

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Evidence-Based Grant-Making
Improving Texas Outcomes

Agenda

Texas Evidence-Based Grant-Making

- Texas Vision: How? When?
- National Vision: Why?
- Evidence Framework: What?
- Q & A: Who?

Welcome!

Ray Martinez, Deputy Commissioner, Academic Affairs and Workforce Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Tina Jackson, Assistant Commissioner, Workforce Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Lee Rector, Executive Director, Texas Workforce Investment Council

Mindy Nobles, Assistant Director, Workforce Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Stephanie Perkins, Program Director, Workforce Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board




Ben Holquist, Manager, Strategic Workforce Initiatives, Texas Workforce Commission

Texas Goal for the Use of Evidence

The goal of Texas Evidence-Based Grant-Making is to discover innovative approaches and replicable models that lead to ***better outcomes for program participants.***



EVIDENCE-DRIVEN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL TRAINING IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

-  Limited funding combined with unprecedented need means funding must be focused where the greatest impact can be achieved.
-  This is not about excluding programs that have not yet built evidence; it is about continuous improvement. Each grant or contract should be an opportunity to learn more about what works and what needs improving.
-  Federal requirements for evidence-based programs are growing. Now is the time to get ahead of the curve and lead the way in evidence-driven workforce and training solutions.

Results for America's Mission

To make investing in what works the “new normal”

so that government decision-makers will regularly and effectively use evidence and data to increase the impact of the over \$1 trillion that governments spend each year to improve the lives of young people, their families and communities.



STATE AND LOCAL FELLOWSHIP

WHAT IS IT?

- First to convene senior leaders from state and local workforce/education agencies into a single network to accelerate the generation and use of evidence.
- Creating new champions to invest in what works and make evidence-based policymaking the new normal in workforce development and technical training.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- State and local teams applied together, identifying 2-3 evidence-based strategies of interest.
- Co-created learning agendas & action plans to advance chosen strategies.
- Test strategies at local level and look to scale at state level.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

- 23 Fellows from 7 states
- State Representatives: Workforce policy advisors to Governors, state workforce board executives, leadership from state higher education agencies
- Local Representatives: Policy directors for Mayors, county, and regional workforce development boards.

EVIDENCE- BASED GRANT- MAKING

Texas Evidence-Based Grant-Making: Texas Talent Connection Grant Program Building and Construction Trades Grant Program Local Workforce Board Procurement



Defines “evidence of effectiveness” so there is a common understanding of “evidence-based.”



May offer outcomes and performance-based payments. Such payments are linked directly to priority outcomes (e.g., increased wages, long-term employment in related industry).



Uses data to determine how well we are serving constituents through our services.

Building Evidence in Texas

THECB has approved the Carl D. Perkins Equitable Access and Opportunity Program RFA. The Program will:

- Focus on the Perkins V priority student categories designated as Special Populations;
- Incorporate the Texas Evidence-Based Grant-Making framework to improve the measurement of success of the grant program;
- Incentivize program models with demonstrated track record of effective outcomes; and
- Encourage building the evidence base for those models with little to no evidence - all grants will be evaluated.

Where are we today?

- ✓ THECB'S Evidence-Based Framework completed.
- ✓ Evidence-Based RFA and grant application for the Carl D. Perkins Equitable Access and Opportunity Project RFA are being finalized.
- ✓ New email address Perkins.Equity@highered.texas.gov is active.
- ✓ THECB Webpage for Resources and Information completed.

What To Expect

- New Language in the RFA
- New Vocabulary
- New Forms
- New Way to Submit Application
- New Reporting Requirements



The Evidence Framework

Five levels:

- New Program Tier
- Experience Program Tier
- Performance Program Tier
- Moderate Evidence Program Tier
- High Evidence Program Tier

The Evidence Framework

New Program Tier

- New and are not similar to an existing program
- No evidence of effectiveness, has not been evaluated, no data

An applicant must explain why the proposed program will achieve the outcomes specified in the main body of the application and demonstrate that there is capacity to collect sufficient data to track outcomes from the program.

The Evidence Framework

Experience Program Tier

- Not a new program
- No evaluations of participant success in the program
- No performance data

Primary support for these programs' effectiveness is provided through anecdotal participant success stories or other testimonials. Experience programs must have been providing services for at least one year prior to grant application.

The Evidence Framework

Performance Program Tier

- Have performance outputs and outcomes data
- Conduct assessments of participants to demonstrate program effectiveness
- Documentation of performance data over at least two years

Primary support for these programs' effectiveness is provided through historical data showing that the program creates an intended change in participants, and that participants show a positive outcome following participation in the program

The Evidence Framework

Moderate Evidence Program Tier

- Supported by rigorous evaluations of the program or of an essentially similar program design and outcomes
- Conducted at least **one** evaluation study that includes both a comparison group and a statistically valid technique
- The program had **both a positive and meaningful outcome**
- Study rated by CLEAR/Other Entity as moderate evidence or equivalent
- Proposed program design and anticipated outcomes must be consistent with the program in the evaluation cited by CLEAR/Other Entity
- Implemented with **limited** modifications

Evaluation study information will be required in application.

The Evidence Framework

High Evidence Program Tier

- supported by rigorous evaluations of the program or of an essentially similar program design and outcomes
- conducted **two or more** studies that include both a comparison group and a statistically valid technique
- the program had **both a positive and meaningful outcome**
- studies rated by CLEAR/Other Entity as high evidence or equivalent
- proposed program design and anticipated outcomes replicate or are essentially consistent to the program in the evaluation studies cited by CLEAR/Other Entity
- implemented with **no or extremely limited** modifications

Evaluation study information will be required in application.

Evaluation Study Sources

- Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research (CLEAR) <https://clear.dol.gov/study-database>
- Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse <https://pathwaystowork.acf.hhs.gov/studies>
- CrimeSolutions <https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/#syi2hu>

The Evidence Framework

Why now?

“Building Evidence for the Future.”



Questions?