

PEPReC

*Partnered Evidence-based Policy Resource Center
A VA QUERI Center*

Partnered Project: Complying with the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act

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Operations Partner: QUERI and VA Office of Enterprise Integration

The Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act requires VA programs to tie evidence to budget requests via a learning agenda that provides evidence for programs and policies through evaluation. QUERI, including PEPReC, is informing the response of both VHA and the larger VA to this act. Activities include working with program offices to develop and refine learning agendas to fill evidence gaps, providing technical assistance to program offices who need to identify evidence that supports current or proposed programs, and facilitating cohesive budget requests across programs for high-priority or cross-cutting issues.

Recent activities completed include:

- Development of an evidence inventory, including all current studies funded by ORD. The database characterizes the focus of each study and provides a single source of information on current VA-funded research efforts that could be used to inform policy or budget decisions.
- Creation of success stories — 2-page documents that demonstrate to the Office of Management and Budget how evaluation activities are related to policy decisions
- Assessment of program evaluation capacity at 14 program offices
- Technical assistance with creation of learning agendas — plans for each operations office that outline policy goals, high priority questions that need to be answered to reach those goals, and a plan for how evidence can be used to address those questions
- Development of tools to assist with grading the strength of evidence in budget and policy proposals.

Future activities include:

- Expand core Evidence Act activities, including creation of annual required deliverables — updated and new learning agenda business questions, evaluation plans, and capacity assessments — as well as annual reviews of legislative and budgetary proposals.
- Execute two priority evaluation activities in response to the Evidence Act: COVID-19 recovery and suicide prevention.