

You are invited to participate in this research study, funded by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. The following information is provided in order to help you to make an informed decision about whether or not to participate. You are eligible to participate because you provide employment or support coordination services to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD)

The State of Pennsylvania is developing policies and regulations to enhance opportunities for people with IDD to work in competitive, integrated employment. The purpose of this study is to learn what employment opportunities and challenges exist for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Pennsylvania. In this survey, we are seeking your perceptions about the barriers to full participation in a competitive, integrated workforce that people with IDD face, and also the barriers that may inhibit the service system from providing the necessary supports.

The information we learn from this study will be used to identify the extent to which providers and supports coordinators believe these barriers present challenges to that goal. **This information will be shared with the state agencies and the legislature to inform the policies and regulations being developed.**

As such, it's extremely important that you complete the survey in a thoughtful manner, using the most accurate and reasonable estimates you can provide. Participation in this survey **should only take about 15 – 20 minutes to complete**. Your thoughtful participation will enable the study to provide nuanced and accurate information to inform policy and regulatory issues specific to rural areas.

Please know that the survey will be anonymous, and that we have no way of identifying who completes the survey, or what answers any one agency provides. Your participation in this study is voluntary. There are no risks to participating in this study. You are free to decide not to participate in this study or to withdraw at any time without adversely affecting your relationship with the investigators or IUP. Your decision will not result in any loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you choose to participate, you may withdraw at any time by simply exiting the survey. Your response will be considered only in combination with those from other participants. The information obtained in the study may be published in scientific journals or presented at scientific meetings but your identity will remain anonymous.

To take the survey, please click on this link: https://iup.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3m1ZQMXveq4LEF

If you have any questions, please call me at (724) 357-1291 or email me at sboser@iup.edu.

Project Director: Dr. Susan Boser, Professor, Department of Sociology, 102D McElhaney Hall, Indiana, PA 15705. Phone: 724/357-1291. Email address: sboser@iup.edu

This project has been approved by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (Phone: 724/357-7730).