

Q1 Abt Associates



- SNAP and food assistance policy
 - Klerman, JA and C Danielson, 2011. “The Transformation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*
 - Klerman, JA, P Wilde, S Bartlett, and L Olsho. Forthcoming. “The Short-Run Impact of the Healthy Incentives Pilot on Fruit and Vegetable Intake”. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*
 - Collins, AM, R Briefel, JA Klerman, et al.. 2013. *Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: Evaluation Findings for the Full Implementation Year*
 - Olsho, L, JA Klerman, S. Bartlett, and K Webb. 2013. “Impacts of the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program on Child Fruit and Vegetable Intake.” Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics*

Q1 Abt Associates



- Pre-TANF welfare reform
 - Grogger, J. K, L.A. Karoly, and J.A. Klerman. 2002. *Consequences of Welfare Reform: A Research Synthesis*. Final Report to DHHS-ACF, RAND DRU-2676-DHHS
 - Hotz, V.J., G. W. Imbens, and J.A. Klerman. 2006. “Evaluating the Differential Effects of Alternative Welfare-to-Work Training Components: A Re-Analysis of the California GAIN Program.” *Journal of Labor Economics*

Q1 Abt Associates



- Job Search
 - For DHHS/ACF: Design Options for Search Employment and Follow-on Job Search Assistance Evaluation (Klerman, Jacob, Robin Koralek, Ashley Miller, and Katherine Wen. 2013. “Job Search Assistance Programs: A Review of the Literature.” Abt Associates, Inc.)
 - For DOL/CEO: Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment Evaluation (REA)
- Job Skills Training
 - For DOL/ETA: H-1B Technical Skills Training, Green Jobs, Transitional Jobs
 - For DHHS/ACF: Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG), Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-Sufficiency (ISIS)

Q4 Randomization: *Yes!*



- Random assignment is (rightly) the “gold standard”
 - Mimics thought experiment of “impact”; compares outcomes for otherwise identical groups
 - Not clear that alternatives (i.e., quasi-experimental methods) estimate “impact” (see Hotz, Imbens, and Klerman, 2006)
- So, why not?
 - Feasible
 - Required sample sizes are smaller/cost is lower
 - Results are easier to explain and less subject to manipulation

Q4 Randomization: Details



- Randomize counties/offices to capture entry effects
 - For job search programs
 - Seems unnecessary for job skills training programs
- Otherwise, this does not seem so complicated or to require special approaches
- Sample size (and relatedly—program size, data collection strategy) is always an issue
 - Less so for more intensive programs (e.g., job skills training)
 - More so for less intensive programs (e.g., job search assistance)
 - More so for cluster random assignment (e.g., to capture entry effects)

Q7 Data Issues



- Many outcomes are covered by administrative data
 - e.g., SNAP caseloads/benefit costs, employment/earnings
- Other outcomes would require a survey
 - e.g., hunger/food security, other measures of hardship, broader definitions of income
- Survey costs drive evaluation cost and design
 - So choice of outcomes is critical
 - Specifying survey-only outcomes is likely to lead to an under-powered evaluation (i.e., missing important impacts/measuring them very imprecisely)

