

## **Your Informed Consent and Agreement to Participate in the 2021 Behavioral Health Workforce Provider Survey**

Thank you for your interest in participating in a survey of the licensed mental health and substance abuse disorder practitioner workforce. This survey is part of a research study directed by Clese Erikson, MPAff of the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity at the George Washington University (GW) and in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Please review this important information about your rights and protections to decide if you wish to participate in the study.

### **Participation is Voluntary**

Taking part in this study is entirely voluntary and you may choose not to participate or to stop participating in the study at any time. Your employment status will not be affected in any way should you choose not to take part or to withdraw at any time.

### **Study Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to better understand how many licensed clinical behavioral health specialists (licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed professional counselors) are seeing clients and the populations served. Your answers will be analyzed for scholarly research and for reports to inform behavioral health workforce planning.

### **What are the reasons you might choose to volunteer for this study?**

Your responses will provide important information on the behavioral health workforce. We will be providing the first 750 respondents to the survey in your state with a \$20 gift card as a thank you for your participation in this important study.

### **What are the reasons you might not choose to volunteer for this study?**

There is no physical risk to participants and minimal risk associated with unintended disclosure of interview responses. All information obtained will be kept confidential by the GW team. We will not disclose your identity or information that would identify you to anyone outside of the project without your permission.

### **Who can Participate in this Study?**

You must be 18 years old or older in order to participate in this study.

### **Time Required**

The 2021 Behavioral Health Workforce Provider Survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

### **Privacy and Confidentiality Protections**

All identifying information (e.g., email and IP addresses) will be separated from your responses immediately after you complete the survey. To maintain confidentiality, survey responses will be stored on secure, password-protected computer servers and data files will only be available to authorized members of the research team. All reports and published papers will only report aggregated survey results.

**Study Approval and Further Information**

This study has been reviewed and approved by the George Washington University Office of Human Research. Please contact Ms. Erikson, Principal Investigator (202-994-4122) or the Office of Human Research of George Washington University (202-994-2715) for further information about your rights as a research participant.

**Your willingness to participate in this research study is implied if you proceed.**