

THE POLICY & RESEARCH GROUP

REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT GRANTS



Since 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and participating state Unemployment Insurance (UI) agencies have operated the *Reemployment Eligibility and Assessment (REA)* program and its successor, the *Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)* program. By providing comprehensive reemployment services that are targeted to priority populations, specifically those most likely to exhaust their UI benefits, the goal of the RESEA program is to increase employment, retention, and earnings of unemployment benefit recipients, and in doing so, improve the quality of the workforce to sustain economic growth and enhance productivity and competitiveness.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN RESEA GRANT?

States and territories may apply for RESEA funding. While voluntary, participation is encouraged by DOL because there is “strong evidence that these types of reemployment programs and service delivery strategies are effective.”

ARE GRANT RECIPIENTS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT EVIDENCE-BASED REEMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES?

USDOL requires that states receiving RESEA funding implement interventions and service delivery strategies that are evidence-based. States can meet this requirement by citing existing evidence that shows its RESEA program components significantly improve outcomes of interest to DOL, or they can evaluate their program and its program components to assess their effectiveness.

WHAT ARE THE EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEA GRANT RECIPIENTS?

USDOL requires that each state receiving RESEA funding conduct an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of its RESEA program components that are not deemed evidence based. Evaluation designs must be capable of earning a high or moderate causal evidence rating as determined by the [Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research \(CLEAR\)](#), and they must investigate impacts on three primary outcomes:

- UI duration
- Employment
- Earnings

Historically, nearly all evaluation designs achieving moderate or high ratings have been randomized controlled trials (RCTs).

WHAT SERVICES DOES PRG PROVIDE FOR RESEA GRANTEES?

PROJECT PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Our scope of services includes working with staff to decide which RESEA program component(s) to evaluate; developing research questions; developing a logic model; assessing existing data and data systems; identifying the appropriate research design; advising staff on RESEA evidence and evaluation requirements; participating in DOL training and technical assistance activities related to RESEA evaluation and evidence-based programming; and participating in RESEA evaluation technical assistance. We conduct Evaluability Assessments to assist states with determining readiness to conduct a rigorous study.

RESEARCH DESIGN

PRG has experience in conducting literature reviews, preparing logic models, and developing a plan for formative research and a rigorous impact study that meets USDOL causal evidence requirements and builds program evidence. We create a detailed implementation and impact evaluation plan that outlines timelines, responsibilities, and research methods.

DATA COLLECTION, DATA MANAGEMENT, & ANALYSIS

We identify appropriate data sources and obtain and manage third-party existing datasets, including statewide UI wage data. We work with state agencies and outside contractors to set up and monitor randomization of study participants, as necessary. Impact evaluation methods vary according to the needs of each study, but may include linear and logistic regression; longitudinal, multi-level and mixed-effects modeling; and time-series analysis.

For more information about the RESEA program, see the [RESEA overview](#) on the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration’s website.

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The Policy & Research Group (PRG), established in 2004, is a small business conducting research and evaluation studies. PRG has conducted workforce and income evaluations in a variety of settings, including at the state- and county-level and in community college settings. We have conducted evaluations in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

PRG'S EXPERIENCE WITH US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR-FUNDED GRANT PROGRAMS

REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (RESEA)

WHOLE PROGRAM IMPACT EVALUATIONS

PRG is currently conducting whole-program impact evaluations with the following state partners:

- **Louisiana Workforce Commission (2021–)**
- **Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (2022–)**
- **Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet (2022–)**
- **Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources (2023–)**

Each evaluation entails an initial Evaluability Assessment to determine a state's readiness and needs for evaluation, development of a CLEAR-aligned Evaluation Design Plan, an impact study assessing the effectiveness of the program on DOL-required outcomes, and an implementation (lessons-learned) study that provides context for the impact study.

OTHER RESEA CONTRACTS

- **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (2020–2021):** PRG conducted an Evaluability Assessment and prepared the Evaluation Design Report for FLDEO's RESEA impact evaluation under a one-year subcontract with KPMG.
- **US Virgin Islands Department of Labor (2023–):** PRG is conducting a treatment-only outcomes evaluation and an implementation evaluation of the USVI RESEA program.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION FUND (WIF)

- **Workforce Investment Board of Herkimer, Madison, & Ostego Counties, New York (2014–19):** PRG conducted an RCT to examine the impact of an innovative postsecondary training and education program.
- **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (2014–19):** PRG used a quasi-experimental design (QED) with propensity score weighting to examine the impact of a Performance Funding Model (PFM) program on employment, wages, and time to employment.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CAREER TRAINING (TAACCCT)

- **Vincennes University & West Virginia Community & Technical College System (2013–17; 2014–16):** PRG conducted QEDs to assess the impact of two career readiness programs on education and employment outcomes using individual-level UI wage data. [Link to Evaluation Findings.](#)

PRG'S RESEARCH AND EVALUATION EXPERTISE

- Research
- Evaluation
- Advanced data analysis methods
- Instrument development and design
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection methods
- Obtaining and managing third-party datasets
- In-depth knowledge of federal research evidence standards
- Ensuring data security and confidentiality

To learn more our workforce and income work, visit policyandresearch.com or contact us at info@policyandresearch.com.