U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS (RESEA) – STATE SURVEY DRAFT INSTRUMENT

In the last year, legislative and administrative action has significantly changed the RESEA program. With the FY 2019 RESEA operating guidance (UIPL 07-19), the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) afforded states greater flexibility in targeting RESEA service delivery to claimant populations. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), which amended the Social Security Act, authorized substantially increased funding for RESEA programs, providing states with new opportunities to rethink the types and levels of services provided to claimants through the RESEA program. The statute also introduced a requirement that the funding be used for evidence-based interventions, and requires evaluation of interventions that are not evidence based.

DOL's Chief Evaluation Office, in close collaboration with the Office of Unemployment Insurance, has contracted with Abt Associates and its partners the Urban Institute, Capital Research Corporation, and NASWA, to help implement these statutory requirements. In order to understand how well existing evidence supports current interventions used by states, this project is conducting an implementation study to give DOL a detailed, systematic understanding of the components of states' current RESEA programs and how programs have changed in response to new statutory rules and requirements. That understanding will help DOL identify what evidence needs to be built in support of those program components.

We are asking state RESEA program leads to complete the following survey, as part of the implementation study, to help develop that understanding. The survey will ask you to reflect on your understanding of current RESEA program operations and recent changes you have made to the program's design. It also asks you to identify operational challenges you have faced and recommendations you would make to other RESEA program leads. Last, you will be asked about your state's evaluation experience and capacity, in order to help guide DOL decisions about strategies for developing new evidence.

We value your privacy and will not share any answers related to your personal perceptions, opinions or recommendations. Those answers will be kept private and will not be shared with other staff at your program or organization, with staff from other states, or with DOL. Only the evaluation team will have access to that kind of subjective information you provide through this survey. Objective responses that you provide describing your state's RESEA program may be used in reports that do identify your state, but will be reported in aggregate. For example, a report may list the states that plan to change how they target claimants for selection for RESEA.

Your name will not be listed in any reports published and no comments will be attributed to you. Your responses to these questions are also completely voluntary. We hope you will choose to complete all of the questions on the survey, but you may choose to skip any question you do not feel comfortable answering. If you are unable to answer all of these questions on your own, you may request assistance from colleagues as necessary. The email you received included a link to the web-based survey; that link can be used by others to access and complete all or portions of the survey. If you have questions about completing this survey, you can contact the study team at resea@abtassoc.com. Thank you in advance for your assistance and providing important information to the study.

Section 1. Changes to RESEA Programs

This section asks you to identify any changes your state has made to your RESEA program in response to recent legislative and administrative action that affects the RESEA program. You will also be asked about upcoming changes your state plans to make.

Topic 1.a. Changes Made to RESEA

1.a.1 Thinking about the recent changes in RESEA program rules and funding – for example, increased funding from Congress, new evidence-based requirements, and new flexibility in targeting services to claimants – which aspects of your RESEA program have you changed in FY2019 or FY2020 in response?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Changed approach to targeting RESEA services to claimants
- \square_2 Changed service delivery design
- **D**₃ Changed size and/or geographic coverage area of RESEA program
- \square_4 Changed RESEA staffing or resources
- \Box_5 Other (please specify) _
- \square_6 We have not changed the RESEA program

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "1" TO 1.a.1, CONTINUE TO 1.a.2, ELSE SKIP TO 1.a.3]

1.a.2 You said your state has changed your approach to targeting RESEA services to claimants. Please identify the changes you have made:

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Focused on claimants with a **lower** range of profiling scores/risk of benefit exhaustion
- \square_2 Implemented a random selection process
- \square_3 Changed rules for selection of veteran claimants
- **D**₄ Incorporated local labor market information and economic trends
- \square_5 Other (please specify) _____

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "2" TO 1.a.1, CONTINUE TO 1.a.3, ELSE SKIP TO 1.a.4]

1.a.3 You said your state has changed your RESEA service delivery design. Please identify the changes you have made:

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Offered more individualized reemployment services to claimants who are selected
- \square_2 Increased the number of RESEA meetings with claimants who are selected
- \square_3 Assign more staff to work on each case
- \square_4 Made more referrals to workshops or other services for claimants who are selected
- \square_5 Conduct more follow-up with claimants to monitor progress finding a job
- \square_6 Performed more intensive verification of eligibility for claimants who are selected
- \square_7 Added or expanded virtual services
- \square_8 Other (please specify) ____

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "3" TO 1.a.1, CONTINUE TO 1.a.4, ELSE SKIP TO 1.a.5]

1.a.4 You said your state has changed the size and/or geographic scope of your RESEA program. Please identify the changes you have made:

