

“Explore the ACE Evaluation Database” Webinar Questions and Answers

Hosted April 15, 2020

1. **What are the relationships between the [Leaders in Equitable Evaluation and Diversity \(LEEAD\) Program](#) and the [Advancing Culturally-responsive and Equitable \(ACE\) Evaluation Network](#) to the Equitable Evaluation Initiative (EEI) led by Jara Dean-Coffey, and the Funder and Evaluator Affinity Network (FEAN), led by Equal Measure and Engage R&D?**

We believe [culturally responsive and equitable evaluation](#) (CREE) should be infused in every aspect of evaluation. We are not the only organization/initiative that promotes equitable evaluation, and we have had discussions and formed partnerships with many sister-initiatives, including, but not limited to [EEI](#), [FEAN](#), [AEA](#), [CREA](#) and more!

2. **To what extent does the database include evaluators with global experience or who are based in the global South (outside of the US)?**

The ACE Evaluation Network Database does include evaluators who work internationally, although due to limitations in website space and size, we couldn't list every country. However, you can filter to search for evaluators who are available to work “internationally.” Relatedly, you can also search by languages in the keyword search box, such as “Spanish.”

3. **Are there features in the database that speak to references or endorsements from former or current clients?**

All ACE Evaluation Network Members apply through our [Call for Qualifications](#) (CFQ). As part of the CFQ, we ask that applicants speak to lived experiences, and CREE knowledge. We also require two references, and we check them prior to accepting members into the ACE Evaluation Network. In terms of other references, we encourage funders of evaluation to connect with ACE Evaluation Network Members directly for more information regarding former/current clients.

4. Is this a resource solely to find an evaluator, or could larger firms search to partner with smaller businesses that provide evaluation services?

Yes, you can use the ACE Evaluation Network Database to partner with other evaluation businesses. The ACE Evaluation Network is comprised of members that are individual consultants or are a part of small, medium or large firms/organizations. While membership is limited to the person who applied through our CFQ, we understand that he/she/they might be a part of a larger team. You can view the size of the firm by searching for and looking under the “Capacity” heading on the evaluator’s profile, which indicates the number of staff and budget amount the evaluator is working with. Skill-sets reflected in the “Experience” section of the profile may also be attributed to the person or the team/firm, indicated directly below the section header.

5. What if I identify as an evaluator — could I sign up to the ACE Evaluation Network Database to help me enhance my (or my firm’s) evaluation capacity?

Absolutely! We are encouraging not only funders of evaluation, but evaluation partners to sign up to access the ACE Evaluation Network Database. Our own members use the database to find other evaluators because they recognize the value in bringing different skill-sets together, and partnering with other evaluators/evaluation firms on proposals.

6. How often is this database updated?

When an evaluator applies and is accepted to the ACE Evaluation Network, their database profile is generated from the application they filled through our CFQ. As Member, all Members are asked (and prompted) to update their profiles at least once a year — and evaluators are encouraged to update as often as they would like! Those updates will go live on the database once those changes are saved.

7. What are the privacy settings for funders?

Funders of evaluation need to be logged into their account in order to visit the Database, which means you will need a username and password to access the ACE Evaluation Database. As of right now, your information, as a funder of evaluation, is private and not open for searches. We also do not share your personal information. At times, we may share aggregated information (i.e. how many funders of evaluation have signed up to access our database), but no personal information about you/your organization is shared.

We are having discussions around creating a funder of evaluation database at some point, when looking at equity considerations that come up with the current setup. If and when we we create such a database, we would not release your information without your knowledge and consent.



8. Can you select multiple skills and experiences in the search?

Yes! You can do a layered search to select multiple skills. On a Mac computer, hold the “command” key; on a PC, hold the “option” key. To select multiple consecutive options, hold down the “shift” key and click the first and final option. You can use these multiple-selects in any of the scrolling lists in the search.

9. Can you share any metrics about the value add for evaluators (partnerships created, bids won, supports provided) for the members (number evaluations procured, increased quality of evaluation)?

We are working with the website developer to collect these metrics. Prior to the ACE Evaluation Network Database’s existence, referrals to the ACE Evaluation Network came to us via email, which was easier to track. Now that we have a database, we would like to build functionality that allows us to track these relationship — but as of right now, the best way we are tracking these data is through our Year End Survey.

Based on our last Year End Survey, 54% of Network Members who pursued an opportunity were awarded it in 2019! However, the response rate for this survey was ~30%, so it isn't a perfect picture of what transpires through our site.

We’ll also add that this year (2020) is a year of visibility and value. We are asking all funders of evaluation who are pursuing an equity agenda to visit the database. As a funder of evaluation, we want to receive your feedback: what is working about the ACE Evaluation Network Database; what are some obstacles; how can we improve? We urge you, once you sign up, to please give send us feedback by emailing us at team@expandingthebench.org.

10. How else may I push RFP and contracting opportunities to the ACE Evaluation Network Members?

We encourage funders of evaluation to offer funding offers, training programs, job positions, and other opportunities exclusively for ACE Evaluation Network Members, which you can do by emailing us at team@expandingthebench.org.

To post for a broader audience, through our Expanding the Bench website, you can visit the Opportunities Tap and click the “[Submit an Opportunity](#)” button. You can also find this submission page from the “Got an offering?” boxes on the right side of your screen from the [Funding Opportunities](#), [Job Board](#), and [Professional Development](#) pages.

