

# What does EvaluATE Need to Improve?

April 2016 (see separate snapshot for “What is EvaluATE especially doing well?”)

On the EvaluATE external evaluation survey, responders were asked, *What does EvaluATE need to improve?* Of the 232 respondents from the ATE community, 70 (30%) answered this question. These responses were analyzed for content and categorized. The top four categories were **webinars and workshops, resource materials, general areas, and outreach**. Sample comments are provided below (edited slightly for space). For a more complete description of the results, visit <http://www.evaluate.org/about/evaluation/>.

n=70

<p><b>Webinar &amp; Workshop Focus</b> 39%</p>	<p><i>“Webinars could be more focused on a specific topic. The few webinars I have attended seemed to be broadly focused.”</i></p> <p><i>“Webinars often seem too specific and not geared to the needs of my particular project.”</i></p> <p><i>“Webinars seems to be focused on evaluation planning and incorporation into grants. There is a smaller focus on applied evaluation.”</i></p> <p><i>“... the webinars can lean heavily on academic lingo and theory. That can be tough for those looking for concrete, practical, real-world strategies and practices.”</i></p> <p><i>“Delivering information in smaller, more manageable format.”</i></p> <p><i>“Webinar presenters/information appear to be mostly in life-sciences – need more models from math, physics, and technology disciplines.”</i></p> <p><i>“Depth of evaluation learning opportunities. 2-3 day, or week-long seminars/courses in ATE evaluation practices &amp; standards would be great learning opportunities.”</i></p>
<p><b>Range of Resource Materials</b> 36%</p>	<p><i>“I’d like to see more examples of evaluation reports and instruments.”</i></p> <p><i>“Address difficult issues like how to convince businesses to spend the time responding to surveys or questionnaires.”</i></p> <p><i>“I didn’t see the Directory of Evaluators in the current website so I assume it is gone, but perhaps there should be a vetted list as I did see a blog of a PI who did not have a positive experience with an evaluator.”</i></p> <p><i>“Resources that strengthen or clarify the role of evaluation in the targeted technician education research.”</i></p> <p><i>“Helping ATE project directors make the link between evaluation findings/reports and project outcomes.”</i></p> <p><i>“The fact that EvaluATE serves such diverse audiences is a challenge both to the EvaluATE and the audiences. It would be helpful if some of the materials were developed for particular audiences.”</i></p> <p><i>“Add some model evaluation reports or case studies on their website.”</i></p>
<p><b>General Areas</b> 7%</p>	<p><i>“Add more advanced topics for the seasoned evaluator.”</i></p> <p><i>“I think that increased mentoring-coaching of evaluators would be helpful, as would additional opportunities to network.”</i></p>
<p><b>Outreach</b> 6%</p>	<p><i>“Need to give short concise yet complete description of who EvaluATE is and why I as a PI am being contacted by them.”</i></p> <p><i>“... to have stronger encouragement of project Evaluators and/or PIs to use these resources for ongoing project training.”</i></p>

