**Information Resources on**

**Program Evaluation**

“A program evaluation is a systematic study using objective measures to analyze how well a program is working.”

U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Program Evaluation: Strategies for Assessing How Information Dissemination Contributes to Agency Goals*, GAO-02-923 (Washington, D.C.: Sept. 30, 2002), p. 6.

Center for Evaluation Methods and Issues (CEMI)

U.S. Government Accountability Office, December 2017

**INFORMATION RESOURCES ON PROGRAM EVALUATION**

The categories of resources in this list are professional associations and networking groups, continuing education opportunities in the Washington, D.C., area, evaluation Web sites with multiple links, GAO publications, periodicals, and books and reports.

While this list is not exhaustive, CEMI staff have found these resources useful for learning about program evaluation. The list is periodically updated, but note that Internet addresses often change. For further information or additional suggestions, contact Stephanie Shipman at [ShipmanS@gao.gov](mailto:ShipmanS@gao.gov).

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND NETWORKING GROUPS**

*American Evaluation Association (AEA)*—The profession’s national association in the United States, offers annual national conference (in October/November), an electronic mailing list, peer-reviewed journals, training workshops, and topical interest groups. Web page provides links to AEA’s “Guiding Principles for Evaluators” and its public policy paper “An Evaluation Roadmap for a More Effective Government” [http://www.eval.org/d/do/](http://www.eval.org/d/do/472)4008; to its topical interest groups, local affiliates, and international evaluation sites; and to graduate and professional development programs and evaluation tools and handbooks.

Web site: http://[www.eval.org](http://www.eval.org) E-mail: [info@eval.org](mailto:info@eval.org)

*Canadian Evaluation Society* offers annual national conference (in May/June), peer-reviewed journal, electronic mailing list, and training resources. The webpage provides links to regional affiliates, position papers, resources, and “data banks” of evaluation reports by numerous Canadian and other agencies and private sector organizations. [http://www.evaluationcanada.ca/](http://www.evaluationcanada.ca/%20%20%20%20)

In 2010, the Society published a set of competencies—background, knowledge, skills, and dispositions—for Canadian evaluation practice. These serve as the basis for an evaluator credentialing program, development of training programs, and other uses. <http://www.evaluationcanada.ca/txt/2_competencies_cdn_evaluation_practice.pdf>

*International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE)*—An alliance of regional, national and international evaluation organizations to promote the strengthening of the worldwide community of evaluation professionals, good governance, and recognition of the value evaluation has in improving peoples’ lives. Web site: <http://ioce.net>

*Eastern Evaluation Research Society—*Affiliate of the American Evaluation Association, sponsors an annual spring conference in New Jersey. Web site: <http://www.eers.org>

*Federal Evaluators*—Washington, D.C.–based informal network of evaluation officials in the legislative and executive branches of the U.S. government. Holds meetings, offers an electronic mailing list, and has a Web site that cites print and Internet-based resources on program evaluation methods and activities.

Web site: <http://www.fedeval.net>

To join, federal employees should send their office and contact information to [ShipmanS@gao.gov](mailto:ShipmanS@gao.gov)

*Washington Evaluators*—Washington, D.C., local affiliate of the American Evaluation Association. Sponsors professional development training and social networking events. Hosts a website with member-only online resources. Disseminates notices, employment, internship, and consulting opportunities of interest to social research practitioners in the public, private, nonprofit and academic sectors.

Web site: <http://washingtonevaluators.org/>

LinkedIn Group: Washington Evaluators

**CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

*Graduate School USA* Courses include “Introduction to Program Evaluation.” It also offers a certificate in Program and Management Analysis.

Web site: [http://www.graduateschool.edu](http://www.graduateschool.edu/)

Call toll free 888-744-GRAD

*The Evaluators’ Institute*, Claremont Graduate University—institutes held in Washington, D.C., and other cities, offer short-term comprehensive professional development courses for practicing evaluators. Course topics include the basics of program evaluation, evaluation models and theory, qualitative and quantitative methods, impact assessment, and performance measurement. Web site has program information and schedules, and information on earning a professional certificate in evaluation.

