of what is coming up will help us learn more and inform the knowledge building.

17:42

The implementation study is where we'll learn in detail about what you're doing in your grant programs.

17:48

For instance, what training and support services do you offer?

17:51

How do your partnerships work?

17:53

Who are you serving with your grants?

17:55

And we'll also want to hear from you about lessons you learn along the way and carrying out sectoral strategies programs.

18:02

We're looking forward to working with you for the implementation study, and I'll talk a little bit more in a moment about where you all come in if you can click.

18:13

But first, I wanted to mention a few other parts of the evaluation that will be coming later, and this also is for our awareness.

18:20

So we'll be assessing whether it would be possible to do a more formal or rigorous evaluation to understand the impact that sector strategies have on participants, employment and earnings outcomes.

18:32

And we'll also be doing other research on specific topics like employer engagement and equitable career pathways to see what grantees are doing in these areas and identify promising approaches next.

18:48

So this slide shows how we'll be going about the implementation study to learn about your programs.

18:53

We've already been reviewing your grant applications and updates you've made more recently to your application.

18:58

So the amendments that you've submitted to DOL, this activity has helped us get a grounding and all the interesting things you're doing and things that you have planned with your grants.

19:08

We'll also be getting in touch with you soon to schedule phone calls to clarify information from your grant applications and amendments and learn a little bit more about your activities.

19:18

So these clarification calls will help us in a few ways, including to design specific parts of the implementation studies data collection and to help explore the possibility of an impact study that looks at participant outcomes.

19:33

And then eventually, but not for a little while, we'll be collecting information on the details of your programs and their implementation.

19:40

And to do that, we'll be serving all of you the grantees and your partners, including employers.

19:47

And so we plan to survey all grantees and their required partners.

19:53

And we'll also visit some of you in person to interview program staff and partners to go more in depth on what you're doing.

20:01

And we also plan to interview a small number of participants.

20:06

So those pieces are kind of what Dina referred to as kind of still being designed and what we learn coming up on the calls will really help us with the with with designing those parts.

20:17

Lastly, we'll work with DOL to obtain data from the Workforce Integrated Performance System or Whips to learn about enrolment levels, participant demographics and outcomes.

20:28

And then if you could click so the red box circles the activities that will directly involve you.

20:35

And again, right now, your main role is in the upcoming clarification calls.

20:40

And then we won't be in touch about the other activities for probably more than a year next.

20:49

So I started to touch a little bit on the timeline there and you might be wondering how all these activities fit together in terms of a timeline.

20:57

So as mentioned, we're looking forward to holding clarification calls with each of you separately in the coming weeks.

21:04

And I'll talk in the next slide about the logistics for those.

21:07

We're hoping to complete them by the end of May, but we'll work with you around your availability.

21:13

And as you can see in this table, the calls will serve multiple purposes, including to inform the design of the implementation study as well as to help with knowledge building activities and exploring the possibility of an impact study.

21:28

The surveys of BP and N e.g.

21:30

grantees and your partners will likely happen sometime between mid 2025 and 2026.

21:37

When the time comes, we'll work with DOL to share more information about those surveys and your role in them.

21:44

And then participant interviews will likely happen around that same time.

21:49

And then we'll be working with DOL to obtain the WHIPS data.

21:52

And so that's data that you're already reporting and you don't need to do anything additional for the evaluation for that.

21:59

And then as Dina mentioned, so we're still designing other aspects of the evaluation.

22:03

And there might be additional activities like you might be invited to participate in calls or in special panels on specific topics we want to learn more about next.

22:16

So I know we've shared a lot of information in the last 20 or so minutes.

22:20

And I wanted to recap for you the next step for the clarification calls to kind of highlight these since they're the next immediate activity.

22:28

Within the next week, you'll be receiving 2 emails about these calls.

22:32

One will come from the DOL program office and one will come from the apartment MDRC evaluation team.

22:40

The DOL program office will send an introductory e-mail that reiterates some of the background information from this webinar and gives a heads up that the evaluation team will be scheduling clarification calls.

22:52

I'm sure there are people who are involved with the Grants who weren't able to be on today's call.

22:57

So that e-mail is to kind of give a little bit of background and set up for the purpose of our next e-mail.

23:04

So shortly after you receive that message from DOL, you'll receive a second e-mail from members of our team from Apartment and MDRC.

