

Executive Summary

An Evaluation Readiness Assessment— Prioritizing Efforts to Measure Effectiveness

October 2, 2018

Moderator(s): [Gloria Salas-Kos](#)

Speaker(s): [Wayne Gordon](#), [Karen Armstrong](#), and [Gary Kamimura](#)

The *Evaluation Readiness Assessment (ERA): A WIOA Quick Start Action Planner* is one of three new U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) resources available to support research and evaluation activities. Together with the Evaluation Toolkit, the ERA helps State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) and other entities gauge their capacity to conduct research activities to meet the evaluation requirement in WIOA, incorporate existing research and evaluations into program policy and planning to meet the evidence-based requirement in WIOA, and to evaluate for continuous program and performance improvement.

The ERA tool contains statements that cover five elements to build or enhance research and evaluation capacity. These evaluation elements follow a framework to assess organizational strengths and challenges in the following areas:

- Evaluation culture and awareness
- Funding strategies
- Data management
- Staff skills, capacity, and awareness
- Strategic planning

[Gary Kamimura](#), from the *Washington State Employment Security Department*, describes how the tool is used to inform important next steps toward building a stronger evaluation culture in the state. State program and evaluation staff at the SWA, partner agencies, and the State Workforce Agency Board took part in the assessment. Findings and actions identified from their assessment demonstrate efforts to:

- Acknowledge research and evaluation strengths and needs for improvement,
- Elevate the assessment conversation to leaders, and
- Encourage adequate fund research and evaluation efforts.

The webinar ends with a challenge to attendee to conduct their own evaluation readiness assessment.

Run of Show

Welcome and Moderator Introduction	0:10
New Community of Practice	0:46
Objectives	2:30
Speaker Introductions	3:12
Evaluation Readiness Assessment: Background and Context	3:36
• Setting the Context	3:53
• Mission	5:52
What is the Evaluation Readiness Assessment Tool?	8:10
• Rely on Assessing Evaluation Capacity	10:31
• Tour of the Tool	11:00
• How to Use the Assessment	13:10
Assessing Evaluation Readiness: A State's Perspective	15:12
• Reactions to the Assessment	16:13
• How We Used the Assessment Tool	16:48
• What We Learned from Our Assessment	18:56
• What's Next	23:13
Accept the Challenge	25:08
Resources	28:04