

DEI Grantee Q & A

March 12, 2013

Q1: “Our inquiry is in regard to the additional data collection points that DOL proposes to add to AJLA pending OMB approval. These questions will appear in AJLA 12.2 and specifically target customers who will benefit from DEI intervention. We are interested in gaining a greater understanding about the anticipated benefits of acquiring this information from the perspective of DOL and on the state DEI level. In addition, we would like more insight on what information DEI grantees will be responsible for gathering and reporting from this data should the additional questions be approved.”

The request to link customer data came from several DEI State Leads interested in determining which strategies have the greatest influence on customer outcomes and the number of customers who utilized (or were “touched” by) each strategy. It will allow for the examination of combinations of strategies and how they may influence customer outcomes.

However, the variation in how strategies are being implemented will make comparisons of strategies across DEI grantees challenging. In addition, because of the large number of combinations of DEI strategies, this data may not provide statistically reliable results on the relative “success” of each strategy.

Grantees’ Responsibilities: Grantees will be responsible for adding the DEI strategy variables to their DEI Data Elements (this will be done automatically for states using the web portal). Also, American Job Center staff will need to be made aware that this new information needs to be collected, and the importance of keeping it up-to-date. This new data collection requirement is now active, as OMB approval has been received.

Q2: How can Disability Resource Coordinators (DRCs) better prepare for the DEI Evaluation?

The DEI Evaluation Team Evaluation Liaisons are responsible for working with DEI State Leads and DRCs to prepare them for the implementation of the evaluation. The DEI Evaluation Team provides several opportunities during each year of the DEI grant to receive this support:

- a. Dedicated DEI Evaluation Liaisons
- b. DEI Evaluation Issue Briefs

- c. Getting to Know You (GTKY) Site Visits
- d. Town Hall Meetings (telephone and in-person)
- e. Technical Conference Calls for DEI Data System
- f. Site Visit Coordination Conference Calls
- g. Random Assignment Conference Calls
- h. Toll-Free Technical Assistance Telephone Number

Q3: What critical measurements should the DRCs be maintaining for the DEI Evaluation?

The DRCs are not required to “maintain” critical measurements for the evaluation. Outcomes will be measured using the data from the WIASRD and Wagner-Peyser systems, as well as the DEI Data Elements. The DEI State Leads, DRCs, and other DEI grantee leaders should promote the importance of the DEI Evaluation so that American Job Center staff and partners understand that the completeness and quality of the data submitted will be used to report to DOL and, ultimately, to Congress on the success of the program.

Q4: How are you going to make comparisons between the pilot and control groups when they look so different?

Although pilot and comparison LWIAs may appear different within your state, the random assignment of LWIAs to either the pilot or comparison groups ensures that the two groups are relatively equal. The DEI Evaluation’s impact component will only provide a national comparison of pilot and comparison sites. It will not make within-state comparisons of program impact because the sample of sites in each state is too small to make these comparisons reliable.

When evaluators look at overall DEI impact, the random assignment process ensures that what is an anomaly at the state level balances out when we look across all of the states.

In addition, the DEI Evaluation collects other important information about each LWIA during site visits and telephone interviews, including environmental factors like transportation infrastructure, local industries, available resources, etc. These contextual issues will be factored into the evaluation as necessary. If there are certain contextual issues that you think your Evaluation Liaison is unaware of, we encourage you to contact him or her to share that information.

Q5: Because of the many local contextual factors, wouldn't it be better to define and provide a standardized outcome form used by all states so that you are collecting the same information from all areas, asked and answered in the same way?

The DEI Evaluation collects the same information from each state.

Q6: The Round 1 grants end September 30, 2013. At what period of time after the grant ends will our state be able to measure the success/failure of the project based on your evaluation results?

Results of the Round 1 grants will be included in the synthesis report due on December 31, 2013. The DEI Evaluation Team is not authorized at this time to collect information after September 30, 2013 from Round 1 states.

Q7: How can we use the data to help us understand our program? Specifically, what types of changes in the data will be used to measure success?

The DEI Evaluation Team will generate the following quarterly reports for grantees. This information can be used to examine customer outcomes, utilization of American Job Center Services, and data quality.

QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR DEI GRANTEEES

1. Number/percentage of records with complete WIASRD data by disability/by state
2. Number/percentage of records with complete Wagner-Peyser data by disability/by state
3. Number/percentage of records with complete DEI Data System data by disability/by state
4. Number/percentage of adults who entered employment by disability/by state
5. Number/percentage of youth who entered employment by disability/by state (youth states only)
6. Number/percentage of adults who exited without entering employment by disability/by state
7. Number/percentage of youth who exited without entering employment by disability/by state (youth states only)
8. Number/percentage of customers by intensive service received by disability/by state

DEI State Leads and DRCs should examine the quarterly reports to ensure that the data being submitted to the DEI Evaluation Team is complete. Technical assistance is available through your DEI Evaluation Liaison to help LWIAs resolve problems related to DEI data. DEI grantees should also review employment rates, services received, and variation in utilization of American Job Center services by disability type. This information can be used to determine if customers with certain types of disabilities (if collected by the state) have lower rates of utilization of programs and services. In some states it may also be possible to provide reports at the LWIA level.

Q8: Will you be following up with states periodically after their grant ends to see if the effect of the DEI continued and efforts became sustainable?

The DEI Evaluation Team is not authorized at this time to collect information after September 30, 2013 from Round 1 states. This activity may be added to future DEI Evaluation contracts.

Q9: I know it's early, but can you show us whether the Round 1 states are already showing some signs of improvement?

We do not yet have customer outcome data for R1 states. However, grantees are encouraged to read the Year One Synthesis Report, available at <https://disability.workforce3one.org/view/200112795535929318>

Q10: Will the DEI outcome data be compared to DPN outcomes for the states who implemented the DPN Initiatives?

There is no plan at present to compare DEI and DPN outcomes. This would require the collection of WIASRD and Wagner-Peyser data during the period of the DPN. In addition, DSAs would need to be amended to cover these years.

Q11: How are the interviews going to factor into the evaluation process and results?

Interview data will provide a context for the outcome and impact data by recognizing recurring themes across LWIAs. It also will be used to assess systems changes at the LWIA level using the System Change Coding Scheme.