23:12

This e-mail will ask you to reply with times you're available for the clarification calls.

23:18

We expect the calls will last about an hour and the e-mail will indicate the topics that we'd like to cover.

23:23

So it'll vary by grantee based on kind of what we're interested in learning more about based on your application.

23:32

So based on those topics, if you'd like to invite your other team members or particular partners to join the call, you're welcome too.

23:40

So we know you're busy and this is just one piece of what you do, and we'll work with you to find a time that works for you and your team for the call.

23:47

We really want to make this as easy as possible for you.

23:51

Next, if you have questions or would like to share thoughts on what the evaluations could study, you're welcome to contact Evan Murphy in the Chief Evaluation Office at DOL and Dina Schwartz, the App Project Director for SEEP.

24:09

You just heard from both of them.

24:11

And then we'll also have an evaluation inbox overseen by Apartment, and we'll share the e-mail address for that inbox when we contact you for the clarification calls.

24:22

So Evan, I just wanted to ask if you want to add anything before we move to questions and discussion.

24:29

No, I think that sounds good.

24:30

We can go to the next slide.

24:32

And we did get one question in the Q&A section.

24:37

I again want to encourage anyone to either put your questions in the chat or you're welcome to raise your hand and come off mute.

24:44

Now that we're at the end.

24:47

One question we got was if you learn about something in the grant that is a big barrier to implementation, can that be changed during the active portion of the grant or only in subsequent grants or iterations?

24:59

This is a really great question.

25:01

I'd be happy to take it.

25:03

I we we always want to identify these barriers and share with the program office to see if any changes can be made of.

25:10

Of course we don't know which what the big barrier is maybe it's a requirement or maybe it's something that we are unaware of.

25:17

It really all depends on what that barrier is.

25:20

But we regular meet with the program office we meet with FP OS we are always in touch and sharing what we're learning.

25:27

So we of course want to inform future programs, but if there's barriers that are going on currently, we also want to address those too.

25:35

So it really it's an it depends answer.

25:38

I know that's not a satisfying answer, but we always try to make changes if if appropriate.

25:46

Got another question in chat?

25:48

Are you playing?

25:48

Go ahead.

25:49

Oh, sorry.

25:49

Go ahead, Evan.

25:51

Yeah.

25:52

Are you planning to study what employers are giving back to the partnerships dollars, time, equipment, anything that's contributed for the good of the partnerships?

26:00

Dina, do you want to take that one?

26:03

Yeah, I think that's actually that's exactly the kind of input that I think is really helpful to get from you as grantees.

26:11

This is something that has kind of come up in our in internal conversations like what does the employer engagement mean, what does it mean that employers are doing.

26:22

And so I do feel confident we will be studying it in some way and I think having these examples of ways you're thinking about it like dollars time, equipment is just going to be really helpful going forward.

26:41

I think employer engagement and how employers are involved in the grants is a big area of interest too.

26:47

So you know looking at those types of that type of role that you've identified in your message and then also other ways that employers are involved whether it's you know hiring or helping with with on the job training is also of interest.

27:08

I'm wondering if there are other types of questions like that, other things that you know you're you're curious about whether we're studying or think might be a good idea for us to study.

27:19

Please feel free to come off mute or to enter it in the chat.

27:29

Hi, this is Karen Guy from Broward College.

27:32

Can you hear me?

27:34

Yeah, yeah.

27:36

So our grant got started a little bit later, you know with our approval in January.

27:43

And so we just started training, you know, this term.

27:47

And regarding partnerships, they're individuals that are identified in the grant and we have yet to really circle back and and be able to reach out to them.

27:57

So I didn't know if there are any others that have a similar type of situation and what the thought and strategy is because again we're just getting started and getting the individuals trained and moving forward with the certification.

28:11

And then the next piece is you know regarding gathering the individuals that said they wish to be, you know, partners.

28:18

So I just wanted to kind of mention that and see if there are any thoughts regarding that.

28:22

Thank you very much.

28:23

This is an interesting presentation.

28:27

Yeah, I can talk a little bit or Lizzie, do you want to talk about how we're approaching that?

28:32

I I was just going to say from the from the perspective of the upcoming clarification calls, it's OK if you're early in implementing your grant.

