Rigorous evaluations are critical for optimizing value and operational efficiencies through evidence-based policymaking. In partnership with VA national leaders, the LEARN Evidence-Based Policy Evaluation Center conducts time-sensitive, rigorous and responsive national evaluations, and disseminates evaluation findings, to influence continual improvements in VA policies and programs. LEARN also establishes a pipeline of early-to-senior career-level expertise in evaluation and expands relationships with academic affiliates to enhance VA’s evaluation capacities.

**Our Aims**

- **Aim 1**: Design partnered evaluation plans that respond to priorities of senior VA leadership and other United States executive and legislative leaders
- **Aim 2**: Conduct timely and rigorous partnered evaluations of VA policies and programs
- **Aim 3**: Support continual improvements in VA policies and programs through dissemination of evaluation results and evidence-based recommendations to stakeholders
- **Aim 4**: Expand capacity and expertise to design and conduct VA evaluations, with attention to supporting early career investigators and expanding investigator diversity, equity, and inclusion

**Evaluation Topics**

LEARN will conduct evaluations aligned with VA priorities including but not limited to:

- Women’s health initiatives
- Veteran homelessness
- Health disparities/social determinants of health
- Reducing employee/trainee burnout
- Virtual care
- VA electronic health record modernization
Evaluation Strategies

- Use the Learning Health System framework to guide its evaluation and knowledge translation efforts
- Ensure information learned aligns with stakeholder needs
- Formatively and summatively assess program and policy, including:
  - Implementation, effectiveness, efficiency and impacts
  - Variations across groups and settings
  - Contextual factors influencing variations
    - Implementation strategies
- Apply and integrate quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Utilize multi-disciplinary theories and methods
- Disseminate evaluation results across internal and external VA stakeholders

Anticipated Impacts

- Support VA in fulfilling the core requirements of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act of 2018 and provide rapid and rigorous evidence to answer questions derived from VA and legislative leaders
- Support the VA learning healthcare system engaging in evidence-based continual improvement and innovation that optimizes VA care
- Enhance VA’s pipeline of early to senior career level expertise in partnered evaluation, with an emphasis on investigator diversity, equity, and inclusion

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