



PATHWAYS TO WORK

Evidence Clearinghouse

Distilling Research to Inform Policy and Practice

TANF Directors' Meeting: September 18, 2019

Kim Clum, *Moderator*, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (ACF)

Diana McCallum, *Presenter*, Mathematica

Panelists:

Elizabeth Carver, Utah Department of Workforce Services

Ella Gifford-Hawkins, Larimer County Works Program

Natasha Nicolai, California Department of Social Services

Laura Zeilinger, DC Department of Human Services

Panelists



Agenda

- **Live Polling**
- **Project Background**
- **Questions**
- **Discussion**

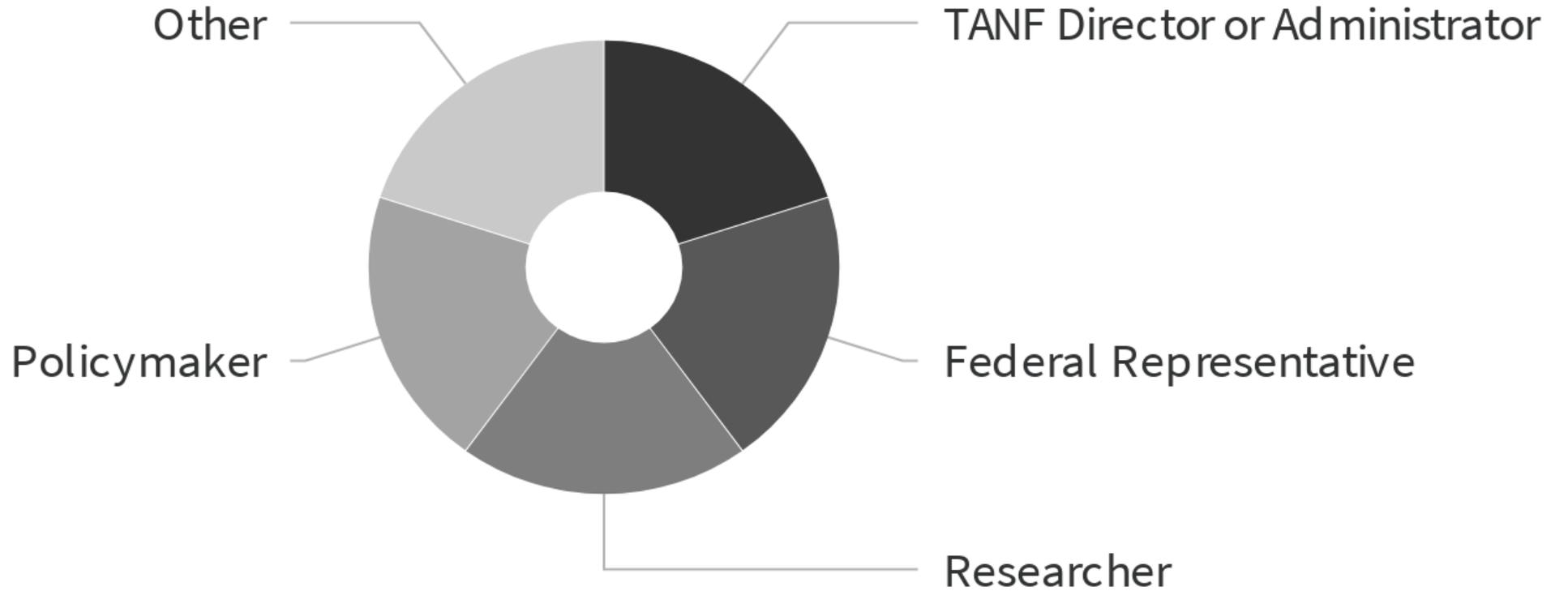
Live Polls

Please provide feedback through our polls at Poll Everywhere

- Visit <https://pollev.com/smartpebble379>
- Text SMARTPEBBLE379 to 22333

Who is in the audience today?

TANF Director or Administrator **A** Federal Representative **B** Researcher **C** Policymaker **D** Other **E**



Introduction to the Pathways to Work Evidence Clearinghouse

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, Pub. L. 115-31, directs HHS to create a database of projects (interventions) that have used a proven or promising approach to move welfare recipients into work.

- The interventions must be categorized by evidence of effectiveness (that is, proven, promising, ineffective...)
- HHS must establish criteria for those different categories
- The database should be used to create a public Clearinghouse.

OPRE is launching the Pathways to Work Clearinghouse to fulfill this directive.

Goals of the Pathways to Work Clearinghouse



Conduct A transparent, systematic, and comprehensive review of the evaluation literature on employment-focused interventions for low-income individuals



Rate The interventions according to pre-specified criteria to determine if they are proven, promising, developmental, ineffective, or mixed



Develop A high-quality, user-friendly website that presents the review's findings and provides additional materials to make it easy for users to find what they need (including syntheses and videos)



Promote The website and ensure key stakeholders (including program administrators, implementers, policymakers, and researchers) are aware of the website and its usefulness

Key Definitions



Intervention

- A specific bundle of services and/or policies implemented in a given context (for example, transitional employment with soft skills training and supportive services).
- An intervention will be the unit that receives an effectiveness rating (for example, proven, promising, ineffective).



