

Frequently Asked Questions: Efforts to Improve Outcomes

Q1: *Is reporting Efforts to Improve Outcomes required?*

ANSWER: Yes. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act (TAARA) of 2015, sec. 239(j)(1)(C) includes this requirement.

Q2: *What is the information supplied used for?*

ANSWER: Efforts to improve outcomes are used to identify and highlight state practices, including the use of case management funds and innovative outreach strategies. The identification of these practices help the Department determine states to reach out to for webinars, conferences, peer collaboration, and feedback on planned Departmental changes. One best practice is selected to be highlighted in the [Quarterly Workforce System Results](#) (on hold as of August 2017).

Q3: *What information should be included?*

ANSWER: The narrative should include information on at least one:

- strategy to improve outcomes and why it is expected to result in improved outcomes;
- an update on progress of a previously discussed strategy;
- or steps taken to overcome barriers to improvement.

Some common areas for strategies to improve outcomes include the use of case management funds, innovative outreach strategies, upcoming trainings, participations in roundtables, improved program information provided to workers, and new or improved relationships with partners (e.g. WIOA Dislocated Worker, Apprenticeship, etc.).

If an update is being provided on a strategy being employed, it should discuss what the strategy being implemented is, what the progress is, and what adjustments have been made.

For discussions of barriers that are being overcome, Efforts to Improve Outcomes should clearly articulate the specific barrier being addressed and the steps being taken to overcome it.

Q4: *What information should not be included?*

ANSWER: The following should not be included:

1. Notes about PIRL submission or data issues. Issues with submission mechanics should be sent to wioa.feedback@dol.gov. Notes on missing or incorrect data should be sent to your Regional Coordinator and Reporting Lead.
2. Analysis of TAA Data Integrity (TAADI) issues. TAADI discussions are captured through TAADI report cards. Discussion of these issues in Efforts to Improve Outcomes has no bearing on TAADI results.
3. Success Stories. Success stories are important, but they need to be submitted to Regional Coordinators. Success Stories require specific information and documentation. For questions regarding Success Stories, reach out to your Regional Coordinator.
4. Personally Identifying Information (PII). There is no need for PII in Efforts to Improve Outcomes. Beyond the data submitted within the PIRL, there are rarely circumstances that require PII to be communicated between the State and the Department. When sent, it should always be done through secure means.
5. Placeholder words/phrases, such as "Report" or the quarter of submission (e.g. "Submission FY18Q2"). Efforts to Improve Outcomes is a required field, so some states attempt to bypass including a narrative by using one of these placeholders. Instead, a narrative should be included. See Q3 above for what information should be included in the narrative.

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Q5: How do I report Efforts to Improve Outcomes in the PIRL?

ANSWER: In Workforce Integrated Performance System (WIPS), the certification of the TAA Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) includes an “Additional Comments” field. This field should be used to report your Efforts to Improve Outcomes.

You MUST press ‘Save’ to save the comments before certifying.

| HOME | FILE UPLOAD | EDIT CHECK RESULTS | MY REPORTS | MY WIPS PROFILE | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Covered Entrants Who Received a Staff-Assisted Service During the Entry Period | | | | 12 | 100.0% | 95.5% | | | | |
| Common Exit Programs: Please indicate by checking the box below each program below that utilizes a common exit policy with this program in this state. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Program | Wagner-Peyser | Adults, Dislocated Workers, Youth | TAA | Job Corps | National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) | Indian and Native American Program (INA) | Reentry Employment Opportunities (Adult) | Reentry Employment Opportunities (Youth) | YouthBuild | H-1B |
| Common Exit? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Report Comments: Users type comments here and then select SAVE.

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NOTE: This update rescinds the previous instructions that Efforts to Improve Outcomes should be reported through EBSS.