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Expanded RESEA to new locations in your state
- \square_2 Increased the number of participants served in existing RESEA locations
- \square_3 Other (please specify) _____

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "4" TO 1.a.1, CONTINUE TO 1.a.5, ELSE SKIP TO 1.b.1]

1.a.5 You said your state has changed your RESEA program's staffing and/or resources. Please identify the changes you have made:

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Hired new RESEA staff
- \square_2 Allocated more staff time to RESEA
- \square_3 Purchased new equipment
- \square_4 Developed or revised data systems for RESEA
- \Box_5 Other (please specify) _____

Topic 1.b. Changes Under Consideration for RESEA

1.b.1 Does your state have definitive, official plans that you have not yet implemented to change your RESEA program in response to changes in RESEA program rules and funding?

(Please select one.)

 \Box_1 Yes

\square_2 No [SKIP TO 2.a.1]

1.b.2 Which of the following changes are you considering?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Changing approach to targeting RESEA services to claimants
- \square_2 Changing service delivery design
- \square_3 Changing size and/or geographic coverage area of RESEA program
- \square_4 Changing RESEA staffing or resources
- \Box_5 Other (please specify) ____
- \square_6 We are not considering changes to the RESEA program

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "1" TO 1.b.2, CONTINUE TO 1.b.3, ELSE SKIP TO 1.b.4]

1.b.3 You said your state plans to change your approach to targeting RESEA services to claimants. Please identify the changes you plan to make:

- \Box_1 Focus on claimants with a **lower** range of profiling scores/risk of benefit exhaustion
- \square_2 Implement a random selection process
- \square_3 Change rules for selection of veteran claimants
- **D**₄ Incorporate local labor market information and economic trends
- \Box_5 Other (please specify) _____

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "2" TO 1.b.2, CONTINUE TO 1.b.4, ELSE SKIP TO 1.b.5]

1.b.4 You said your state plans to change your RESEA service delivery design. Please identify the changes you plan to make:

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Offer more individualized reemployment services to claimants who are selected
- \square_2 Increase the number of RESEA meetings with claimants who are selected
- \square_3 Assign more staff to work on each case
- \square_4 Make more referrals to workshops or other services for claimants who are selected
- \Box_5 Conduct more follow-up with claimants to monitor progress finding a job
- \square_6 Perform more intensive verification of eligibility for claimants who are selected
- \square_7 Add or expand virtual services
- \square_8 Other (please specify) _____

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "3" TO 1.b.2, CONTINUE TO 1.b.5, ELSE SKIP TO 1.b.6]

1.b.5 You said your state plans to change the size and/or geographic scope of your RESEA program. Please identify the changes you plan to make:

(Select all that apply.)

- \square_1 Expand RESEA to new locations in your state
- \square_2 Increase the number of participants served in existing RESEA locations
- \square_3 Other (please specify) _____

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "4" TO 1.b.2, CONTINUE TO 1.b.6, ELSE SKIP TO 1.b.7]

1.b.6 You said your state plans to change your RESEA program's staffing and/or resources. Please identify the changes you plan to make:

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Hire new RESEA staff
- \square_2 Allocate more staff time to RESEA
- \square_3 Purchase new equipment
- \square_4 Develop or revise data systems for RESEA
- \Box_5 Other (please specify) _____

1.b.7 Do you expect the size of your RESEA grant to increase further in the coming two-to-three years? (Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Yes
- \square_2 No
- \square_3 I don't know

[IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "Yes" TO 1.b.7, CONTINUE TO 1.b.8, ELSE SKIP TO 2.a.1]

1.b.8 How do you expect to use any increased RESEA funding in the coming two-to-three years? (Select all that apply.)

 \Box_1 Serve more claimants

- \square_2 Expand RESEA to more geographic areas
- \square_3 Hire more staff
- \square_4 Purchase new equipment
- \square_5 Evaluate or conduct other research on the RESEA program
- \Box_6 Other (please specify)_____
- \Box_7 I don't know

Section 2. Approach to Selecting Claimants for RESEA and Their Participation

This section asks several questions about your state's policies regarding selecting claimants to participate in the RESEA program. It also includes questions about selection practices at local offices.

2.a.1 Excluding UCX claimants, which of the following *most accurately* reflect the types of claimants that your state's RESEA selection process currently targets?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Claimants who are deemed **most** likely to exhaust UI benefits
- \square_2 Claimants who are deemed somewhat more likely than average to exhaust UI benefits
- \square_3 Claimants who are deemed somewhat less likely than average to exhaust UI benefits
- **Q**₄ Claimants who are deemed **least** likely to exhaust UI benefits
- Claimants who have both a high risk of UI benefit exhaustion and other characteristics that make them an appropriate participant
- \square_6 Selection for RESEA does not depend on how likely they are to exhaust UI benefits
- 2.a.2 The logic of selecting claimants with high risk of benefit exhaustion is that RESEA can have a larger impact on the outcomes of those claimants than on other claimants. In <u>your</u> opinion, which of the following types of claimants would benefit most—in terms of better employment outcomes and reduced UI duration—from being selected for RESEA?

