5 Reasons to Consider Child Support Research Partnerships

1. **Develop valuable relationships.** States like Maryland and Wisconsin produce **timely, policy-relevant research** and data analysis that has both academic and policy interest through state university partnerships.

2. **Leverage funding.** Research, evaluation and analysis are **allowable child support activities**. State universities may meet the requirement for state matching funds through providing their services as an **in-kind contribution or committing matching funds.**

3. **Inform policy making.** Child support pass-through and distribution research from the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin led to significant policy development reflected in the reforms of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

4. **Advance knowledge.** A recent University of Maryland study found **former TANF recipients were more likely to return to welfare if they had not received child support.** These differences were most pronounced for those with incomes under $30,000 per year.

5. **Improve Kids' Lives.** Approximately **1 in 4 children** in the U.S. and **half of children living in poverty** are eligible for the child support program. Research that informs practice can lead to better outcomes for children and families.

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