Lead the Office of Evaluation Sciences Methods Team
Enable agencies to build and use evidence to better serve the public

Based at the General Services Administration (GSA), the Office of Evaluation Sciences (OES) is a team of interdisciplinary experts that works across the federal government to help agencies build and use evidence. OES provides governmentwide expertise and support on leading practices for evidence-building and evaluation, and partners with federal agencies to answer priority questions using rapid and rigorous evaluation. The work and role of OES is unique and includes directly designing, implementing, and analyzing evaluations in a large-scale federal policy environment. OES applies promising interventions at a national scale, reaches millions of people, and works closely with key decision makers in government. Our portfolio has spanned priority areas such as retirement security, reducing the cost of government operations, improving public health outcomes, and increasing educational opportunity. To date, OES has completed over 80 impact evaluations with dozens of agency partners.

OES follows the best practices in social science research and is a leader in transparency and accountability. The Methods Team is central to the rigor, quality and reliability of OES' work and results, providing statistical and methodological support to the OES team and resources and trainings on leading evaluation practices. The Methods Team contributes to research designs and analysis plans, conducts independent replications of analyses, crafts guidance on methodological issues, develops and conducts trainings, and represents OES through presentations and academic publications.

Methods Lead Position Details
The Methods Lead oversees the rigor and quality of the OES evaluation portfolio, supporting over twenty simultaneous impact evaluations. The Methods Lead directly coordinates and oversees the work of the OES Methods Team, a small team of experts in the design and statistical analysis of randomized and quasi-experimental evaluations. The Methods Lead spends 90% time on methods, management and other OES support activities and 10% time directly leading impact evaluations.

The Methods Lead's responsibilities are to:
- Continually refine and improve the OES Project Process and guidance for a fast-paced, applied research team, ensuring all OES evaluations generate rigorous, reproducible results
- Ensure all projects successfully pass through the OES project process, including checks designed to ensure scientific rigor and reliability
- Ensure that all team projects receive needed statistical and methodological support, including connecting team members to relevant resources and experts
- Provide guidance and final decisions on difficult statistical and methodological problems
- Conduct results-blind replications of statistical analyses for OES projects
- Create and share resources on evaluation methods and leading evidence practices for OES
- Oversee OES data management, and consult on data-sharing arrangements with other federal agencies and external parties
- Update methodological resources on the OES website and for external distribution

Draft and internal

- Represent OES to the federal evaluation community, including conducting presentations on OES methods and identifying and pursuing opportunities to promote and support adoption of rigorous, reproducible methods governmentwide
- Manage the flow, assignment of projects and deadlines for the Methods Team
- Coordinate weekly technical lab meetings, ensuring that all project benefit from team discussion at key points in the project process
- Directly deliver 1-2 rigorous evaluations with actionable findings annually

Applicant Profile

OES is recruiting for the OES Methods Lead role to serve in a full time capacity between September 2021 - March 2022. Timelines can be flexible and, if mutually agreeable, the role could be extended further. The Methods Lead should possess the following skills:
- Substantial expertise in the design and statistical analysis of randomized and quasi-experimental evaluations. This typically requires a PhD as well as experience designing, analyzing, and publishing randomized and quasi-experimental evaluations in an applied setting
- General knowledge of applied social and behavioral sciences, as well as specialized knowledge of at least one field within the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., economics, psychology, political science, etc.)
- Significant experience designing randomized evaluations involving block randomization, cluster randomization, and the use of covariates to enhance precision
- Significant experience analyzing data from randomized evaluations, including estimating treatment effects using regression models and appropriately accounting for blocking, clustering, and multiple hypothesis testing
- Experience working with government programs, policies, operations, and data
- Competency in statistical analysis using the R programming language
- Fluency analyzing randomized and quasi-experimental evaluations in either R or Stata, with R being strongly preferred
- Ability to provide guidance to less experienced analysts on the communication of statistical results to diverse audiences, both in text and in graphical form
- The ability to continually track large numbers of projects and tasks and to juggle multiple competing priorities in a fast-paced environment
- Exceptional skills in verbal and written communication

Application Details

Applicants should be available for a full time role between September 2021 - March 2022. Funding is available to reimburse for salary, benefits and direct costs during the rotation. Federal employees eligible for a detail and individuals coming from academic or non-profit institutions eligible through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreement are encouraged to apply. Applicants should submit a CV and cover letter **by July 25, 2021 to OES@GSA.GOV** with the subject line - Methods Lead Application. Finalists will be invited to an interview process that will include a writing exercise, an analytic exercise, a video interview, and a research presentation. We expect final decisions to be communicated in August 2021.