

Research and Evaluation Independence and Integrity

Applied Research Services, Inc.

The evaluation project director, (b)(6) will be responsible for ensuring the research and evaluation independence and integrity of the evaluation project. There are no personal or professional conflicts of interest to report between any members of the project team and any of the agencies, organizations, or entities involved with the project.

As with all projects at Applied Research Services, Inc., it is the responsibility of the project director(s) to ensure that standard ARS operating procedures are followed for the hiring and employment of project personnel. All ARS personnel are regularly fingerprinted by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and criminal history record check reports are maintained in a secure file cabinet. In addition, ARS enforces the use of Affidavits and Confidentiality Pledges for each individual project where confidential data is accessed by staff. Full vetting of all subcontractors and consultants is undertaken by the ARS co-founders and partners, (b)(6)

(b)(6)

We fully expect to submit the evaluation protocol to an Institutional Review Board (IRB) for approval and continued oversight, given the nature of the population and subject matter. We agree to abide by the conditions and protocols established and enforced by the IRB, and to submit in writing to the IRB any proposed changes in the research protocol.

For the proposed project, ARS has worked closely with many of the leadership team and key stakeholders, many for a number of years. We are confident in both the independence and integrity of our assembled research team and pledge our support to ensuring this high standard of professionalism is the theme of all evaluation tasks.