

**Supporting Statement
for OMB Clearance
Request**

**Appendix J:
Instructional Staff
Interview Guides**

**Innovative Strategies for
Increasing Self-Sufficiency
(ISIS) – Follow-up Data
Collection**

OMB No. 0970-0397

March 2013

Submitted by:
Brendan Kelly
Office of Planning, Research
and Evaluation
Administration for Children
and Families
**U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services**

Appendix J: Instructional Staff Interview Guides

Script for interviews:

We are members of the Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-Sufficiency—ISIS—Implementation Research Team. We are visiting all of the ISIS sites for the implementation study. We are talking with individuals who help to implement and/or operate the programs included in ISIS as well as individuals in other organizations who are part of your program, either as service providers, referral partners, or other functions.

Today we'd like to ask about your program's design and the local context in which it operates, including any services control group members might access during their participation in the study. We would like to discuss if and how the program has changed over the course of the program's inclusion in ISIS. We would also like to hear how outreach, recruitment, intake, and random assignment and other activities are progressing. Neither your name nor the names of your colleagues we speak to will appear in any public document.

The interview will take about an hour. Your participation is voluntary. There are no penalties for choosing not to take part in the interviews. Although your answers are important to the study, you can refuse to answer any questions or stop the interview at any time without penalty. Information you provide will not be shared with others and information provided will not be attributed to you in any publications.

The Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Statement: This collection of information is voluntary and will be used to document changes in program operations or the provision of services, as well as implementation challenges. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to [Contact Name]; [Contact Address]; Attn: OMB-PRA (0970-XXXX).

Do you have any questions about the ISIS study or this implementation research visit before we begin?

Topic List for Second Round Site Visits

Changes to Program Design, Components, or Operation (and reason(s)/impetus for changes)

- Goals of the program
- Occupations or pathways addressed (added, changed)
- Target population (eligibility criteria, characteristics and outreach strategies)
- Assessment
 - Assessment tools used (academic and non-academic)
 - When administered and how used
 - Career plan development
 - Monitoring academic progress (process, staff roles and coordination in monitoring and addressing progress)
- Core Curriculum
 - Articulated Pathways
 - Courses required
 - Connections between courses on the career pathway
 - Completion requirements
 - Use of credits, ability to transfer credits
 - Exams or licenses needed to move into employment, assistance provided
 - Contextualization
 - Integration of applied content into basic skills instruction
 - Infusion of basic skills into occupational content
 - Connections between basic and applied courses
 - Acceleration
 - Reorganization of delivery of instruction and curriculum to allow completion in a shorter time period
 - Integration of basic skills students in college-level courses
 - Flexible Delivery
 - Schedule, location, hours and duration of courses, including open entry/open exit
 - Class size
 - Technology-supported distance learning
 - Self-paced instruction
 - Active learning
 - Instructional methods used
 - Variation by course content, instructor, class size
- Participant Supports
 - Participant supports added/modified/eliminated
 - Personal guidance and supports
 - Instructional supports
 - Social supports
 - Support services
 - Financial assistance
 - Retention strategies added/modified/eliminated

- Follow-up components
- Employment Connections
 - Role of employers in program (development of curriculum, hiring after program completion, key employers involved)
 - Job search and placement services
 - Work-based instruction
- Staffing
 - Instructor roles and responsibilities
 - Instructor qualifications and characteristics
 - Instructor evaluation
 - Instructor development activities
 - Program management
 - Morale and autonomy
- Participation Patterns
 - Trends
 - Barriers to participation
 - Facilitators to participation

Program Challenges/Successes

(Potential interviewees: program managers, staff, key partners)

- How program addressed challenges (if any)
- Hypotheses about factors contributing to challenges/successes

Evaluation

- Reflections on ISIS participation, evaluation in general
- Plans (if any) to evaluate program post-ISIS