

Social Impact Partnership to Pay for Success Act (SIPPRA)

Independent Evaluator (IE) Biannual Evaluation Progress Report

Grantee Name: Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES)

Reporting Period: 5/1/23 – 1/31/2024

Independent Evaluator Name: WestEd (Lead: Trevor Fronius)

Independent Evaluator Email: tfroniu@wested.org

Independent Evaluator Phone: 781-460-1215

Not later than two years after a project has been approved and biannually thereafter, the independent evaluator must submit a written report to the head of the relevant federal agency and the Interagency Council summarizing the progress that has been made in achieving each outcome specified in the award agreement. Data in evaluation progress reports and final reports will be made available to all federal agencies represented on the Interagency Council, and data content requirements will be specified in the agreement between the grantee and the head of the relevant federal agency.

1. *Provide an overview of the project including:*
 - a. *unique factors that contributed to achieving or failing to achieve the outcome in the context of the intervention, including but not limited to any major change in policy or law that may have affected the project intervention and whether or not the project was implemented with fidelity (e.g., randomization of treatment and control groups),*
 - b. *challenges faced in attempting to achieve the outcome, and 3) improved future delivery of this or similar intervention.*

The State of Oklahoma is partnering with Family & Children’s Services, the George Kaiser Family Foundation, and WestEd to reduce recidivism, increase employment, and support family reunification for women in Oklahoma. Oklahoma’s WIR provides an outpatient program as an alternative for women with substance use disorders facing incarceration in the state. The project objectives are to improve access to stable employment and wages, and reduce foster care involvement and contact with child protection services by having program participants avoid incarceration. With a focus on improving the lives of at-risk women and their children, WIR also seeks to break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration by strengthening and reuniting WIR mothers and their children. Services are provided through an 18-month, intensive outpatient three-phase program model using best practices as well as evidence-based curricula and treatment models.

The evaluation design is a quasi-experimental design that utilizes a matched comparison sample of women from Oklahoma County who are incarcerated for similar offenses. The external evaluation will assess the outcomes related to any federal payment at 18 months and 30 months post enrollment across two cohorts of participants. The initial outcome payment period is in April 2026.

The evaluation lead (Fronius) visited WIR in Fall 2023 to observe onsite activities and formally launch the external evaluation activities. Following the site visit, WestEd began outreach to Oklahoma Department of Corrections (OK DOC) to establish a data sharing agreement to secure data on WIR participants and the comparison sample for the study. In addition, WestEd established bi-weekly meetings with WIR to regularly discuss ongoing evaluation needs and potential programmatic changes that could impact the evaluation. Finally, WestEd drafted its IRB protocol with plans to submit for approval soon. Once approved, the IRB determination letter will be provided to OK DOC along with a draft data sharing agreement for review and signature.

To date, there have been no known law or policy changes that would impact this project. Similarly, there are no other issues related to achieving outcomes or otherwise disrupting the delivery of services and external evaluation.

- 2. Has the evaluation study encountered any challenges, such as those identified in the evaluation design plan's theory of change? If so, how has the evaluation team and/or grantee addressed these challenges?*

There have been no major challenges encountered that would compromise the design plan or theory of change. The biggest hurdle to date was that enrollment numbers were lower than anticipated in Year 1 due largely to post-pandemic effects on the justice system. These numbers seem to be increasing steadily and we are on target to hit our Cohort 1 goal by approximately July 2024.

- 3. Has there been any alterations to the study's research questions or planned design on account of these challenges? If so, what changes were made?*

There have been no alterations to the research questions or planned design. The evaluation team may need to truncate the first outcome valuation period from six months to three months to keep the overall evaluation timeline on track, but this is manageable and keeps the project aligned with the approved design and timeline.

- 4. Assess the degree to which the project was delivered as intended, including a discussion of how closely the projects theory and intended procedures aligned with actual project implementation.*

The project has been delivered as intended to date and aligns precisely with the theory and implementation practices outlined in the approved proposal and design plan.

- 5. Have any of the intervention model's key components changed? If so, how? For example, describe any changes in the following areas, 1) staffing, 2) recruitment/identification and maintenance of training providers and other key partners, 3) recruitment/identification, screening, and enrollment of participants, recruitments/identification, screening, selection of investors, and 4) intervention features and strategies across participating providers.*

There have been no changes to the key components of Women in Recovery's intervention model and the core implementation team remain intact.

6. *Include an assessment of the value to the federal government as discussed and defined in Section 4.f.ii, Outcome: Outcomes Valuation. If outcomes were not evaluated during this reporting period, enter N/A.*

NA

7. *Are there additional topics or information not discussed above that the independent evaluator would like to highlight regarding this project and/or other areas?*

In addition to the external evaluation work related to the outcome valuation study, WestEd and WIR have engaged in refining their existing logic model to align it with their model, including the anticipated outputs and outcomes to serve as a tool for implementation monitoring and continuous improvement.