(Please select one.)

- \square_1 Claimants who are **most** likely to exhaust UI benefits
- \square_2 Claimants who are somewhat more likely than average to exhaust UI benefits
- \square_3 Claimants who are somewhat less likely than average to exhaust UI benefits
- **Q**₄ Claimants who are **least** likely to exhaust UI benefits
- \Box_5 All claimants are similarly likely to benefit, regardless of how likely they are to exhaust UI benefits
- 2.a.3 In some states, AJCs may be referred more claimants than they can serve right away. Does this occur in your state?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Yes
- \square_2 No [SKIP TO 3.a.1]
- 2.a.4 In your experience, which of the following most accurately characterizes how AJCs typically decide which referred claimants to schedule an initial RESEA for?

- \Box_1 Local offices schedule those with the highest profiling scores first
- \square_2 Local offices schedule those with lower profiling scores first
- \square_3 Local offices choose claimants using some approach that is not related to their background or risk of benefit exhaustion (e.g., in alphabetical order, by last four SSN digits, using a random number generator in Excel, etc.)
- \square_4 I don't know

2.a.5 In your experience, what other factors do AJCs most often use in deciding which referred claimants to schedule an initial RESEA for if they do not have the capacity to schedule all of them?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Veteran status
- \square_2 Prior participation in AJC services
- \square_3 Geographic proximity of claimants' residence to the AJC
- \square_4 Claimants' prior occupation or industry
- \Box_5 Other (please specify) _
- \square_6 I am not aware of any other factors
- 2.a.6 In your experience, to what extent do AJCs vary in their approach to selecting participants for whom to schedule an initial RESEA meeting?

(Please select one.)

- □₁ There is no local variation. All local offices select RESEA participants in the same way. [SKIP TO 3.a.1]
- \square_2 There is some local variation. Most local offices follow similar procedures, with slight differences.
- \square_3 There is substantial variation. Local offices follow a wide range of selection procedures.
- \square_4 I don't know [SKIP TO 3.a.1]
- 2.a.7 In what ways do local offices vary in their approach to selecting claimants to participate in RESEA?

- □₁ Local offices set different policies for using likelihood of exhausting UI benefits to select claimants
- \square_2 Local offices set different policies for selection of specific groups (e.g., Veterans)
- □₃ Some local offices select claimants based on arbitrary factors like alphabetical order or SSN, while other offices do not
- \Box_4 Other (please specify) _____
- \square_5 I don't know

Section 3. Implementation of Current RESEA Program

This section asks a series of questions related to the how your RESEA program is currently implemented, including topics related to scheduling claimants, conducting RESEA meetings, and delivering in-person services.

Topic 3.a. Claimant Notification

3.a.1 How many weeks into the claim does selection for RESEA typically occur?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Week 2
- \square_2 Week 3
- \square_3 Week 4
- \square_4 Week 5
- \square_5 Week 6 or later
- 3.a.2 Once selected, how are UI claimants notified of that selection and their participation requirements for RESEA?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Email
- \square_2 Telephone
- \square_3 Mailed letter
- **D**₄ Online (UI website, mobile app)

Topic 3.b. Meeting Scheduling

3.b.1 How soon after notification does the initial meeting occur?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 1 week
- \square_2 2 weeks
- \square_3 3 weeks
- \Box_4 4 weeks or more

3.b.2 On average, in which claim week would you estimate that initial RESEA meetings are held? (Please enter an integer.)

Week

3.b.3 Which of the following most closely describes your state's method for scheduling the initial RESEA meeting?

- □₁ State or AJC staff schedule the initial meeting. Claimants can notify staff if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent them from attending at that time. Staff then reschedule the meeting for a different time. [SKIP to 3.0.5]
- \square_2 State or AJC staff schedule the initial meeting. Claimants can reschedule the meeting for a different date/time if there are extenuating circumstances.
- □₃ State or AJC staff schedule the initial meeting. Claimants are invited to reschedule for a different time if another time would be more convenient.
- \Box_4 Claimants self-schedule the meeting, within a window of a week or less provided by the state.

- \square_5 Claimants self-schedule the meeting, within a window more than a week provided by the state.
- 3.b.4 Which of the following options are available to claimants to schedule or reschedule the initial RESEA meeting?

(Select all that apply.)