Approach

- The guiding framework for a set of specific services (for example, career pathways).
- Approaches will not be rated as proven, promising, developmental, or ineffective, but the Clearinghouse will include narrative summaries related to different approaches.

Key Definitions (cont.)



Study

- A study is research that examined the implementation of an intervention.
- Will receive a rating of high, moderate, or low quality.

Key Definitions (cont.)



Outcomes of interest

- **Employment (short and long-term)**
- **Earnings (short and long-term)**
- **Public benefit receipt (short and long-term); and**
- **Educational attainment**



Effectiveness Ratings

characterize individual interventions; these ratings will include:

- **Evidence-based (Proven)**
- **Promising**
- **Ineffective**
- **Mixed**
- **More research needed**
- **Developmental***

Questions?

Discussion



What are the central questions that TANF administrators might have?

What projects impact employment outcomes?

What projects impact public benefit receipt?

What projects have been tested with populations like mine?

What projects have long-term impacts?

Intervention Details

Intervention	Intervention A	Intervention B	Intervention C
Populations targeted	General low-income population, Parents, Single parents	General low-income population, Parents, Welfare population	Parents
Services provided	Training, Soft skills training, Sanctions, Job search assistance, Education	Case management, Education, Occupational or sectoral training, Soft skills training, Training, Word readiness activities	Work experience, Unpaid work experience, Training, Supportive services, Sanctions, Case management, Health services, Education
Setting	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed
Approach	Wrap-around services	Basic Education	Employment retention

Outcomes

The effect size is a standardized measure of the impact of a project on outcomes in domain, representing the average change in outcomes, in terms of standard deviations, that can be expected for participants in receiving a project. For example, if a domain has an effect size of 0.10, and an outcomes within that domain has a standard deviation of 1000 dollars, we would expect the project to increase the outcome by $0.10 \times 1000 = 100$ dollars. Because the effect sizes are measured in standard deviation units, they may be compared across projects and domains.

Intervention	Intervention A	Intervention B	Intervention C
Short term earnings	 0.20	 -0.03	 0.06
Long term earnings	 0.13	 -0.04	 0.18
Short term employment	 0.12	 -0.01	 0.12



What are other important ways that users might want to compare programs?



What are the key topics of interest for synthesis briefs?

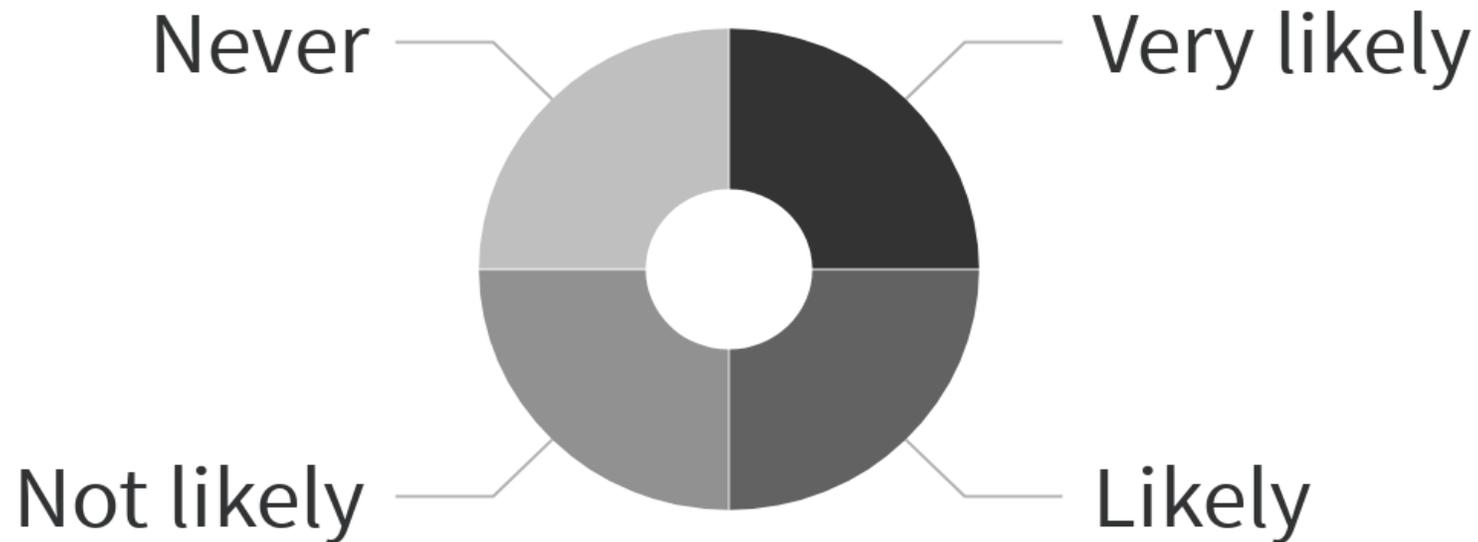




How would you like to get information about the Pathways Clearinghouse?

How likely are you to access the Pathways Clearinghouse on a phone or tablet?

Very likely **A** Likely **B** Not likely **C** Never **D**



For more information

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