

Community Colleges as Engines of Opportunity

Exploring the Impact of the TAACCCT
Program

20 YEARS OF

NEW AMERICA



What is TAACCCT?

- \$2 billion grant program created in 2010.
- Meant to increase the CCs capacity for providing training for in-demand jobs.
- Largest ever direct, federal investment in CCs.
- Funded over 200 grants to more than 700 colleges over 4 rounds in all 50 states.

Our Research

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The Goal

Using the final grant evaluations, we wanted look at the impact of TAACCCT and assess which strategies seemed to best support students.

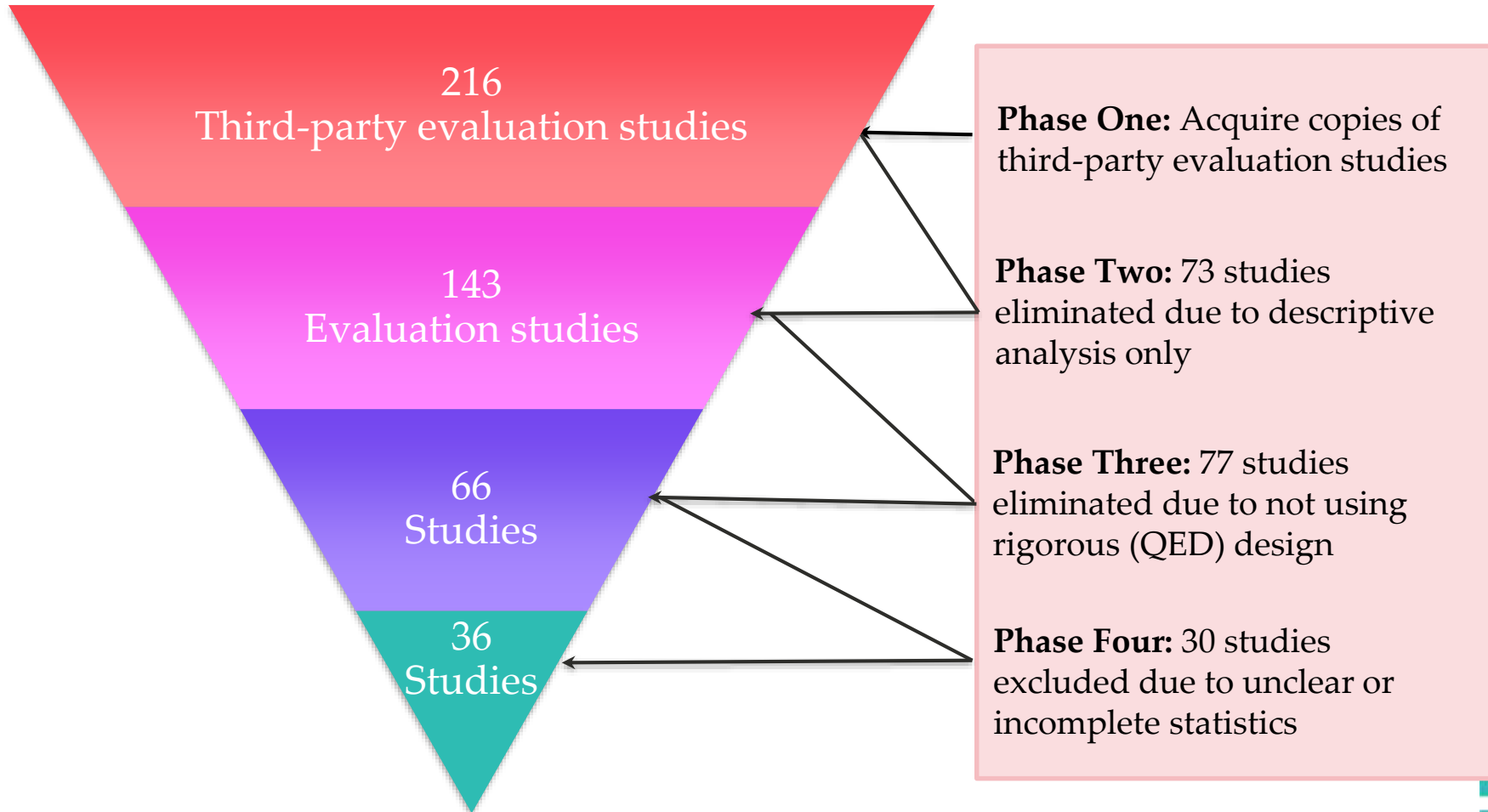
The Process

- Our team reviewed **216 final evaluations** of individual TAACCCT grants.
- Each evaluation was rated by 2 team members based on criteria like the quality of implementation and results.

The Process

- We used the top rated evaluations to:
 - inform a qualitative look at 2 common strategies implemented in the grants: prior learning assessment and student advising.
 - narrow down the evaluations that could be used in the analysis of the impact of the program.
 - inform our Blueprint recommendations.

Phases of Meta-Analysis Review



What We Found

TAACCCT participants were:

- Nearly twice (91%) as likely to complete a program or earn a credential as comparison students.
- 27% more likely to have positive labor market outcomes (employment or wage gain) than comparison students.

Our Blueprint

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Size & Scale

- *Eligible Grantees.* Single state consortium of CCs or large (>15,000 FTE) single CCs.
- *Grant Size.* Between \$10mn & \$15mn for a total of 50 grants per round.
- *Timeline.* 18 months between rounds. 4 year grants. 6 years for data collection.

Administration

- *A new Federal Office.* 5% for ED & DOL to administer and evaluate. Have the program administered by DOL and ED like School to Work.
- *State Role.* 5% for states to sustain & scale. Commitment to scaling, sustainability, & data.

Interventions and Activities

- *Focus Interventions.* Focus on student services first (for the first 25% of the grant). Then, focus on one or two other interventions.
- *Prohibited Activities.* Grant may not be used for wages in work based learning opportunities or to pay student tuition and fees.

Evaluation

- External implementation and sustainability evaluation for each grant.
- 30% of grantees receive extra funding if they demonstrate the ability to do an impact evaluation.