What is the Evaluation Peer Learning Cohort?

The Evaluation Peer Learning Cohort (EvalPLC) is an interactive technical assistance forum, comprised of cross-agency representatives from up to six states. State teams who represent core WIOA programs will collaborate and develop capstone projects (e.g., research design for a specific project, statement of work for a request for proposal for an evaluation, state evaluation action plan) to support their development and implementation of state and/or local research and evaluations. Participants will:

- Learn from experienced evaluators, state and national subject matter experts (SMEs), and each other as they work together to develop their capstone projects.
- Use the Evaluation Toolkit: Key Elements for State Workforce Agencies and two evaluation assessment tools to build evaluation capacity, the
    - Evaluation Readiness Assessment - designed to help assess the degree to which your state is ready to implement research evaluation activities and projects; and
    - Evaluation Design Assessment - developed to support states in designing a plan for evaluation.
- The EvalPLC will also exchange ideas to support the creation of other evaluation tools and resources to enhance evaluation capacity for workforce system.

What are the benefits of the Evaluation Peer Learning Cohort?

- Virtual meetings that provide state teams space to focus on using research and evidence to develop evaluations;
- Support to identify your state's readiness for conducting an evaluation;
- Information to identify evaluation questions and develop a capstone project;
- Expert coaching assistance throughout the EvalPLC process to improve evaluation capacity; and
- Involvement with a small, committed group of peers sharing experiences, considering challenges and opportunities, learning from each other, and shaping your resources and future investments to conduct evaluations in your states.

What is the Evaluation Peer Learning Cohort schedule?

Over the course of six months, the EvalPLC will use virtual 90-minute work sessions to build knowledge, facilitate peer learning, and develop specific action steps as part of a plan to conduct core WIOA program evaluations.

What are participating states expected to do?

States will form a small team of at least six individuals from WIOA Titles I & III programs—adult, dislocated worker, youth, Wagner-Peyser Employment Services—and other WIOA partner programs of the state's choice. State teams may involve additional state and local colleagues to contribute to relevant session action items and in-state working sessions. At least one person on the team should be working on the state level to serve as the lead of the team.

What are state team members expected to do?

- Develop a capstone project (e.g., research design for a specific project, statement of work for a request for proposal for an evaluation, state evaluation action plan) that supports evaluations and research projects on activities under WIOA core programs;
- Describe how research and evaluations will be coordinated with, and designed in conjunction with, state and local boards and with state agencies responsible for the core programs;
- Share how research and evaluations will be coordinated with the evaluations provided for by the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education under WIOA; and
- Provide feedback on the EvalPLC's evaluation activities and Evaluation and Research Hub (EvalHub) resources.

How can my state participate?

All states are invited to apply to participate. States that are engaged in any or all stages of evaluation planning activities are encouraged to apply. Up to six states will be invited to be part of the EvalPLC.

The following criteria will be used to help identify the EvalPLC state participants:

- Geographic diversity and state size/population density;
- Presence of state decision-makers on the team; and
- Representation of WIOA leaders at the local and state levels and from partner programs.

Submit your application

Apply Here	**Applications are due September 10, 2021**