

Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Interventions Synthesis Supplement: Detailed Report List and Summary of Findings

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This supplement to the entrepreneurship and self-employment intervention topic area research synthesis, “What do we know about the effectiveness of interventions to support entrepreneurship and self-employment?” provides a brief description of the research findings for all reports reviewed in this topic area of the [Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research \(CLEAR\)](#). This supplement is a more detailed companion to the information provided in the concise entrepreneurship and self-employment interventions research synthesis, which is based on the results of CLEAR’s systematic review of causal research.

For a more detailed summary of each study—including an overview of the study design, intervention, findings, and considerations for interpreting the findings—please review the study’s profile online at the CLEAR entrepreneurship and self-employment topic area ([Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment | CLEAR \(dol.gov\)](#)) or by following the study-specific profile links below.

About the Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment topic area

The entrepreneurship and self-employment topic area includes reviews of studies examining the effectiveness of interventions that promote individuals’ entrepreneurship and self-employment. Examples of interventions include instruction or coursework related to entrepreneurship and services such as case management or assistance with obtaining financial assistance. The outcomes examined are employment (including self-employment), earnings, education and training, public benefit receipt, productivity (including measures of entrepreneurship and business start-up), and attitudes about starting a business. CLEAR assessed the strength of causal evidence provided in each study and summarized each study’s design, methods, findings, and the program examined using the Employment and Training Review Protocol ([Employment and Training Review Protocol | CLEAR \(dol.gov\)](#)). CLEAR’s search included all reports published from 2005 to 2014.

About the evidence base

CLEAR found nine causal studies of interventions providing education in business start-up and management or seed money to start a small business published from 2005 to 2014. Of those, two studies received a high causal evidence rating in CLEAR, which means that we have a good degree of confidence that the intervention examined in those two studies caused the measured impacts on outcomes. The remaining seven causal studies included in the systematic review received low causal evidence ratings in CLEAR. A study that receives a low causal evidence rating means that we cannot be confident that the estimated effects on outcomes are attributable solely to the intervention studied, and other factors likely contributed. One additional descriptive study was reviewed but not included in the synthesis

Key findings are divided by intervention category: education only and education plus additional services. This supplement lists each of the ten studies, describes how the studies map to the reports, and provides links to each study’s CLEAR profile summary to learn more.

Reports and Studies of Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Interventions

This section of the supplement provides a complete listing of the reports and studies in this topic area. The section is organized in subsections corresponding to the two intervention categories described above:

- A. [Education only](#)
- B. [Education plus additional services](#)

In each subsection, we provide a brief description of each intervention and cite the reports examining the intervention and the studies contained in each report, with links to profiles that summarize each study.

A. Education only

Overview: These interventions provided instruction or coursework on launching a business, entrepreneurship, product development, or business planning.

Included in the synthesis

Harfst, K. (2006). Assessing the impact of small business training on nascent entrepreneurs in Illinois (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertation and Theses database (UMI No. 3229827).

- Study 1: Education program focused on business development. *This study is included in the synthesis; however, it received a low causal evidence rating.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/assessing-impact-small-business-training-nascent-entrepreneurs-illinois-harfst-2006>

Harris, M., Gibson, S., & Taylor, S. (2008). Examining the impact of small business institute participation on entrepreneurial attitudes. *Journal of Small Business Strategy*, 18(2), 57-75.

- Study 2: Small Business Institute (SBI) courses (college-level courses focused on entrepreneurship attitudes). *This study is included in the synthesis; however, it received a low causal evidence rating.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/examining-impact-small-business-institute-participation-entrepreneurial-attitudes-harris-et-al>

Tam, H. (2009). How and to what extent does entrepreneurship education make students more entrepreneurial? A California case of the Technology Management Program (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database. (UMI No. 304852166).

- Study 3: Technology Management Program (TMP) (college-level program focused on entrepreneurship attitudes). *This study is included in the synthesis; however, it received a low causal evidence rating.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/how-and-what-extent-does-entrepreneurship-education-make-students-more-entrepreneurial>

B. Education plus additional services

Overview: These interventions included both an education component (for example, coursework, seminars, workshops) as well as other services ranging from business development training and information to support applying for loans to funding.

Included in the synthesis

Benus, J., McConnell, S., Bellotti, J., Shen, T., Fortson, K., & Kahvecioglu, D. (2008). Growing America Through Entrepreneurship: Findings from the evaluation of Project GATE. Columbia, MD: IMPAQ International.

- Study 1: Project Growing America Through Entrepreneurship (GATE) Demonstration (program focused on entrepreneurship training and business counseling)
 - No detectable impacts on earnings, employment, or public benefit receipt outcomes
 - Causal evidence rating: High
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/growing-america-through-entrepreneurship-findings-evaluation-project-gate-benus-et-al-2008>

Benus, J., Shen, T., Zhang, S., Chan, M., & Hansen, B. (2009). Growing America through entrepreneurship: Final evaluation of Project GATE. Washington, DC: IMPAQ International.

- Study 2: Project Growing America Through Entrepreneurship (GATE) Demonstration (program focused on entrepreneurship training and business counseling)
 - Favorable impacts on short-term employment outcomes
 - Unfavorable impacts on earnings and wages outcomes
 - Causal evidence rating: High
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/growing-america-through-entrepreneurship-final-evaluation-project-gate-benus-et-al-2009>

Conroy, J., Ferris, C., & Irvine, R. (2010). Microenterprise options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: An outcome evaluation. *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 7(4), 269-277.

- Study 3: Network180 microenterprise intervention (program focused on self-employment). *This study is included in the synthesis; however, it received a low causal evidence rating.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/microenterprise-options-people-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities-outcome-evaluation>

Fiet, J., Nixon, R., Gupta, M., & Patel, P. (2006). Entrepreneurial discovery by the working poor. *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship*, 11(3), 255-273.

- Study 4: Education program focused on developing business ideas. *This study is included in the synthesis; however, it received a low causal evidence rating.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/entrepreneurial-discovery-working-poor-fiet-et-al-2006>

Link, A., & Scott, J. (2012). Employment growth from public support of innovation in small firms. *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, 21(7), 655-678.

- Study 5: Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program (focused on promoting investment in and growth of small businesses). *This study is included in the synthesis; however, it received a low causal evidence rating.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/employment-growth-public-support-innovation-small-firms-link-scott-2012>

Watkins, T., Russo, J., & Ochs, J. (2008). Can students in technology entrepreneurship courses help foster start-ups by the unemployed? *Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development*, 15(2), 348-364.

- Study 6: Integrated Product Development (IPD) Program (college-level program focused on developing start-ups). *This study is included in the synthesis; however, it received a low causal evidence rating.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/can-students-technology-entrepreneurship-courses-help-foster-start-ups-unemployed-watkins-et>

Not included in the synthesis

Kerrick, S., Cumberland, D., Church-Nally, M., & Kemelgor, B. (2014). Military veterans marching towards entrepreneurship: An exploratory mixed methods study. *International Journal of Management Education*, 12(3), 469-478.

- Study 7: VetStart (Entrepreneurship education program for military veterans). *This is a descriptive study and was not included in the synthesis.*
 - Access profile here: <https://clear.dol.gov/study/military-veterans-marching-towards-entrepreneurship-exploratory-mixed-methods-study-kerrick-et>