28:41

And that's one of the things we want to kind of hear about when we check in is just where are you with implementation.

28:47

And from our perspective it's you know it's we're really just we really just want to learn what it is that you that you're doing and what you have planned going forward because as we've talked about in this presentation, we really need to know what you're doing to help inform what we're going to do from the evaluation perspective.

29:05

So that's kind of what I was going to say in terms of don't don't worry about that for the calls.

29:10

And then I don't know if others have things to say from different angles.

29:15

I I would just reiterate that and just I know we have several attendees from the DOL program office.

29:23

We've been talking to them and they've been pretty you know clear that the grants he used like are at different points in the timeline.

29:33

And I would also say that's something from previous grant evaluations BC so we're not going in with any kind of expectation even you know if there was a timeline and initial grant documentations.

29:46

We do understand things shift.

29:47

So like Lizzy said, you know we're kind of just going to want to see where you are, what's happening with the partnerships.

29:55

And that also helps kind of inform our thinking on timing for some of those data collections activities where we might want to, you know if we're going to survey partners, we want to make sure that you've been able to work with them.

30:07

So it might inform us in that way.

30:09

But for the clarification policy, just kind of want to hear and I also among the, you know we have a large number of grantees here.

30:17

We also recognize that things are going to proceed at different timelines throughout.

30:28

Hi, this is Deb from the Regent for Workforce Board and and we have one of the infrastructure grants.

30:34

I just wondered if you had done any evaluation on the difference between working with a startup company in in a new sector like the electric vehicle battery sector and industry versus with working with established companies and partners.

30:49

We've had a couple of H1B grants, but this is the first time with really a startup company.

30:55

So we're going to be interested to see how different that is.

31:01

That is a really great point and I think it's I'm not being sort of similar ways of talking about I think the BP grants in particular and I am wondering Betsy I know you've been really focused on that work if you've anything to add on this.

31:19

I do think you know something that has come up.

31:23

It's just like the pace of some industries that they shift a lot and that you know the needs might be different there.

31:30

I think this working with start up employer is a good example.

31:34

You know IT, the occupations change a lot.

31:38

We've been hearing.

31:40

So those are definitely questions we're going to want to explore more.

31:46

Yeah, I don't really have much to add.

31:47

I would just say you know if you have observations of you know what you think we should be paying attention to when you're working with you know, a new startup type of partner, we would love to hear those.

32:01

You know you'll you'll be experiencing that and you know and we will, we will in some cases probably learn as we go a little bit when we start to to get a sense of what it's like to be partnering with a startup then we'll know to you know explore that when we find out with other partnerships as well.

32:28

I do you see a question in the chat about already planning for separate evaluation and whether it's worth still obtaining your own evaluation.

32:40

I think, Evan, I'm not sure if you if you want to speak to that, I think it might be worth, yeah, go ahead.

32:50

Yeah.

32:51

So the way I'm understanding is that you already have a plan to evaluate your own program while still working through our evaluation.

32:59

I this comes up sometimes and what I always say is if you would like to evaluate your program for your own internal purposes, that's great too.

33:10

But what we are doing is looking across the entire forest of the grantees more the grant program.

33:18

It's also great to like you know, I use this analogy a lot.

33:21

It's great to to really examine your particular tree and I really understand the the in depths part of your program, but we want to take also a broader approach and look across all the trees, across the forests of whatever program we're evaluating.

33:35

So I would say it's completely up to you whether you want to conduct your evaluation, you have the funds and the manpower and the the ability and the desire like that's great.

33:46

But we we also want to look across all the grantees and whatever program we're evaluating to really understand what what's going on that's different or similar across different grantees.

33:59

So can't really answer whether you should continue or not.

34:03

We'd love to hear about your evaluation and we can also talk about it separately, but that is completely up to you.

34:10

But we really would hope that you would continue to work with us to help inform our evaluation.

34:16

I don't think, I think we can learn together through this evaluation and answer some of the questions that maybe you're interested in too.

34:28

Yeah.

34:28

And I would just say too, if you want, if you want to put your evaluation team in touch with us, I think you know, we could or you know, get in touch with us directly, we could always talk about the specifics.

34:40

It's sort of depending on the focus of the evaluation, there might be more commonality or they might look at totally different things.

34:50

That was helpful.