Web site: <http://tei.cgu.edu/>

*Local universities—*Universities in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area also offer individual undergraduate and graduate level courses and degrees.

(See additional information at [www.fedeval.net](http://www.fedeval.net) Training Opportunities)

**FEDERAL WEB SITES**

*U.S. Inspectors General,* IGnet–Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), see especially the Inspection and Evaluation Committee. IG web site lists publications, membership, and employment opportunities. *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, 2012, is posted at <https://www.ignet.gov/content/quality-standards>

Web site: <https://www.ignet.gov>

Chair: Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice.

*U.S. Agency for International Development (*USAID) updated its evaluation policy in October 2016. <http://www.usaid.gov/evaluation/policy>

*–Development Experience Clearinghouse* provides a searchable database of project reports. <https://dec.usaid.gov/>

***–****USAID**Evaluation Toolkit* provides guidance, tools, and templates for initiating, planning, managing, and learning from evaluations of foreign assistance activities. <http://usaidlearninglab.org/evaluation>

*U.S. Corporation for National and Community Service* Evidence Exchange provides its evaluation policy and online repository of research, independent evaluations of its projects, and resources at <http://www.nationalservice.gov/impact-our-nation/evidence-exchange>.

*U.S. Department of Agriculture,*

*--Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support,* <http://www.fns.usda.gov/research-and-analysis>*,* provides agencyresearch and evaluation reports, description of demonstration and grant projects, and other resources.

*--Economic Research Service,* <http://www.ers.usda.gov>, provides economic information and research to inform public and private decision making on economic and policy issues involving food, farming, natural resources, and rural development.

*U.S. Department of Education:*

–*Policy and Program Studies Service* (PPSS) provides links to its education policy analyses and program evaluations. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/opepd/ppss/index.html>

–*Institute of Education Sciences* (IES) provides information on ongoing and completed research and evaluation studies and reports <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/> and also sponsors the What Works Clearinghouse to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central source of scientific evidence on what works in education. <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

*U.S. Department of Energy:*

*–Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy* provides information on program evaluations to assess near-term progress and ultimate market and economic impacts, and includes program evaluation resources for research and development programs and technology deployment activities.<https://energy.gov/eere/analysis/program-evaluation>

*U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*:

*−Administration for Children and Families (ACF)*, *Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation* *(OPRE),* provides links to its evaluation policy (2012), the *Common Framework for Research and Evaluation* (2016), and publications, ongoing projects, grant funding opportunities, newsletter, and research and evaluation clearinghouses. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre>

−*Children’s Bureau*, provides its 2014 framework to design, test, spread, and sustain effective practice in child welfare. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/framework-workgroup>

*–Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Program Performance and Evaluation Office,* provides links to CDC’s evaluation guidelines and numerous public health evaluation resources including CDC’s “Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health” which summarizes and organizes the basic elements of program evaluation. <http://www.cdc.gov/eval/index.htm>

*–Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE),* maintains various databases, including the biennial Performance Improvement Reports. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/evaluations>

*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*, *Office of Policy Development and Research,* maintains a database of housing and community development research, evaluation, and statistics publications and databases. <http://www.huduser.gov/>.

*U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ):*

*–Office of Justice Programs (OJP),* National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), maintains an extensive searchable database of criminal justice–related publications, reports, abstracts, and audiovisual products from the U.S. and around the world since the 1970s. <http://www.ncjrs.gov>

*–National Institute of Justice (NIJ)* has links to webinars and completed and ongoing research and evaluations. <http://www.nij.gov>.

*U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Chief Evaluation Office* provides links to research and evaluation reports and databases throughout the department, and the Department’s 2013 evaluation policy statement. <http://www.dol.gov/asp/evaluation/>

*U.S. Department of State* updated its evaluation policy in November 2017at<http://www.state.gov/s/d/rm/rls/evaluation/index.htm>

*–Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, Office of Policy and Evaluation, Evaluation Division,* has links to its completed and ongoing evaluations. <http://eca.state.gov/impact/evaluation-eca>

*--Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources* provides links to its completed evaluations. <http://www.state.gov/f/evaluations/index.htm>