- \square_1 Online (e.g., UI website, mobile app)
- \square_2 Telephone
- \square_3 In-person (e.g., at AJC)
- \Box_4 Other (please specify) _____

[IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE WAS CHOSEN FOR <mark>3.B.4</mark> THEN SKIP TO <mark>3.C.1</mark>, ELSE <mark>3.B.5</mark>]

3.b.5 Which of the following options is the method that claimants most commonly use to schedule or reschedule the initial RESEA meeting?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Online (e.g., UI website, mobile app)
- \square_2 Telephone
- \square_3 In-person (e.g., at AJC)
- \Box_4 Other (please specify) _____

Topic 3.c. Initial Meeting Details

3.c.1 Where do initial RESEA meetings occur?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 In-person at an AJC
- \square_2 In-person at a location other than an AJC (please specify)
- \square_3 Remotely by phone call (audio, not video)
- **Q**₄ Remotely by videoconference
- \square_5 Other remote option (please specify)

[IF ONLY OPTIONS 1 OR 2 ARE SELECTED FOR 3.c.1, THEN SKIP to 3.c.4; ELSE CONTINUE TO 3.c.2]

3.c.2 Is the option to hold the initial RESEA meeting remotely, rather than in-person, an option for all claimants or only some?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 All claimants [SKIP to 3.c.4]
- \square_2 Only some claimants
- 3.c.3 Which types of clients have the option to hold the initial RESEA meeting remotely?

- \Box_1 Claimants who live far from an in-person meeting location
- \Box_2 Claimants who live within travelling distance of an in-person location, but who have some other type of barrier to attending (please specify acceptable barriers) _____
- \square_3 Other (please specify) _____

3.c.4 Which of the following types of staff participate in the initial RESEA meeting?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 UI staff
- \square_2 Wagner-Peyser staff
- \square_3 WIOA staff
- \Box_4 Other staff (please specify) _____

3.c.5 Which of the following must occur as part of the initial RESEA meeting?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Assess compliance with UI requirements (e.g., work search, able and available)
- \square_2 Schedule (but do not conduct) orientation to AJC services
- \square_3 Conduct orientation to AJC services
- **Q**₄ Register with Employment Service (if claimant has not done so already)
- \square_5 Conduct assessments (of skills, barriers, interests, etc.)
- \square_6 Provide general labor market information
- **D**₇ Provide individualized labor market information
- \square_8 Create reemployment plan
- **D**₉ Review and, if necessary, create or revise a résumé
- \Box_{10} Refer to any appropriate employment workshops
- \Box_{11} Refer to any appropriate individualized career services
- \square_{12} Make employment matches and job referrals
- \Box_{13} Other (please specify) _____

[IF RESPONDENT SELECTS ONLY "1" (UI STAFF ONLY), NOT ANY OTHER OPTION FOR 3.c.4 THEN CONTINUE TO 3.c.6, ELSE SKIP TO 3.d.1]

3.c.6 How are referrals typically made to staff who provide reemployment services?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 UI staff contact reemployment services staff via an online system.
- \square_2 UI staff contact reemployment services staff by phone.
- \square_3 UI staff contact reemployment services staff through some other means. (please specify)
- □₄ UI staff do not contact reemployment services staff, but rather tell RESEA participants how to contact them.

Topic 3.d. AJC Services

3.d.1 How are AJC orientations most commonly conducted?

- \square_1 One-on-one
- \square_2 Group, including RESEA claimants only
- \square_3 Group, including UI claimants, whether RESEA or non-RESEA
- \square_4 Group, both UI and general AJC populations
- 3.d.2 Beyond the basic information and resources, in which *individualized* career services does your state make *particular efforts* to engage RESEA participants?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Assessments of job-related qualifications and interests
- \square_2 Individualized reemployment plan
- \square_3 Career planning assistance
- \square_4 Individualized labor market information
- **D**₅ Information on occupational training opportunities
- \square_6 Referrals to particular job openings
- □₇ Other individualized employment service: _____

3.d.3 Which RESEA participants typically receive *individualized* career services?

(Please select one.)

- \square_1 All RESEA participants
- \square_2 Only RESEA participants identified through assessments as needing individualized services
- \square_3 Few or no RESEA participants
- \square_4 I don't know
- 3.d.4 After the helping the claimant create an individual reemployment plan, how often do staff follow up with claimants to check on their progress carrying out the plan and provide further help that the claimant might need?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Regularly, every week or two
- \square_2 Regularly, every month or so
- \square_3 Once or twice, but not on a regular, on-going basis
- \square_4 This type of staff follow-up is not a specific part of RESEA
- 3.d.5 After helping the claimant create an individual reemployment plan, does your state use any automated methods (e.g., automated emails or text messages) to check with claimants about their job search progress?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Yes
- \square_2 No
- 3.d.6 If AJC staff who provide employment services become aware of potential claimant noncompliance with eligibility requirements, what feedback mechanisms have been set up to communicate non-compliance to the UI system?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 There is an online portal for those AJC staff to report UI compliance issues.
- \square_2 There is a dedicated email address for those AJC staff to use to report UI compliance issues.
- \square_3 There is a dedicated telephone number for those AJC staff to use to report UI compliance issues.
- □₄ None of the above dedicated mechanisms exist for those AJC staff to report UI compliance issues. Communication occurs through less formal channels.

