



Research & Evaluation

Federal programs are dynamic and each bears a unique set of historical and contextual factors that influence daily operations. At Ripple Effect, we know that understanding these factors is imperative when designing an effective research or evaluation study. Thus, we customize studies to meet our partners' organizational needs as well as broader contexts as an organization's political, economic, and cultural environments. Our work is thorough, precise, and viable.

Ripple Effect's research projects provide an in-depth examination of critical questions that are of interest to our partners, while evaluations measure the effectiveness and efficiency of programs. Both types of projects lead to increased accountability, informed strategic planning, and effective decision-making. We work collaboratively with clients to ensure our studies culminate in actionable recommendations and the real-world application of study findings.

Capabilities:

PROCESS & OUTCOMES EVALUATIONS

- Feasibility studies, needs assessments, and impact assessments
- Written evaluation plan and logic model development
- Multi-method data collection and triangulation
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- Technical reports, publications, infographics, and presentations

SURVEY DESIGN & ANALYSIS

- Questionnaire development
- Instrument testing
- Online, phone, as well as paper and pencil distribution
- Data tracking and management
- Descriptive and multivariate analyses

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

- Structured and semi-structured interview guide development
- In-depth interview and focus group facilitation
- In person, phone, and virtual options
- Content analysis of documents and media
- Thematic, grounded theory, and phenomenological analysis

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA ANALYSIS

- Portfolio analysis
- Data identification, extraction, and cleaning
- Database creation and management
- Analysis of large-scale administrative and secondary datasets

PUBLIC COMMENT MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

- Federal docket management
- Drafting of Requests for Information (RFI)
- Qualitative analysis of public comments
- Comment aggregation and interpretation

Support All Phases of the Research & Evaluation Process

STUDY DESIGN

- Study question development
- Planning tools
- Stakeholder feedback and buy-in
- Assessing available resources
- OMB, PRA, and IRB clearances

DATA COLLECTION

- Mixed-methods
- Records and case study reviews
- Surveys
- Interview and focus groups
- Secondary administrative data

ANALYSIS

- Quantitative
- Qualitative
- Content analysis
- Data triangulation and synthesis
- Data interpretation

REPORTING

- Technical reports
- Issue briefs
- Infographics
- Presentations
- Scholarly publications

Research & Evaluation Clients

- Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - > Office of the Director, Office of Extramural Research (OER)
 - > Division of Biomedical Research Workforce (DBRW)
 - > National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
 - > National Cancer Institute (NCI)
 - > National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

Contract Vehicles

- GSA Professional Services Schedule (PSS):
 - > GS-10F-0365T
 - > Option periods through 2027
 - > Integrated Consulting Services (SIN 874-1)
 - > Program Management (SIN 874-7)
- NIH BPA - HSN263200800077B

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Our Experience

Our highly endorsed Research & Evaluation staff have met rigorous academic qualifications and possess expert-level capabilities in a variety of fields, with a strong focus on science, public health, and applied health programs. They have conducted dozens of small- and large-scale studies for broad-ranging Federal government stakeholders.

Program Evaluation at National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Ripple Effect supports the evaluation functions of the Strategic Planning and Evaluation Branch (SPEB) at NIAID, which provides institutional planning, evaluation, and policy analysis leadership to advance NIAID's mission. Ripple Effect collaborates with a multidisciplinary NIAID team to evaluate processes and outcomes of programs spanning immunology and immunogen discovery, antibacterial resistance, flu research, HIV, and more. For each program, Ripple Effect conducted data-based portfolio analyses, network analyses, and publication and bibliometric analyses, paired with qualitative interviews and surveys of staff and government, industry, and pharmaceutical stakeholders. Our findings and recommendations identified future improvements to the focus, structure, and governance of each program; this evaluation work has armed NIAID with actionable insights into improving the efficiency of their programs and helped NIAID define and measure the impact of key programs on the scientific field.

Outcome Assessment at the National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Ripple Effect completed a comprehensive process and outcome assessment of the long standing Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies (IMAT) program. The evaluation consisted of several data collection sources including NIH databases (IMPACII) and other secondary data sources (USPTO, PubMed, and SPIRES). Ripple Effect designed, conducted, and gathered data from a web-based survey of nearly 1,000 IMAT and comparison group grantees, to better understand outcomes and overall impact of novel technology investments. The survey was administered using Qualtrics, a web-based survey platform, and pilot tested both internally and externally prior to launch. Detailed and nuanced information was gathered in a qualitative interview format through more than 100 interviews of IMAT awardees and technology end-users. Knowledge gained from the interviews included an understanding of the influence of the application process, an understanding of why specific aims was not achieved in some cases, and feedback on program improvements. The technology end-users help satisfy a key information component, which is the impact of the grant on how and by whom the technology is currently being utilized. The final report included recommendations for the IMAT program, for NIH data collection in general, and for evaluation best practices.

CMS Public Comment Analysis

Ripple Effect supports CMS rulemaking to implement Federal healthcare legislation. For several years, Ripple Effect has provided expert technical assistance in parsing, coding, and analyzing thousands of public comments submitted in response to notices of proposed rulemaking. Our team of 60+ Master's and PhD-level analysts review and characterize submissions from advocacy groups, professional associations, academicians, industry leaders, and individuals. We perform training, quality control, and analysis to inform final CMS rulemaking decisions.