*U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) r*esearch tab provides links to reports and data on state and national highway safety programs. <http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Strategic Environmental Management, Evaluation Support Division,* provides links to environmental program evaluation information and tools within EPA as well as information resources outside the agency. <http://www.epa.gov/evaluate/>

*U.S. Government Accountability Office* maintains a searchable database of its reports and testimonies published since the 1970s, as well as special collections of publications on topics of current interest <http://www.gao.gov> (See lists below of evaluation-specific GAO publications*.*)

*U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation* provides policy guidance on their monitoring and evaluation approach for all foreign aid projects, performance metrics, and country evaluation plans and completed impact evaluations. <https://www.mcc.gov/our-impact>

*Youth.gov* is a multi-agency site that provides access to youth facts, funding information, and tools to help community members and policymakers assess community assets, generate maps of local and federal resources, search for evidence-based youth programs, and keep up-to-date on the latest, youth-related news. <http://youth.gov/>

**INTERNET COLLECTIONS**

*The Evaluation Center* at Western Michigan Universityprovideslinks to its Evaluation Checklists and evaluation reports <http://www.wmich.edu/evaluation> and publishes the Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation online. <http://journals.sfu.ca/jmde/index.php/jmde_1/index>

*The Evaluation Roundtable* is a network of foundation evaluation leaders that seeks to improve how foundations learn about the results of their grant-making and increase the impact of their work. They hold closed meetings but also publish their research on foundation effectiveness. <http://evaluationroundtable.org/index.html>

*My M&E* is an interactive platform to share knowledge on country-led monitoring and evaluation systems worldwide. Founded by IOCE, UNICEF and DevInfo, it is managed by a consortium of international organizations. Webinars and other evaluation training materials are free and open to interested people. <http://www.mymande.org>

*Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* ***(****OECD)*, Development Assistance Committee Network on Development Evaluation, supports an **online Evaluation Resource Centre (DEReC) that contains development evaluation reports and guidelines published by the Network and its bilateral and multilateral members.** <http://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/>

*Program Evaluation,* at Penn State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State Extension*,* provides evaluation planning tools, including Tipsheets on specific evaluation techniques. <http://www.extension.psu.edu/evaluation>.

*The Treasury Board of Canada*—the functional equivalent to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget—maintains a database of government audits and evaluations and provides links to Canada’s federal policies, guides and standards for program evaluation, and to international evaluation groups. <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/cee/index-eng.asp>

*United Nations Evaluation Group,* a professional network of units responsible for evaluation in the UN system, provides access to their standards, publications and resources, such as a database of over 3000 evaluation reports. [http://www.uneval.org](http://www.uneval.org/)

*University of Wisconsin, Division of Cooperative Extension, Program Development and Evaluation,* provides evaluation planning tools, sample questionnaires, data collection and analysis guidance, samples and guidance on logic models, and reporting ideas with extension-related examples. <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/>

*William Trochim’s Center for Social Research Methods* has materials that include online courses and tutorials on applied social research methods, including program evaluation and research design. <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net>

*World Bank Evaluation* provides links to ongoing and published evaluations and evaluation tools. <http://ieg.worldbankgroup.org/> World Bank and Carleton University jointly sponsor an intensive 4-week program to build skills to conduct evaluations in the context of developing countries. The *International Program for Development Evaluation Training* (IPDET) takes place in June-July in Ottawa, Canada. See [http://www.ipdet.org](http://www.ipdet.org/)

**GAO PUBLICATIONS**

The following GAO documents can be found and read online or downloaded (as .pdf files with Adobe Acrobat) from GAO’s Web site. [[http://www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov/)](http://www.gao.gov).