Topic 3.e. Subsequent RESEA Meetings

3.e.1 Are subsequent RESEA meetings a feature of your RESEA program? (Please select one.)

- \Box_1 No, we do not conduct subsequent RESEAs [SKIP to 4.a.1]
- \square_2 Yes, for at least some claimants we conduct a second RESEA, but never a third
- \square_3 Yes, we conduct a third RESEA for at least some claimants

3.e.2 At what point in the claim does the second RESEA typically occur?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 4 weeks or less
- \square_2 5-6 weeks
- \square_3 7-9 weeks
- \square_4 10 weeks or more

3.e.3 Which RESEA participants are required to attend a second RESEA?

- \square_1 All RESEA participants
- \square_2 RESEA participants who staff deem to be in need of more help in finding a job (e.g., based on assessment results at the first RESEA)
- □₃ RESEA participants who have had some non-compliance with eligibility requirements during the claim
- \square_4 RESEA participants who request a follow-up meeting
- \Box_5 Other (please specify) _____

Section 4. Other Features of RESEA Programs

This section asks a variety of questions related to other aspects of your RESEA program, including claimant noncompliance with program requirements and integration with other workforce programs in your state.

Topic 4.a. Failure to Report

4.a.1 Which of the following most accurately reflects what occurs after a claimant fails to report to a scheduled RESEA meeting?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Benefits are immediately and indefinitely suspended until the failure to report is remedied or until an adjudication shows that the failure to report was for cause.
- \square_2 Benefits are immediately suspended for a week.
- \square_3 The case is adjudicated. If the adjudication finds that the failure to report was not for cause, then benefits are suspended indefinitely until the failure to report is remedied.
- \Box_4 The case is adjudicated. If the adjudication finds that the failure to report was not for cause, then benefits are suspended for a week.
- \square_5 Other (please describe)_____

4.a.2 What steps has your state taken to reduce rates of failure to report?

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Remind claimants by letter
- \square_2 Remind claimants by phone
- \square_3 Remind claimants by email
- \square_4 Remind claimants by text
- \square_5 In RESEA notification communications, highlight penalties for failure to report
- \square_6 Increase the consequences of failure to report (e.g., lengthier suspensions of benefits)
- \Box_7 Give claimants greater flexibility to schedule or reschedule meetings
- \square_8 Other (please specify) _
- \square_9 No steps have been taken to reduce failure to report

Topic 4.b. Eligibility Enforcement

4.b.1 Which of the following most accurately describes your state's primary motivation when reviewing work search through the RESEA program?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 The work search review is intended to help claimants understand and comply with work search requirements.
- \square_2 The work search review is intended to identify and penalize those claimants who are not complying with work search requirements.
- \square_3 The work search review is intended to improve claimants' work search practices and help them return to work more quickly.
- 4.b.2 Which of the following most accurately characterizes the work search review efforts that occur as part of the eligibility assessments?

- \Box_1 Staff review claimants' log of reported work search contacts
- D₂ Staff may ask about how many contacts were made, but do not review specific reported contacts
- \square_3 Other (please specify)
- 4.b.3 For claimants who, during the initial eligibility assessment, are found to not have met work search or able and available requirements, which of the following is the most common outcome?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Claimants are found ineligible for benefits for the period(s) covered and benefits are suspended indefinitely until the claimant is shown to be in compliance
- \square_2 Claimants are found ineligible for benefits for the period(s) covered and benefits are suspended for a definite period (e.g., a week)
- \square_3 Claimants may be warned, but after adjudication do not lose benefits

Topic 4.c. WIOA and Wagner-Peyser Integration

4.c.1 Current RESEA program guidance requires enrollment in Wagner-Peyser Act-funded Employment Services as a core component of RESEA. When does your state's program complete enrollment for each claimant?

(Please select one.)

