

DEI Evaluation Team Bulletin #4

Data Entry for the DEI Evaluation

What is the DEI Evaluation?

The Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) 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 alter their workforce development systems in ways that lead to improvements in access to the American Job Center (AJC) system and in 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 and LWIAs randomly assigned to the comparison group. The United States Department of Labor's (DOL) 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](#),¹ and [Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.](#)

High quality data is critical

The DEI Evaluation will rely on data collected at AJCs for the analysis of program strategies and customer outcomes, such as employment and earnings. These data include WIASRD and Wagner-Peyser, both stored by your customer data collection system, and additional questions called the "DEI Data Elements" (see DEI Evaluation Bulletin #2). In order to produce an unbiased analysis of the work being done in the workforce development system, it is crucial that we receive high-quality data from the states. For this reason, we would like to emphasize the importance of filling in all required fields in your customer data collection system, in addition to the DEI Data Elements. In some states, the DEI Data Elements will be included within the customer data collection system, and in others they will be accessed through a Web Portal provided by the DEI Evaluation Team. More complete data mean a more accurate analysis of the outcomes.

Comparison site data are very important

Comparison sites are a critical feature in the DEI Evaluation. Without comparison sites, we would have no way of knowing "what would have happened" without the DEI. By observing what happens to both DEI LWIAs and comparison LWIAs in the same time frame, we can get a clearer picture of the effects of the DEI. For this reason, the DEI Evaluation needs to have access to high-quality data from both comparison and pilot sites. The participation of comparison sites in the Evaluation is a critical component of measuring and assessing whether the DEI is producing change on the employment outcomes of customers with disabilities.

¹ In October 2013, Berkeley Policy Associates merged with IMPAQ International.

Recording customers with disabilities

The DEI's goal is to improve employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities. An accurate portrayal of the population of customers with disabilities who are being assisted in the workforce development system is fundamental in our Evaluation. As part of the intake and enrollment process, customers are asked whether they have a disability. Many customers have not yet developed the rapport with their AJC personnel, and answer "No" to the disability question. As personnel work more closely with a customer, the customer may choose to disclose a disability. In this case, we strongly encourage AJC personnel to return to the disability question and offer the customer an opportunity to change his or her answer. The customer's record should be changed accordingly. It is important to reiterate that the answer to "Do you have a disability?" must reflect the answer the customer wishes to provide. We want states to receive credit for all customers with disabilities that have been served.

We are here to help!

The Evaluation Team is ready to provide technical assistance to the AJC staff who will be collecting data for the DEI Evaluation. If your state is using the Web Portal provided by the DEI Evaluation Team, a basic demonstration video is available here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2LG3ZstzEU>. Additionally, prospective users have the option of exploring the Web Portal for themselves here: <https://demo.altarum.org/dei/drc>. We are also available to assist states that add the DEI Data Elements into their existing customer data collection systems. We can also organize conference calls and webinars tailored to individual state needs. Your Evaluation Liaison is available to answer any questions:

Who is my DEI Evaluation Liaison?

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