

## LEVEL ONE EVALUATION REQUIREMENT

### Guidelines for the Local Evaluation Plan and Local Evaluation Report

For the Adult Reentry Grant program, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) requires grantees to complete a **Level One Evaluation** of their grant-funded project. A Level One Evaluation focuses on achievement of the project's goals and objectives. Demonstration of completing this requirement will require the submission of two documents, a Local Evaluation Plan and a Local Evaluation Report. Both are described below along with their due dates.

- **Local Evaluation Plan (LEP)** – A written document that describes the data collection, management, and analysis and reporting plan that will be implemented to ensure that achievement of the project's goals and objectives can and will be assessed. Ideally it should be developed before the project starts or during project implementation, before services or activities begin. **It is due by 5 p.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**
- **Local Evaluation Report (LER)** – A written document that provides the interpretation of various data elements intended to assess whether the project was successful in achieving its goals and objectives. **It is due by 5 p.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2028.**

These guidelines identify the minimum required content that must be included within each document, respectively. LEPs and LERs are sent to [ARGCohort4@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:ARGCohort4@bscc.ca.gov).

## LOCAL EVALUATION PLAN

### Cover Page

The cover page provides a descriptive report title and identifies the grantee(s), author(s), project period, and funding source.

### Project Overview

This section provides a concise overview of the project's activities, services, or interventions, emphasizing their relevance to the target population (if applicable). The information provided should focus on the essential information necessary to understand the project's goals and objectives (next section). It should not describe the need for the project. This section shall not exceed two (2) pages in length.

### Data Collection Plan

For each of the project's goals and associated objectives, this section identifies the data elements, including their source and frequency of collection, that will be used to measure their achievement. To complete this section, first use the table template provided (see example below) to list each of the project's goals and associated objectives as documented in the grant agreement.<sup>1</sup> One table template should be used

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<sup>1</sup> The goals and objectives shall be those within the grant agreement unless changes were preapproved by the assigned BSCC Field Representative.

for each goal and its associated objectives. Next, complete each table by listing, on separate rows, each distinct data element that will be collected to measure achievement toward the respective goal or its objective(s). For each data element, use the remaining columns to identify the data source, frequency of data collection, and the goal or objective that is the target. Definitions for these terms follow.

- *Data element* – a basic unit of information, or data, to be collected that has a unique meaning (e.g., gender, race, city, age, arrest date, graduation rate). Please note that the data elements must be logically related to the respective goal or objective it is intended to assess.
- *Data source* – the location from which the data element originates (e.g., intake form, case management system, standardized assessment, interview, focus group, MOU with partner agency).
- *Frequency of data collection* – defines how often the data element will be collected or pulled from the data source (e.g., at enrollment, at project/program exit/completion, every 6 months, annually, quarterly, during case management sessions, at course completion).
- *Target* – the goal or objective(s) that the data element is intended to assess.

#### Data Collection Plan for Goal X (Table Template)

| Goal X:      |               |              |                         |                                                                         |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Objective a: |               |              |                         |                                                                         |
| Objective b: |               |              |                         |                                                                         |
| Objective c: |               |              |                         |                                                                         |
| Objective d: |               |              |                         |                                                                         |
|              | Data Elements | Data Sources | Frequency of Collection | Target                                                                  |
| 1.           |               |              |                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Goal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Objective(s): |
| 2.           |               |              |                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Goal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Objective(s): |
| 3.           |               |              |                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Goal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Objective(s): |

#### Data Management

This section provides a concise description of the process that will be used to acquire, validate, store, protect, and monitor the data elements identified in the section(s) above. The description shall not exceed one-page and should, at a minimum, include:

- Identification of who is responsible for implementing the data collection plan(s).
- Detail data sharing agreements with external partners, if applicable.
- How the data will be monitored throughout the duration of the project and adjustments, if needed, will be identified and made in a timely manner to the data collection plan(s).
- How incomplete or inconsistent data will be identified and corrected.
- Where the data will be stored and kept secure.

#### Data Analysis and Reporting

This section provides a concise description of the process that will be used to analyze and present the data in a meaningful way. The description shall not exceed one-page and should, at a minimum, include:

- Identification of who is responsible for analyzing the data.
- How the data will be used to determine achievement of the goal(s) or objective(s) (e.g., comparison between two points in time).
- The analytical tools that will be used (e.g., Excel, Sheets, SPSS, SAS, R).
- Identification of who is responsible for communicating the findings and writing the LER.

## LOCAL EVALUATION REPORT

### Cover Page

The cover page provides a descriptive report title and identifies the grantee(s), author(s), project period, and funding source.

### Project Overview

This section provides a concise overview of the project's activities, services, or interventions, emphasizing their relevance to the target population (if applicable). The information provided should focus on the essential information necessary to understand the project's goals and objectives (next section). It should not describe the need for the project. This section shall not exceed two (2) pages in length.

### Goal Achievements

For each of the project's goals, this section(s) should highlight the most important results and analyses of the data elements collected that describe the extent to which the goal was achieved. Follow the results with a brief narrative that provides necessary context to understand the findings. The report writer can decide the proper heading(s) for this section(s). That is, rather than "Goal Achievements" as a single heading and section, a heading that is appropriate for each goal and its achievement can be used to organize the report (e.g., "Recidivism was Reduced by 50 Percent", "85 Percent of Participants Actively Engaged in Treatment"). The goals and objectives of the project should be clearly provided either within the text of this section or by providing the data collection tables from the LEP as an appendix.<sup>2</sup>

### Discussion

This section is the final portion of the report and provides a holistic description of the meaning, importance, and relevance of the achievements reported. The content may also include a discussion of limitations, challenges, recommendations for future projects, and lessons learned. This section shall not exceed one (1) page in length.

### Grantee Highlight

This section provides the grantee the opportunity to share a brief, visually appealing highlight or success story that provides additional information related to the project's

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<sup>2</sup> These should be the original goals and objectives for the project as defined in the project's proposal unless they were modified with the approval of the assigned BSCC Field Representative. If they were modified, indicate so and provide a brief explanation for the modification.

success over the grant cycle. Optional graphs, charts, or photos may be included.<sup>3</sup> This highlight may be included in a statewide report for the grant program. While every effort will be made to include these in a statewide report, inclusion in the report is not guaranteed. This section shall not exceed one (1) page in length.

**Appendix (Optional)**

The appendix(ices) may be provided to present the Data Collection table for each goal from the Local Evaluation Plan. Other content may be provided as appropriate.

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<sup>3</sup> The BSCC will only accept photographs in which all persons depicted are over 18 years of age and have consented to both being photographed and to the use and release of their image. By submitting photographs to the BSCC, the submitter acknowledges that all approvals have been obtained from the subjects in the photograph(s) and that all persons are over 18 years of age. Further, by submitting the photographs, the submitter irrevocably authorizes the BSCC to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute the photographs for purposes of publicizing BSCC grant programs or for any other lawful purpose. All photographs submitted will be considered public records and subject to disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act.