- \square_1 When claimants are enrolled into the RESEA program
- \square_2 When claimants are notified of the requirement to attend an RESEA meeting
- \square_3 During the initial RESEA meeting
- \square_4 As a follow-up activity after completion of the RESEA meeting
- \Box_5 Other (please specify)
- \square_6 I don't know
- 4.c.2 How does your state enroll each RESEA claimant into Wagner-Peyser Act-funded Employment Services?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 An automated system conducts Wagner-Peyser enrollment
- \square_2 An RESEA staff member who does not meet with the claimant manually completes enrollment
- \square_3 The RESEA staff member who meets with the claimant manually completes enrollment
- \square_4 Other (please specify) _____
- \square_5 I don't know
- 4.c.3 What steps has your state taken to more fully integrate RESEA programs with WIOA and Wagner-Peyser-funded services?

- □₁ Include WIOA or Wagner-Peyser staff in the RESEA meeting where eligibility assessment occurs
- \square_2 Work with the State Workforce Board to promote integration
- \square_3 Work through the WIOA State Plan to promote RESEA integration
- \Box_4 Integrate data systems to allow staff access to both UI and workforce data

- \square_5 Train WIOA or Wagner-Peyser staff on RESEA procedures and requirements
- **D**₆ Work with local workforce development boards to create or implement an AJC orientation tailored to RESEA claimants
- \square_7 Align internal RESEA reporting with WIOA performance measures
- \square_8 Other (please specify) ____
- \square_9 No significant steps have been taken to integrate programs

Topic 4.d. Using Behavioral Insights

4.d.1 In which ways, if any, has your state made the following small changes to your program in order to alter claimants' behavior?

- \Box_1 Changed a default program requirement
- \square_2 Use positively themed messaging in communications with claimants
- \square_3 Invoke social norms to motivate claimants
- \square_4 Simplified communications with claimants due to limited attention
- Send automated reminders (emails, letters, calls, texts, etc.) to claimants about upcoming meetings
- \square_5 Have staff contact claimants to remind them about upcoming meetings
- \Box_6 Other (please specify).
- \Box_7 No, we have not explicitly incorporated behavioral insights into our RESEA program

Section 5. Challenges and Promising Practices

The questions in this section ask you to identify challenges your state faces with RESEA program operation and what recommendations you would make to other states to improve operation of their programs.

Topic 5.a. Operational Challenges

5.a Based on your experience, to what extent is each of the following a challenge to your state in operating your RESEA program?

(READ EACH ITEM FOLLOWED BY ANSWER CATEGORIES)

		Major Challenge	Moderate challenge	Slight challenge	Not a challenge
1.	Lack of sufficient funds to provide appropriate reemployment services	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
2.	Lack of sufficient funds to rigorously verify eligibility for UI	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
3.	Lack of AJC capacity to serve enough RESEA claimants	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
4.	Claimants' failure to report to RESEA meetings	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
5.	Claimants' lack of full engagement with reemployment services	\Box_1	\Box_2	\square_3	\Box_4
6.	Problems coordinating with local workforce development boards and the WIOA system	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
7.	Lack of data systems to fully support appropriate feedback loops	\Box_1	\Box_2	\square_3	\Box_4
8.	Lack of funds to comply with evidence and evaluation requirements	\Box_1	\Box_2	\square_3	\Box_4
9.	Lack of technical expertise to comply with evidence and evaluation requirements	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
10.	Lack of technical expertise to update profiling models	\Box_1	\Box_2	\square_3	\Box_4

5.a.11 Please list any other challenges to your state in operating an RESEA program, beyond those listed previously.

Topic 5.b. Recommendations

5.b How strongly would you recommend each of the following to other states and DOL as ways to make RESEA programs more effective? Some options may include increasing emphasis on existing program activities.

(READ EACH ITEM FOLLOWED BY ANSWER CATEGORIES)

		Strongly recommen d	Somewhat Recommend	Do not recommen d	Recommend against
1.	Increasing the use of individualized career services	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
2.	Increasing the provision of customized labor market information to inform claimants' decisions	\Box_1	\Box_2	\square_3	\Box_4
3.	Increasing the use of earn-while-you-learn training (e.g., on-the-job training, apprenticeship)	\Box_1	\Box_2		\Box_4
4.	Using a broader range of assessments to identify claimants' reemployment needs	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4
5.	Using more intensive case management	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
6.	Increasing the use of behavioral nudges to support behaviors that will help claimants meet employment goals and increase compliance with UI requirements	\Box_1	\square_2	D ₃	\Box_4
7.	Selecting claimants other than those who are most likely to exhaust UI benefits	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4
8.	More intensively verifying eligibility	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
9.	Strengthening penalties for failure to report or comply with UI eligibility requirements	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4
10.	Conducting more RESEA follow-up meetings per claimant	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4
11.	Improving the feedback loops between UI and AJC staff	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4

5.b.12 What other changes would you recommend to other states and DOL as ways to make RESEA programs more effective in reducing UI duration by improving employment outcomes for program participants?

