

## Overview of the DEI Evaluation and Data Collection Requirements

### **What is the DEI?**

The Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) is a three-year grant awarded by the United States Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The DEI funds initiatives aimed at increasing the participation of individuals with disabilities in the workforce development system through systems change and the implementation of at least two of the following seven strategies: integrated resource teams, partnerships and collaboration, blending and braiding funds/leveraging resources, self-employment, customized employment, asset development strategies, and *Guideposts for Success*. Grantees are also required to hire Disability Resource Coordinators (DRCs) and a DEI State Lead.

### **What is the DEI Evaluation?**

The Evaluation is designed to examine the implementation, outcomes, and impact of the DEI. To do this, the DEI Evaluation Team will collect both customer- and systems-level information to determine how DEI grantees improve their workforce development systems in ways that lead to improvements in access to the American Job Center (AJC) system and labor market participation among individuals with disabilities. The Evaluation will assess the *impact* of the DEI by comparing customer outcomes in participating Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) randomly assigned to implement the DEI across states with LWIAs randomly assigned to the comparison group (i.e., "business as usual"). The DEI Evaluation also includes a detailed analysis of "facts on the ground," including issues related to program start-up, how grantees resolve implementation challenges, and approaches to creating systems change in local workforce development systems. The DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is the administering agency for the independent evaluation of the DEI. The Evaluation is being conducted by [Social Dynamics, LLC](#), in partnership with [Altarum Institute](#), [Berkeley Policy Associates](#),<sup>1</sup> and [Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.](#)

### **How will the Evaluation work?**

The DEI Evaluation will gather data from three sources: site visits/telephone interviews, customer (Workforce Investment Act Standardized Record Data [WIASRD] and Wagner-Peyser Labor Exchange) data already being collected by the states, and additional customer data collected for the purpose of the DEI Evaluation (i.e., the DEI Data Elements). The site visits/phone interviews will involve members of the DEI Evaluation Team interviewing state and local personnel. Through the site visits/phone interviews, the evaluators will learn about the processes, challenges, and successes of the activities at pilot and comparison sites. They may also include observations of customer trainings and staff-assisted services and customer focus groups. The DEI Evaluation Team will partner with the DEI State Leads to coordinate and schedule the site visits and interviews.

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<sup>1</sup> In October 2013, Berkeley Policy Associates merged with IMPAQ International.

**What data are requested from the grantees?**

Grantees are required to provide quarterly customer-level data to the DEI Evaluation Team. WIASRD and Wagner-Peyser data on customers with disabilities who received WIA staff-assisted, intensive, and/or training services at pilot and comparison LWIAs will be the primary focus. This data will include validated WIASRD participant-level report data, including customers’ Social Security numbers and/or another unique identifier, individual-level Wagner-Peyser report data (9002A-D reports), and the Wagner-Peyser 9002-E report. In addition, DEI grantees are required to collect and provide additional customer-level information (e.g., barriers to employment, DEI strategies used) referred to as the DEI Data Elements. To avoid duplication of effort, the DEI Evaluation Team will work with DEI State Leads to determine which DEI Data Elements are already being collected as part of the state’s customer data collection system.

**How will the results of the Evaluation be used?**

The results of the DEI Evaluation will be shared with DOL (including ODEP and ETA). With DOL’s permission, results may also be shared with DEI grantees and other organizations involved in disability employment policy and practice. The Evaluation results will help DOL assess the effectiveness of the DEI and support improvements in workforce development systems nationwide.

**When will the Evaluation produce its report?**

The DEI Evaluation will produce a Synthesis Report for the DOL annually. DOL will determine when the report will be made publicly available.

**Who can I contact to discuss the Evaluation?**

Each participating state has a point person called an Evaluation Liaison. Liaisons provide direct assistance to grantees on the DEI Evaluation and are tasked with learning all of the details that make each grantee unique. They will also plan and participate in the annual site visits/phone interviews. Liaisons are available for quick e-mail questions, conference calls, Skype sessions, and in-person meetings to help tackle any Evaluation issues that arise.

**Who is my DEI Evaluation Liaison?**

**Doug Klayman, DEI Evaluation Project Director**

Becca Jackson is the state liaison for AK, OH, SD, and TN: [rjackson@socialdynamicsllc.com](mailto:rjackson@socialdynamicsllc.com)  
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