

# Working with the Office of Evaluation Sciences

OES' mission is to build and use evidence to better serve the public.

The Office of Evaluation Sciences (OES) is a team of interdisciplinary experts that works across the federal government to help agencies build and use evidence. We partner with federal agencies to answer priority questions using administrative data and evaluation methods appropriate for the priority question of interest.

## OES Services<sup>1</sup>:

- **Impact Evaluation of a Program Change:** OES designs an evidence-based program change, usually to address a behavioral barrier, and conducts an evaluation of it to measure impact.
- **Impact Evaluation of a Program:** OES designs and conducts an evaluation to measure the impact of a new or existing program.
- **Descriptive Study:** OES designs and conducts a descriptive study using administrative data. Descriptive studies seek to document and understand a phenomenon, program, or process, which could include some set of features of a program or its intended recipients, without measuring effectiveness.

## Criteria for OES Collaborations:

The criteria below describe required components for OES collaborations, and were developed with an aim to guide team decision making and prioritization for new and ongoing projects.

- **Support:** An agency collaborator willing to act on and share results and other key deliverables.
- **Data availability:** Data for the study is currently collected (or could be easily collected) by the federal agency.
- **Rigor:** Sample size is large enough for statistical power and policy relevance.
- **Relevance:** Answers a priority question and fills an important evidence gap.
- **Evidence-Based:** Program or program change has a plausible and clear theory of change with potential for impact on a priority outcome.

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<sup>1</sup>Our definitions of impact evaluations, descriptive studies, and other kinds of evaluations follow those set out in [M-21-27: Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Evidence-Based Policymaking: Learning Agendas and Annual Evaluation Plans](#). Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget. June 30, 2021.