[IF <mark>5.b.4</mark> = 1 or <mark>5.b.4</mark> = 2, ASK <mark>5.b.13</mark>; ELSE, SKIP TO <mark>5.b.14</mark>]

5.b.13 You said you would recommend using a broader range of assessments to identify claimants' reemployment needs. Which kinds of assessments would you recommend be more commonly used with RESEA claimants?

[IF 5<mark>.b.7</mark> = 1 or <mark>5.b.7</mark> = 2, ASK 5<mark>.b.14</mark> ELSE, SKIP TO <mark>6.a.1</mark>]

5.b.14 You said you would recommend selecting claimants other than those who are most likely to exhaust UI benefits. States are no longer required to select RESEA claimants based on profiling scores. Please list any other factors that you personally would recommend using to select claimants. Which claimants would you recommend selecting, rather than focusing solely on those with the highest profiling scores?

Section 6. Evidence and Evaluation

This section covers a range of topics related to evaluating RESEA programs. It includes questions related to your state's previous experience with program evaluation, plans for future evaluations, and capacity to carry-out evaluations of your RESEA program.

Topic 6.a. RESEA Funding Requirements for Evidence of Effectiveness and Performance

6.a.1 How well do you feel your state understands the new RESEA requirements for evidence of effectiveness and performance?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Very well
- \square_2 Somewhat well
- \square_3 Not well at all

6.a.2 What suggestions, if any, do you have to improve support for states implementing these new requirements?

Topic 6.b. Previous Evaluation Experience

6.b.1 To your knowledge, has your office participated in an evaluation of any kind in the past five years?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Yes
- \square_2 No [skip to 6.c.1]
- \square_3 I don't know [skip to 6.c.1]

6.b.2 What kind of evaluations have you participated in?

(Select all that apply.)

- \square_1 Impact evaluation using random assignment (aka, an experimental impact evaluation)
- \square_2 Impact study with a comparison group that did not use random assignment (aka, a quasi-experimental impact evaluation)
- \square_3 Outcomes study (e.g., program performance study)
- \square_4 Implementation study
- **D**₅ Cost study (i.e., a systematic disaggregation of the costs of different program elements)
- \square_6 Other _____

6.b.3 How were these evaluations conducted?

- \square_1 Part of larger national or multi-state evaluation
- $\square_2\,$ Our office contracted or partnered with a local evaluator
- \square_{3} Our office conducted the evaluation using our own staff
- □₄ I don't know
- 6.b.4 How would you rate your past experiences participating in evaluations?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Mostly positive
- \square_2 Somewhat positive
- \square_3 Not at all positive
- \square_4 I don't know

Topic 6.c. Evaluation Plans

6.c.1 What has your state done to plan for the new RESEA program evaluation and evidence requirements?

(Select all that apply.)

- \square_1 Held internal discussions with RESEA staff
- \square_2 Discussed with State ES, UI, WIOA, or LMI office
- \square_3 Consulted other states one-to-one or through regional, NASWA, or other national meetings
- \square_4 Consulted with outside partners or consultants
- \square_5 Consulted DOL resources and publications
- \square_6 Other activity _____
- \square_7 Nothing yet
- \square_8 I don't know

6.c.2 Are you currently planning to conduct any evaluations of your RESEA program? (Please select one.)

- \square_1 Yes [Skip to question 6.c.4]
- \square_2 No
 - \square_3 Maybe [Skip to 6.c.4]
 - \Box_4 I don't know [Skip to question 6.d.1]

6.c.3 Why not? [Skip to 6.d.1]

(Select all that apply.)

- \Box_1 Evaluations require too much staff time to conduct or contract out
- \square_2 Staff do not have the expertise needed to conduct or oversee evaluations
- \square_3 Evaluations are too expensive
- \square_4 Evaluation is not necessary at this time
- \square_5 The state's RESEA program already has a sufficient evidence base
- \square_6 Other reasons _____
- \square_7 I don't know

6.c.4 Do you expect to use any RESEA grant funds for any evaluation of your RESEA program? (Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Yes, we intend to use the full 10 percent that is allowed by statute
- \square_2 Yes, we intend to use some funds, but less than 10 percent of our grant
- \square_3 No
- \Box_4 I don't know

6.c.5 Which type of evaluations will you [or might you] conduct? (Select all that apply) (Select all that apply.)

