

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Ex-post evaluation (measurement of past performance) is an important tool enabling planners and policy makers to learn from the past, improve the design of existing and new programs, and enhance both future planning. EDR Group has a longstanding practice evaluating a wide variety of public programs.

Inner Cities Capital Campaign program. For ICIC Initiative for a Competitive Inner City), EDR Group provided a quantitative analysis of total job impacts stemming from the Inner Cities Capital Campaign program. EDR Group evaluated results of a survey of awardees on job outcomes since the program commenced, and an economic model was applied to calculate additional indirect and induced economic effects on communities.

Minnesota Angel Tax Credit Program. For the Minnesota Dept. of Revenue and Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, EDR Group conducted an evaluation of a state tax credit program to stimulate private angel investment in early stage tech-based enterprises. The evaluation included surveys of businesses and investors; an assessment of investment activity; and the economic and tax revenue impact attributable to the tax credit program.

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). For the US Dept. of Treasury's CDFI Fund, EDR Group conducted a study of methods to benchmark and validate job outcomes reported by recipients of funds from the New Markets Tax Credit program and the Financial Assistance program. This work applied statistical analysis and economic impact models to establish validation procedures.

Infrastructure and Public Works Program. For the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), EDR Group conducted an evaluation of economic impact outcomes from ARC investments in developing local industrial parks, business incubators, access roads, telecommunications, water and sewer facilities. The study included evaluation of 203 projects across the 13-state ARC region.

Education and Workforce Development Programs. For ARC, EDR Group also evaluated outcomes of the education and workforce development grant programs. This work included analysis of survey responses for 386 projects funded by the program. as well as telephone interviews and economic data analysis. The results included recommendations for improving future performance measurement.

Economic Development Public Works Programs. For the Oregon Department of Economic Development, EDR Group conducted an evaluation of the economic impacts of the state grant program for infrastructure investment. This included developed and implementation of a case study protocol to assess local and state impacts of 56 projects including industrial parks, business access roads and water/sewer infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency Programs. For the Wisconsin Department of Administration, EDR Group (under subcontract to PA Consulting) provided assessments of the economic impacts and benefits associated with statewide implementation of the Focus on Energy program – a “market preparation” education and training program intended to support lasting changes in both demand (including renewables technology incentives to energy customers) and supply of energy efficient products and services.