**GAO GUIDES AND METHODS PAPERS**

*Case Study Evaluations*, GAO/PEMD-10.1.9, November 1990. <http://www.gao.gov/products/PEMD-10.1.9>

*Designing Evaluations: 2012 Revision,* GAO-12-208G, January 2012.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-208G>

*Fragmentation, Overlap and Duplication: An Evaluation and Management Guide,* April 2015*.* <http://www.gao.gov/framework_duplication/overview>

*How to Get Action on Audit Recommendations*, [OP-9.2.1](http://archive.gao.gov/t2pbat7/144789.pdf), July 1991. <http://www.gao.gov/products/OP-9.2.1>

*Information Management: Assessing the Reliability of Computer-Processed Data,* July 2009.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-680G>

*Performance Measurement and Evaluation: Definitions and Relationships*, GAO-11-646SP, May 2011. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-646SP>

*Prospective Evaluation Methods: The Prospective Evaluation Synthesis­,* GAO/PEMD-10.1.10, November 1990. <http://www.gao.gov/products/PEMD-10.1.10>

*Record Linkage and Privacy: Issues in Creating New Federal Research and Statistical Information*, GAO-01-126SP, April 2001. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-01-126SP> (172 pages)

*The Evaluation Synthesis*, rev. ed., GAO/PEMD-10.1.2, March 1992. <http://www.gao.gov/products/PEMD-10.1.2>

*The Results Act: An Evaluator’s Guide to Assessing Agency Annual Performance Plans*, version 1, GAO/GGD-10.1.20, April 1998. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD-10.1.20>

**GAO REPORTS**

*Program Evaluation: Annual Agency-Wide Plans Could Enhance Leadership Support for Program Evaluations*, GAO-17-743, Sept. 29, 2017. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-743>

*Managing for Results: Further Progress Made in Implementing the GPRA Modernization Act, but Additional Actions Needed to Address Pressing Governance Challenges,* GAO-17-775, Sept. 29, 2017. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-775>

*Foreign Assistance: Agencies Can Improve the Quality and Dissemination of Program Evaluations,* GAO-17-316, Mar. 30, 2017. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-316>

*Foreign Assistance: Selected Agencies’ Monitoring and Evaluation Policies Generally Address Leading Practices,* GAO-16-861R, Sept. 27, 2016. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-861R>

*Managing for Results: Implementation of GPRA Modernization Act Has Yielded Mixed Progress in Addressing Pressing Governance Challenges,* GAO-15-819, Sept. 30, 2015. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-819>

*Program Evaluation: Some Agencies Reported that Networking, Hiring, and Involving Program Staff Help Build Capacity*, GAO-15-25, Nov. 13, 2014. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-25>

*Managing for Results: Agencies’ Trends in the Use of Performance Information to Make Decisions,* GAO-14-747, Sept. 26, 2014. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-747>

*Program Evaluation: Strategies to Facilitate Agencies’ Use of Evaluation in Program Management and Policy Making*, GAO-13-570, June 26, 2013. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-570>

*Managing for Results: Executive Branch Should More Fully Implement the GPRA Modernization Act to Address Pressing Governance Challenges*, GAO-13-518, June 26, 2013. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-13-518>

*Program Evaluation: Experienced Agencies Follow a Similar Model for Prioritizing Research*, GAO-11-176, Jan. 14, 2011. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-176>

*Employment and Training Administration: Increased Authority and Accountability Could Improve Research Program,* GAO-10-243, Jan. 29, 2010. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-243>

*Program Evaluation: A Variety of Rigorous Methods Can Help Identify Effective Interventions,* GAO-10-30, Nov. 23, 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-30>

*Highway Safety: Foresight Issues Challenge DOT's Efforts to Assess and Respond to New Technology-Based Trends,* [GAO-09-56](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0956.pdf), Oct. 3, 2008.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-56>

*Estimating the Undocumented Population: A “Grouped Answers” Approach to Surveying Foreign-Born Respondents*, GAO-06-775, Sept. 29, 2006. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-06-775>

*Program Evaluation: OMB's PART Reviews Increased Agencies' Attention to Improving Evidence of Program Results*, GAO-06-67, Oct. 28, 2005. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-06-67>

*Performance Budgeting: PART Focuses Attention on Program Performance, but More Can Be Done to Engage Congress,* GAO-06-28, Oct. 28, 2005. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-06-28>

*VA Patient Safety Program: A Cultural Perspective at Four Medical Facilities,* GAO-05-83, Dec. 15, 2004. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-05-83>

*Performance Budgeting: Observations on the Use of OMB’s Program Assessment Rating Tool for the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget,* GAO-04-174, Jan. 30, 2004. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-04-174>

