



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MassHire DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Diane Hurley, Acting Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: February 23, 2023

Subject: **Participatory Evaluation in Workforce Development Practice – WorkforceGPS Webinar**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators, and other workforce partners of an upcoming WorkforceGPS webinar: Participatory Evaluation in Workforce Development Practice on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, from 3:00 – 4:00.

Background: Participatory research methods in program evaluations offer opportunities to involve community members as active research participants who contribute to the systematic collection of information about the activities. Presenters in this session will share some findings from research that utilize and examine participatory approaches and methods in evaluation to improve outcomes for underserved populations and rural communities.

Presenters will discuss their research efforts and work with youth and rural

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communities, describe the uses of participatory research and its related components, as an evaluation method for state and local workforce development programs, and present examples to demonstrate the value, benefits, potential challenges, and strategies with involving participant evaluators.

Presenters in this moderated panel will:

- Explain the benefits and challenges of the participatory research approach to evaluation.
- Describe the value for community engagement and how participant evaluators contribute to mutual learning in evaluations from the design to implementation, analysis, reporting, dissemination, and utilization.

WorkforceGPS is an online technical assistance website created to help build the capacity of America's public workforce investment system. Sponsored by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, WorkforceGPS was developed specifically for workforce professionals, educators, and business leaders. WorkforceGPS is free but does require account registration.

Action

Requested: Please share with all managers, staff and partners as appropriate.

Effective: Immediately.