 \Box_1 Random assignment impact evaluation (aka, an experimental impact evaluation

- \square_2 Impact evaluation with a comparison group that does not use random assignment (aka, quasi-experimental impact evaluation)
- \square_3 Outcomes study (e.g., program performance study)
- \Box_4 Process study
- \square_5 Implementation study
- \Box_6 Cost study (i.e., a systematic disaggregation of the costs of different program elements)
- \Box_7 Other
- \square_8 I don't know

6.c.6 Which aspects of the RESEA program—if any—might you evaluate? (Select all that apply.)

(Select all that apply.)

- \square_1 Career and labor market information
- **D**₂ Criteria used to select RESEA claimants (e.g., likelihood of exhaustion)
- \square_3 Ways to develop a reemployment plan
- \square_4 Job search assistance
- \square_5 Approaches to reduce failure to report
- \square_6 Penalties for non-compliance/failure to report
- **D**₇ Providing more individualized career services
- \square_8 Adding or removing subsequent RESEA meetings
- \square_9 Other (please specify) _____
- \Box_{10} I don't know

Topic 6.d. Thoughts on Pooled Evaluations

- 6.d.1 States may choose to cooperate on their evaluations with other states to pool grant funds and conduct larger evaluations. Does your state plan on participating in a multi-state evaluation? (Please select one.)
 - \square_1 Yes [Skip to 6.d.3]
 - \square_2 Maybe
 - \square_3 No
 - \Box_4 I don't know
- 6.d.2 How interested would your state be in participating in a multi-state evaluation like this? (Please select one.)
 - \Box_1 Very interested
 - \square_2 Somewhat interested
 - \square_3 Not at all interested [Skip to 6.d.4]
 - \square_4 I don't know

6.d.3 What do you see as the most important benefits of participating in a multi-state evaluation? **(Please select up to three.)**

- \Box_1 Opportunity to work with a lead administrative organization (USDOL or other)
- \square_2 Opportunity to pool evaluation to get a larger sample
- \square_3 Access to the expertise of other states UI and WIOA offices
- \square_4 Access to a larger pool of external evaluators
- \square_5 Opportunity to learn about successes in other states

- \square_6 Opportunity to take advantage of existing state data partnerships
- \Box_7 Other (please specify) _____
- \square_8 I don't know
- 6.d.4 Beyond any reservations you might have about participating in evaluations in general, what reservations, if any, do you have about participating in evaluation that involves multiple states?
- 6.d.5 How interested would your state be in participating in future DOL-sponsored studies of RESEA programs?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Very interested
- \square_2 Somewhat interested
- \square_3 Not at all interested
- \square_4 I don't know
- 6.d.6 What do you see as the most important benefits of participating in future DOL-sponsored studies of RESEA programs?

(Select all that apply.)

The opportunity to:

- \square_1 improve the state's RESEA program
- \square_2 help other states improve their RESEA program
- \square_3 develop the state's evaluation capacity
- \square_4 learn from other states' experiences with RESEA
- \Box_5 reduce the logistical and technical challenges involved in designing an evaluation
- \square_6 get assistance with covering the cost of evaluation
- \Box_7 Other
- \square_8 I don't know
- 6.d.7 Beyond any reservations you might have about participating in evaluations in general, what reservations, if any, do you have about participating in DOL-sponsored studies?

Topic 6.e. In-house Evaluation Capacity

6.e.1 How would you rate your staff's expertise in designing formal evaluations?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Excellent
- \square_2 Good
- \square_3 Satisfactory
- \square_4 Needs improvement
- \Box_5 I don't know
- 6.e.2 How would you rate your staff's expertise in contracting with research partners and overseeing evaluations?

- \Box_1 Excellent
- \square_2 Good
- \square_3 Satisfactory
- \square_4 Needs improvement
- \Box_5 I don't know
- 6.e.3 How much does your office currently use and analyze the data it already collects on individual RESEA participants to assess how the program is working?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 A lot
- \square_2 Some
- \square_3 A little
- \square_4 Not at all
- \square_5 I don't know

6.e.4 How would you rate the quality of your state's data on individual RESEA participants? (Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Excellent
- \square_2 Good
- \square_3 Satisfactory
- \square_4 Needs improvement
- \square_5 I don't know
- 6.e.5 How would you rate your state's technical ability to link RESEA participant data (i.e., UI claims data) to wage records, workforce data, and any other important data?

(Please select one.)

- \Box_1 Excellent
- \square_2 Good
- \square_3 Satisfactory
- \square_4 Needs improvement
- \Box_5 I don't know

6.e.6 What methods do you find most effective for receiving evaluation technical assistance? **(Select all that apply.)**

- \Box_1 Webinars
- \square_2 Conferences, workshops, or other in-person group meetings
- \square_3 One-on-one coaching and support
- \square_4 Written guidance (e.g., toolkits, checklists, etc.)
- \square_5 Other (please specify) _____
- \square_6 I don't know