*Program Evaluation: An Evaluation Culture and Collaborative Partnerships Help Build Agency Capacity,* GAO-03-454, May 2, 2003. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-03-454>

*Federal Programs: Ethnographic Studies Can Inform Agencies’ Actions,* GAO-03-455, Mar. 31, 2003. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-03-455>

*Program Evaluation: Strategies for Assessing How Information Dissemination Contributes to Agency Goals*, GAO-02-923, Sept. 30, 2002. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-02-923>

*Program Evaluation: Studies Helped Agencies Measure or Explain Program Performance,* GAO/GGD-00-204, Sept. 29, 2000. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD-00-204>

*Managing for Results: Views on Ensuring the Usefulness of Agency Performance Information to Congress*, GAO/GGD-00-35, Jan. 26, 2000. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD-00-35>

*Performance Plans: Selected Approaches for Verification and Validation of Agency Performance Information*, GAO/GGD-99-139, July 30, 1999. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD-99-139>

*Managing for Results: Measuring Program Results That Are Under Limited Federal Control*, GAO/GGD-99-16, Dec. 11, 1998. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD-99-16>

*Grant Programs: Design Features Shape Flexibility, Accountability, and Performance Information*, GAO/GGD-98-137, June 22, 1998. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD-98-137>

*Program Evaluation: Agencies Challenged by New Demand for Information on Program Results,* GAO/GGD-98-53, Apr. 24, 1998. The results of GAO's survey on roles and resources available for federal program evaluation and the characteristics of evaluation studies conducted. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GGD-98-53>

*Managing for Results: Analytic Challenges in Measuring Performance,* GAO/HEHS/GGD-97-138, May 30, 1997. <http://www.gao.gov/products/HEHS/GGD-97-138>

*Block Grants: Issues in Designing Accountability Provisions,* GAO/AIMD-95-226, Sept. 1995. <http://www.gao.gov/products/AIMD-95-226>

*Program Evaluation: Improving the Flow of Information to the Congress,* GAO/PEMD-95-1, Jan. 30, 1995. <http://www.gao.gov/products/PEMD-95-1>

*Cross Design Synthesis: A New Strategy for Medical Effectiveness Research,* GAO/PEMD-92-18, Mar. 17, 1992. <http://www.gao.gov/products/PEMD-92-18>

*Children’s Programs: A Comparative Evaluation Framework and Five Illustrations,* GAO/PEMD-88-28BR, Aug. 31, 1988. <http://www.gao.gov/products/PEMD-88-28BR>

**PERIODICALS**

*American Journal of Evaluation* is sent free to members of the American Evaluation Association. It can also be ordered from Sage Publications. <http://www.sagepub.com/journals.nav>

*Evaluation: The International Journal of Theory, Research and Practice* is published by Sage Publications, in association with London’s Tavistock Institute. <http://www.sagepub.com/journals.nav>

*Evaluation and Program Planning* is published by Elsevier and can be ordered from <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/evaluation-and-program-planning>.

*Evaluation & the Health Professions* is published by Sage Publications. <http://www.sagepub.com/journals.nav>

*Evaluation Review: A Journal of Applied Social Research* is published by Sage Publications. <http://www.sagepub.com/journals.nav>

*New Directions for Evaluation* is sent free to members of the American Evaluation Association. It can also be ordered from Jossey-Bass, an imprint of Wiley. <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/>

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American Evaluation Association. *An Evaluation Roadmap for a More Effective Government.* Revised October 2013. <http://www.eval.org/d/do/472>

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Hatry, H, and E. Davies. *A Guide to Data-Driven Performance Reviews*. Washington, D.C.: IBM Center for the Business of Government, 2011. <http://www.urban.org/research/publication/guide-data-driven-performance-reviews>

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International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, Working Group on Program Evaluations. *Guidelines on the Evaluation of Public Policies*. July 2016. <http://program-evaluation.ccomptes.fr/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=15&Itemid=4&lang=en>

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Macoubrie, J., and C. Harrison. *Human Services Research Dissemination: What Works?* OPRE Report # 2013-09, Washington, D.C.: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2013. [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/resource-library/search?topic[2885]=2885](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/resource-library/search?topic%5b2885%5d=2885)

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