



January 31, 2022

Re: Supporting and Prioritizing Evaluation in the President's Management Agenda's Learning Agenda

Deputy Director for Management Jason Miller –

The American Evaluation Association (AEA) applauds the Office of Management and Budget's interest in building evidence to support management priorities as reflected in the draft President's Management Agenda (PMA) Learning Agenda. The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act ("Evidence Act", P.L. 115-435) directs agencies to create agency-wide Learning Agendas, and we are pleased to see that the PMA also demonstrates the importance of establishing processes to support evidence-informed decision-making across key presidential and administration priorities.

On behalf of AEA's members, we strongly encourage the incorporation of evaluation as part of the methodologies used to answer the questions identified in the PMA Learning Agenda. Evaluation is a central component of evidence building. AEA further recognizes that a range of types of information and knowledge constitute evidence. We would like to reiterate the complementarity across performance measures, statistical analysis, management information, operational analysis, and program evaluation. Each provides important insights relevant to decision-makers and will also bring value to achieving the goals of the PMA.

In the three years since the enactment of the Evidence Act, federal evaluation capacity has improved significantly. AEA is encouraged by this tremendous progress and applauds the efforts of the OMB staff and the evaluation officials across the Executive Branch who have worked to ensure that evaluation activities are increasingly deployed to help fulfill agency missions and improve operations. AEA is optimistic that by prioritizing evaluation within the PMA Learning Agenda, OMB can further encourage effective implementation of the Evidence Act and ensure that evaluation is both a key component of federal decision-making going forward and truly recognized as a core function of government.

Sincerely,

Veronica Olazabal
President
American Evaluation Association