



Glossary of Terms

- **Evidence-based practice.** A program or policy designed and implemented using the most current research-based evidence.
- **Impact analyses (Level 1).** Impact analyses include research that measures net impact, or effectiveness. The measure of net impact is the difference between at least two groups, one that received a program and one that did not. In these type of studies, the difference in outcomes between the groups can be attributed to the program being tested. Workforce System Strategies categorizes impact analysis resources as Level 1 if they include experimental—or randomized-controlled trials—or nonexperimental approaches that are also used to study impact. Level 1 studies are conducted by third-party evaluators.
- **Level 1.** Workforce System Strategies categorizes impact analysis resources as Level 1. Impact analyses include experimental—or random-control trials—or nonexperimental approaches that are also used to study impact. Impact analyses include research that measures net impact, or effectiveness. In these type of studies, the difference in outcomes between the groups can be attributed to the program being tested. Level 1 studies are conducted by third-party evaluators.
- **Level 2.** Workforce System Strategies categories systematic analyses as Level 2. Subcategories within Level 2 differentiate the primary purpose or focus of the research. Systematic analyses include a broad range of research that does not focus on net impact. The term *research* is defined as a methodical third-party analysis involving information and data that are systematically collected and analyzed. For instance, these studies might focus on reporting progress toward a goal, describing an implementation process, systematically documenting the practices of a group of practitioners, or describing the characteristics of a target population. Level 2 studies are conducted by third-party evaluators.
- **Level 3.** Workforce System Strategies categorizes supporting resources as Level 3. Supporting resources include resources that do not meet the rigor of an impact analysis or other systematic analysis from an evaluation perspective, but might provide important insights into effective strategies from a technical assistance perspective. This cluster of resources includes models, frameworks, tool kits, guides, and similar technical assistance or interpretative resources, often developed with peer/experiential input and designed to support strategy implementation.
- **Methodologies.** Workforce System Strategies methodologies refer to the type of study or other resource included in the collection. Workforce System Strategies resources are assigned one of three methodologies: impact analysis (Level 1), other systematic analysis (Level 2), and supporting resources (Level 3).



- **Net impact.** The measure of net impact is the difference between at least two groups, one that received a program and one that did not.
- **Other systematic analyses (Level 2).** Systematic analyses includes a broad range of research that does not focus on net impact. The term *research* is defined as a methodical third-party analysis involving information and data that are systematically collected and analyzed. Workforce System Strategies categorizes this type of resource as Level 2. Subcategories within Level 2 differentiate the primary purpose or focus of the research. For instance, these studies might focus on reporting progress toward a goal, describing an implementation process, systematically documenting the practices of a group of practitioners, or describing the characteristics of a target population. Level 2 studies are conducted by third-party evaluators.
- **Profile.** A brief description of a resource that provides a summary of its content and information related to the publication of the document.
- **Related resources.** A related resource directs our users to a systematic review of the profiled resource found on one of our partner websites.
- **Resource.** A document, tool, webinar, podcast, or newsletter related to the workforce system that is made available through Workforce Systems Strategies. Profiles categorize the resource by three levels of rigor: Level 1 (impact analysis), Level 2 (other systematic analysis), and Level 3 (supporting resources).
- **Staff pick.** A Workforce GPS or Workforce System Strategies resource that was recommended as exemplary.
- **Supporting resources (Level 3).** Supporting resources include resources that do not meet the rigor of an impact analysis or other systematic analysis from an evaluation perspective, but might provide important insights into effective strategies from a technical assistance perspective. Workforce System Strategies categorizes this type of resource as Level 3. This cluster of resources includes models, frameworks, tool kits, guides, and similar technical assistance or interpretative resources, often developed with peer/experiential input and designed to support strategy implementation.
- **Taxonomy.** The classification scheme by which Workforce GPS and Workforce System Strategies organize topics and the means by which users can search for resources on this site.
- **Workforce system.** The public workforce system is a network of federal, state, and local offices that function to support economic expansion and develop the talent of the nation's workforce. To meet the challenge of the 21st-century global economy, the public workforce system works in partnership with employers, educators, and community leaders to foster economic development and high-growth opportunities in regional economies.



This system helps businesses find qualified workers to meet their workforce needs.