



## The 2011 National Survey of State Welfare Agencies – Study Fact Sheet

### **Purpose of the study**

This survey is part of a larger study conducted by the Vocational Rehabilitation - Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (VR-RRTC) at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB). The Center is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). We seek to collect data on the characteristics of state welfare agencies and how they work with other federal, state, and local agencies that provide services for people with disabilities. For the purpose of this survey, “welfare agency” refers to the agency that administers cash assistance and corresponding employment services programs (ESP) in compliance with TANF and state regulations. The findings will be used to develop state-by-state maps of interagency partnerships and public employment service delivery, highlighting the role of welfare within this constellation.

### **Who else is participating?**

The survey is being sent to the state welfare agency director in each state, as well as the District of Columbia, and the territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Directors are asked to respond on behalf of their entire state / territory.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

You will be asked to complete a web-based survey questionnaire that contains three sections of questions about your state welfare agency. Alternative formats of the survey are available and special needs accommodations will be made upon request.

### **Who should answer the questions?**

This survey should be completed by the director of the state welfare agency, TANF Administrator, or a designee.

### **How the data will be used?**

Data from the survey will be analyzed to provide critical information on key characteristics of state welfare agencies and their respective programs. The findings will be used to develop state-by-state maps of interagency partnerships and public employment service delivery, highlighting the role of welfare within this constellation. You will receive a copy of the final results.

### **Confidentiality**

Participation in the survey is voluntary – you may skip any question you do not wish to answer or that makes you feel uncomfortable. The survey is being sent to the welfare agency director in each state – therefore each state will be identifiable in the final results. The answers you provide to these questions will not be kept confidential.

### **Contact for questions or more information**

Please contact Jody Ryan, Project Administrator, via phone at 617-287-4291, via e-mail at: [Jody.Ryan@umb.edu](mailto:Jody.Ryan@umb.edu), or via mail at: Institute for Community Inclusion, University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125 -3393.