

# Forging Partnerships: Research & Evaluation Advising

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## Background

An evaluation firm sought collaboration with Everett Evaluation to strengthen the research activities in a U.S. Department of Education grant proposal. The initial collaboration focused on the evaluation section and advanced statistical analyses of the project. Everett Evaluation staff brought specialized training from the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) in both Group Design and Single Case Design standards. This expertise was crucial for crafting a robust research design and methodology section to meet WWC design standards, a key evaluation criterion for the grant reviewers.

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## Problem

The grant writing team required support to ensure their proposal met the rigorous WWC design standards, which are essential for securing funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The team needed guidance on designing the project and including necessary elements to strengthen their proposal.

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## Solution

Everett Evaluation provided support to fill this critical gap. One of their evaluators, trained by the WWC, collaborated with the entire grant writing team. They discussed the team's needs, provided options for project design, and outlined what to include in the proposal to meet WWC standards. Additionally, the evaluator spent time revising and writing the "Evidence Meets WWC Standards" section using their expertise, and encouraged the team to align this section with other aspects of the proposal to ensure consistency and compliance with WWC standards throughout.

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## Outcome

The expertise and guidance provided by Everett Evaluation were instrumental in strengthening the grant proposal. The evaluator's input filled a necessary gap for the original team, enhancing their ability to design a project that met rigorous standards. This collaboration highlights Everett Evaluation's ability to support various projects, including evaluation planning, research methodology planning, and evaluation and research advising. The grant writing team expressed confidence in their revised proposal, which not only met but exceeded the required standards, significantly increasing their chances of securing funding.