Editor: Anthony James, Ph.D.
Editorial Assistant: Chiquita Hughes
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio
jmfr@miamioh.edu

MARRIAGE & FAMILY REVIEW

State of Families Brief Report: Reviewer Guidance

Dear Reviewer:

Thanks for agreeing to review a State of Families Brief Report on a given geographical location. We have endeavored to choose reviewers who are familiar with the given geographical location through research or praxis in the field of family science.

Each reviewer is asked to rate the brief reports on four components pertaining to the organizational structure of the brief: 1) **introduction**, including the purpose and context of the brief, 2) **methodology (in terms of whether the rationale/explanations of which data were used to profile families in the given state are reasonable and informative)** 3) **summary of key findings (with special attention paid to whether the report accurately and thoroughly captures the issues facing families in the given state and the programmatic opportunities available to families in the state),** and 4) **conclusion**. The rubric below poses possible questions that reviewers may ask in rating each category. The State of Families Brief report can be up to 10 pages in length.

Introduction:

- Has the author established the purpose and aim of the brief?
- Has the author situated the geographical location in the context of the well-being of families?
- Has the author established the role of families as essential to the overall development of a community or nation?
- Does it clearly explain why the brief was necessary?

Methodology

- Has the author outlined the approach to this brief and outlined the data sources used, with due diligence to ensure the most current data on the geographical location?
- Are data presented in a clear and appropriate manner?
- Does the report provide a concise overview of family demographics (e.g., number of families, family structure, racial and ethnic diversity, marriage rates, divorce rates, family income, etc.) in the given [**select accordingly:** state, province, or country]

Summary of Key Findings

- Do findings include current challenges facing families and opportunities available to families to help them navigate the challenges?

Editor: Anthony James, Ph.D.
Editorial Assistant: Chiquita Hughes
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio
jmfr@miamioh.edu

MARRIAGE & FAMILY REVIEW

- Do the findings provide policymakers and practitioners with insights into the challenges faced by families?
- Do the findings consider resilience factors exhibited in families amidst the challenges faced by families?
- Do the findings offer insights that can guide the development of policies and programs to address challenges faced by families?

Conclusion

- Does the report help policymakers, practitioners and academics make informed decisions that promote healthy family function?
- Does the report identify limitations, explain particular vulnerabilities, and identify gaps in knowledge?
- Are implications for future research or suggested areas for further investigation included?

References

- Are there any key references missing?
- Are references accessible to academics and practitioners for further investigation?