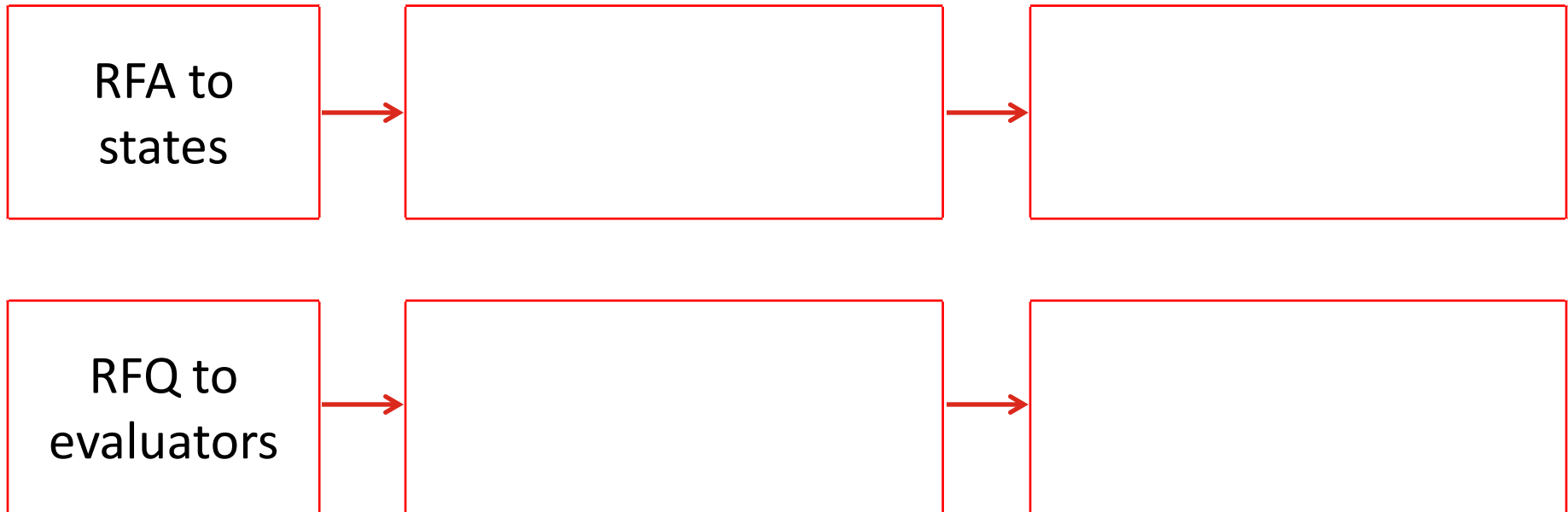
Q9 Structural Issues



FNS Issues

Proposals

Implementation



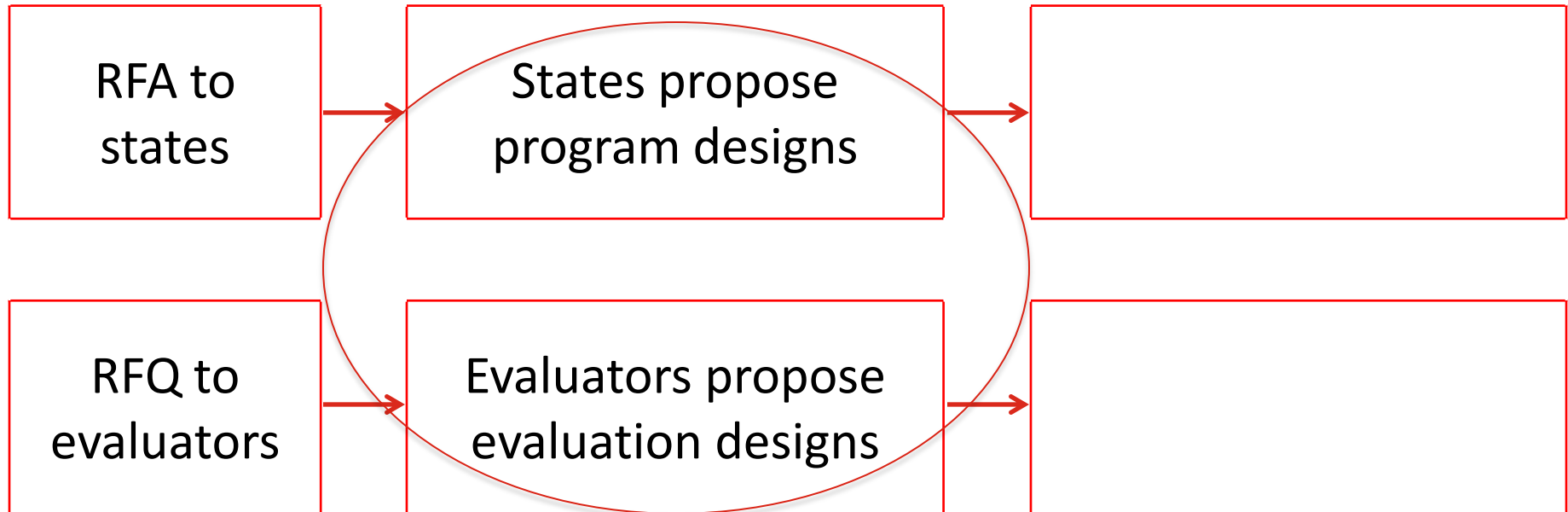
Inter-Relation of RFA to States and RFQ to Evaluators



FNS Issues

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*These proposals are inter-related:
States and evaluators need to know the
range of possible/allowable designs*

