



**EVALUATION OF ROUND 4  
TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CAREER  
TRAINING (TAACCCT) GRANTS**

**Grant Evaluation Orientation**

**January 7, 2015  
2:00-3:00 p.m. ET**



# Today's Agenda

- ❖ TAACCCT Round 4 Evaluation Team
- ❖ Key Components of the Round 4 Evaluation
  - ❑ Impact Study
  - ❑ National Evaluation
- ❖ Third-party Evaluations
- ❖ Questions and Answers

# TAACCCT Round 4 Evaluation Team

**U.S. Department of Labor, Chief Evaluation Office**

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**The Urban Institute**

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# National Evaluation

Impact  
Study

## Round 1

**\$500 million**  
**49 grants**

## Round 2

**\$500 million**  
**79 grants**

## Round 3

**\$474.5  
million**  
**57 grants**

## Round 4

**\$ 450  
million**  
**71  
grants**

Third-party evaluator  
required

# TAACCCT Round 4 Evaluation Strategy

## Two Primary Components

- ❖ **TAACCCT Impact Study**—to conduct rigorous evaluation of selected TAACCCT sites using experimental design
- ❖ **National Evaluation**—to provide a national picture of the grant program

# Impact Study Research Questions

- ❖ What impacts were achieved by the participants of TAACCCT Round 4 training programs?
  - ❑ Focus on training and employment outcomes

# Impact Study Overview

- ❖ Focus on a subset of grantees
  - ❑ Single institutions
  - ❑ Consortia
- ❖ Experimental study design
  - ❑ Random assignment to a treatment group that receives services developed under grant or a control group that does not
  - ❑ Control group *is not* a “no services” control group

# Impact Study Overview (cont.)

## ❖ Why Random Assignment?

- ❑ “Gold standard” for program evaluation
- ❑ Fourth and final round of TAACCCT grants; focus on generating rigorous evidence
- ❑ Impacts measured this way have substantial credibility among policymakers and funding agencies because they solve the “what would have happened if treatment group members had not experienced the program?” problem
- ❑ In an era of scarce resources, **results can provide definitive information on program effectiveness for future funding.**



# Impact Study Overview (cont.)

- ❖ Inclusion in impact study does not supplant requirement for third-party evaluation
- ❖ The impact study team will work with third-party evaluators to ensure coordination and distinctions
- ❖ Technical assistance from experts around recruitment strategies and random assignment implementation

# National Evaluation Research Questions

- ❖ What service delivery and/or system reform innovations resulted in improved impacts for participants?
- ❖ Under what conditions can these innovations most effectively be replicated?
- ❖ What are the types of emerging ideas for service delivery change and/or system reform that seem most promising for future research?
- ❖ What directions for future research on the country's public workforce system and workforce development in general were learned?

# National Evaluation Overview

- ❖ Review of grant materials (application, performance reports)
- ❖ Implementation research visits to a subset of grantees
- ❖ Survey of all colleges involved in Round 4 TAACCCT grants
- ❖ Synthesis of third-party evaluation findings

# Third-Party Evaluations Design Elements

- ❖ Participant outcomes/impact analysis
- ❖ Implementation analysis

# Third-Party Evaluations

## Strength of the Evidence

- ❖ Experimental Design with Random Assignment
  - ❑ Strongest evidence, “gold standard” of evaluation
- ❖ Quasi-/non-experimental design with comparison group(s)
  - ❑ Moderate evidence
- ❖ Outcomes only design (no comparison group)
  - ❑ Weak evidence, “effectiveness” cannot be determined

# Third-Party Evaluations

## Procuring a Third-Party Evaluator

- ❖ Need an experienced evaluator with the capacity to design and carry out your evaluation
- ❖ It is reasonable to expect that potential bidders will have:
  - ❑ Experience implementing an evaluation of the proposed evaluation design types or in the proposed content field
  - ❑ Senior staff with graduate or post-graduate education and 5+ years experience that can demonstrate technical skills
  - ❑ Capacity and resources to facilitate meetings, data collection, data analysis, and report writing
  - ❑ Other specialized knowledge that is important to understand the intervention or program context

# Third-Party Evaluations

## Procuring a Third-Party Evaluator (cont.)

- ❖ FAQ: Procuring a Third-Party Evaluator on the TAACCCT Community of Practice

<https://etagrantees.workforce3one.org/view/2001235561436571099/info>

- ❖ Evaluation Toolkit

[http://www.doleta.gov/workforce\\_innovation/pdf/grantees/FINAL\\_WIF\\_EvaluationToolkit\\_5-12-2014.pdf](http://www.doleta.gov/workforce_innovation/pdf/grantees/FINAL_WIF_EvaluationToolkit_5-12-2014.pdf)

# Third-Party Evaluations

## Evaluation Plan Timeline

- ❖ **Summary Plans:** Receive feedback from DOL on five-page summary evaluation plans submitted with the application (by February 13, 2015)
  
- ❖ **Detailed Plans:** Developed by your third-party evaluator. Provides much more detail than your summary evaluation plan and incorporates feedback from DOL
  - ❑ Due: May 15, 2015
  - ❑ Feedback: August 2015



# Third-Party Evaluations

## Developing Detailed Plan

- ❖ Serves as a “roadmap” for your third-party evaluation
  - ❑ Each grantee, including consortia, provides one plan
- ❖ Relies on the expertise of your third-party evaluator to ensure the plan is of the highest quality and is feasible
- ❖ Includes the plan for at least one interim evaluation report and a final report, as required in the SGA

# Third-Party Evaluations

## Developing Detailed Plan (cont.)

- ❖ Evaluation team will host a webinar for grantees and their third-party evaluators providing guidance regarding the detailed plan in early March 2015
- ❖ A guidance document on developing your detailed evaluation plan will be shared in the upcoming weeks, prior to the March webinar, on [www.workforce3one.org](http://www.workforce3one.org)

# Support to Third-Party Evaluators

- ❖ House **evaluation resources** on new website
- ❖ Hold **virtual roundtables** provide peer-learning opportunities for smaller groups of third-party evaluators
- ❖ Provide **semi-annual webinars** on evaluation topics
- ❖ Convene evaluation **conferences** for third-party evaluators

# Upcoming Evaluation Activities

❖ Over the next few months the evaluation team will:

- ❑ Review grantee applications to identify:
  - Potential candidates for inclusion in the impact study
  - Evaluation technical assistance needs
- ❑ Conduct clarification calls with subset of grantees to clarify information from their application with respect to their model and activities (January/February 2015)
- ❑ Conduct 1-day site visits to a limited number of grantees to learn more, develop recommendations for impact study

# Upcoming Evaluation Activities (cont.)

## ❖ Next steps for grantees:

- ❑ Review DOL feedback on summary plans
- ❑ Procure third-party evaluators
- ❑ Participate in calls/webinars with evaluation team
  - Attend March webinar on detailed evaluation plans
- ❑ Rely on expertise of third-party evaluator to prepare detailed evaluation plans (due May 15, 2015)
- ❑ Stay tuned for more information on evaluation team support to third-party evaluators

# Questions?

After today's webinar, submit any additional questions to [taacccteval@urban.org](mailto:taacccteval@urban.org)