34:51

Thank you.

34:57

One of the one of the topics we're hoping to hear from you about on the calls is about your experience with evaluation.

35:05

So if you have worked with an evaluation team in the past, we're interested in hearing about that and we can certainly touch on your current plans as well when we talk.

35:26

Is there any other questions we had?

35:27

We still have plenty of time.

35:29

Feel free to come off, mute, raise your hand or whatever, whatever works best.

35:33

We want to make sure we can answer any questions while we're all together.

35:36

All right, we got another question.

35:48

Do you have a list of evaluators that could evaluate our grant project, use a little bit more context to answer that a little bit better.

36:00

But the evaluation team that is evaluating it, nearly everyone's here today in this call we have.

36:11

Let me see.

36:14

Yeah, I think I need a little bit more detail to answer thoroughly.

36:18

There are.

36:19

I wonder if that's.

36:20

Oh, sorry, go ahead, Lindsay.

36:21

Tina, that's OK.

36:24

I was just going to say, I wonder if that's about obtaining like a separate evaluation like Sarah asked about, in which case I'm not sure I have a list.

36:38

I think probably the there's and I don't know if CEO does anything like that, Evan, I think they're probably are a number of evaluation firms.

36:50

Sometimes universities offer those services.

36:55

Yeah, we can't.

36:57

We can't really direct you to any specific organizations.

37:01

But there are a lot of evaluators out there.

37:05

We would be happy to, for this evaluation, take any questions into consideration that you want answered.

37:12

You can raise them today.

37:14

You can bring them up in the clarification calls.

37:16

This evaluation isn't just for DOL, but we also want to answer questions that all of you are interested in.

37:23

So if there's any evaluation related questions that you have, please feel free to bring it up.

37:29

You can send us an e-mail, you can say any of your clarification calls, but we're always eager to hear what you are wanting to learn about your own programs as well.

37:38

So this is Karen Guy again.

37:42

That comment was from me because similar to the original question that was in the chat, we have an allocation of you know for an evaluation evaluate tour on our on our budget line and the individual that normally would deal with that is no longer with us.

38:00

So we're we're seeking and looking and we understand this is a great national process and we would learn a lot from it.

38:08

But we were trying to make sure that we're doing our due diligence also with regards to what was in the grant and to see what you know what may be possible.

38:20

I've dealt with evaluators before you know at the university level but for this grant specifically it's it's a unique one and we want to make sure we're able to probably you know interview some individuals and get you know some type of.

38:36

I don't know if recommendation is the is is the right word because no one wants to recommend anyone but just a a list that we can be able to try to vet.

38:46

And also because of the amount of of the of the amount we we in purchasing wise have to go through the the colleges process.

38:56

And I just want to make sure that we are starting you know to get some insight that may be helpful for us.

39:02

So that that's the reason why it's really focused on the local grant.

39:07

Thank you.

39:09

Thank you, Karen.

39:09

We really appreciate that.

39:11

And I'm excited to hear you're interested in evaluating your own program too.

39:15

We can't really give out a recommendation right now, but if you e-mail me, I would be happy to talk a little bit about evaluation and help give you some tips on what you should be looking for, what qualities and things like that.

39:29

But let's connect offline and we can we can talk a little bit more, we'd be happy to do so.

39:36

Thank you.

39:44

I'd love to hear that so much evaluation is going on.

40:00

Any last questions you don't want to take any more time unless there's anything worth discussing.

40:07

But I also not often we get everyone in the same room.

40:10

So we we want to capture any ideas or things that you're interested in learning about.

40:32

All right.

40:34

Well, if there's nothing else, I think we can end today's presentation.

40:38

Again, I really want to thank all of you for attending today.

40:41

This has been great and I hope we've answered some of the questions about evaluation for you.

40:47

As always, feel free to reach out to us or in your program office or your FPOS.

40:54

We're always happy to answer any questions you have.

40:57

And again, I want to thank you for being part of this evaluation.

41:00

We really are excited for this and we hope we can learn something that benefits all of us and the people we serve.

41:07

So thank you very much.

41:09

We'll be reaching out in the next couple weeks about those clarifying calls and excited to go on this evaluation journey with all of you.

41:15

Have a good day, everyone.

41:19

Thank you.

41:20

Thank you.

41:20

Thank you.