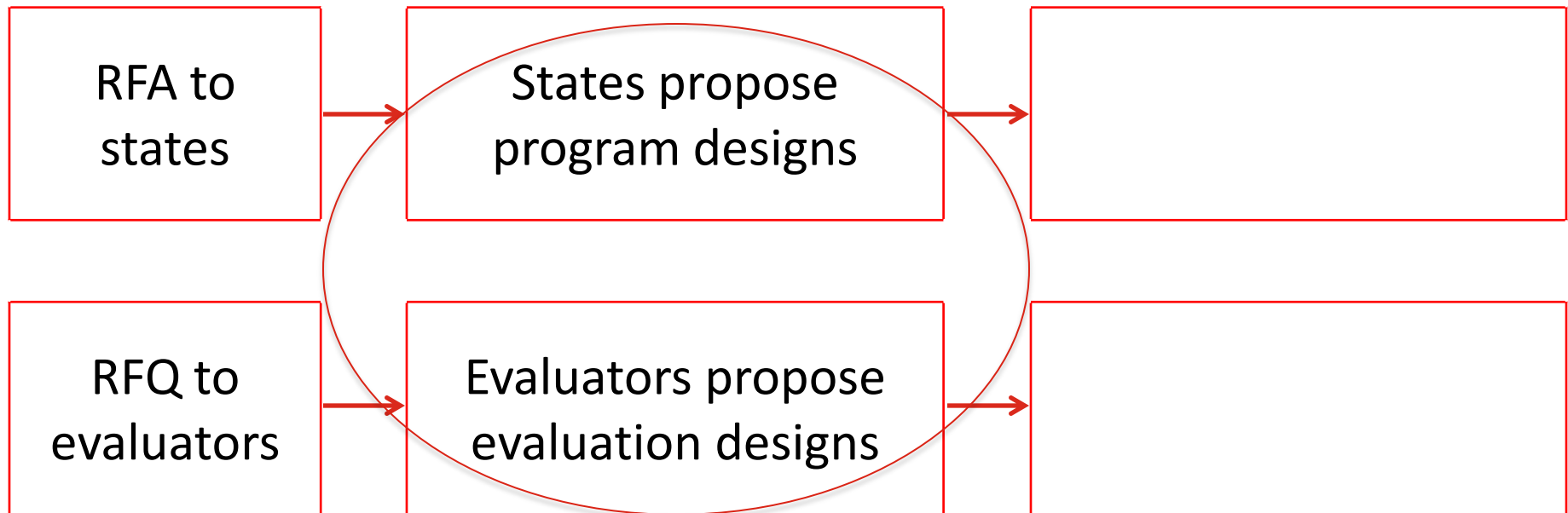
Inter-Relation of RFA to States and RFQ to Evaluators



FNS Issues

Proposals

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Random assignment needs to be built in ex ante and will affect (sometimes strongly) state implementation

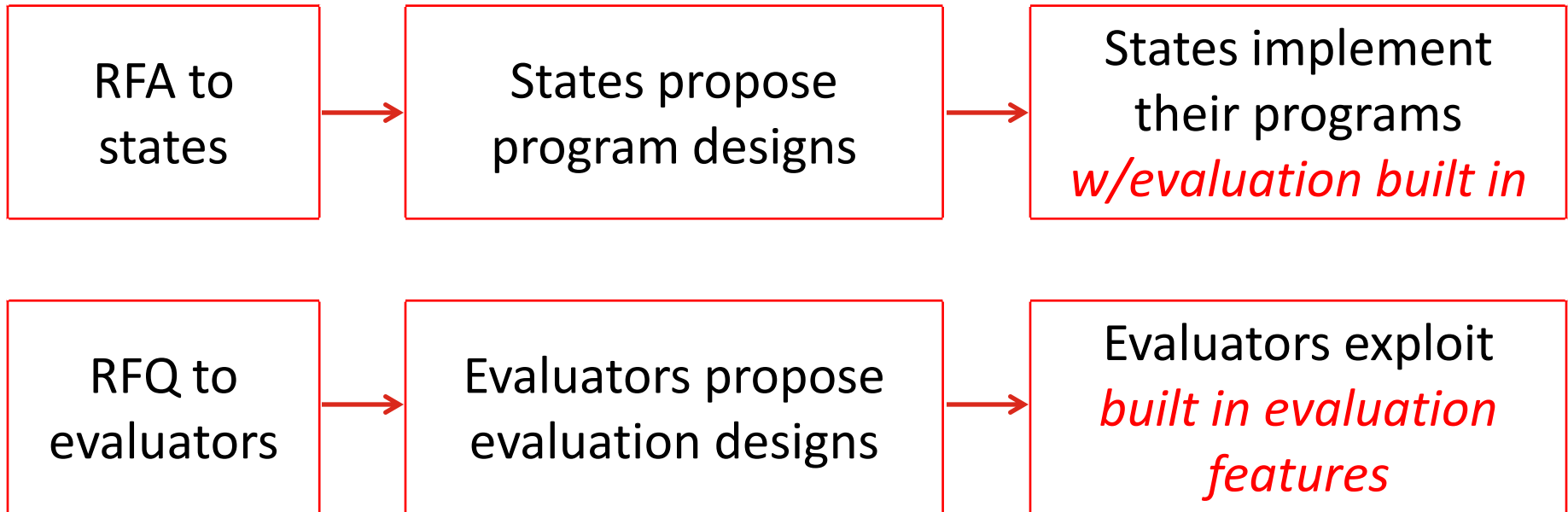
Inter-Relation of RFA to States and RFQ to Evaluators



FNS Issues

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From Bitter Experience, We Know a Lot about this



- Timeline is tight, so both
 - RFA to states for programs, and
 - RFQ to contractors for evaluations
- ... must go out soon
- But,
 - States need to know about the nature of the evaluations
 - Evaluators need to know about the nature of the programs
- Which is impossible!

We hope this session helps with that “dealock”!