

**PROCESS EVALUATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDED
UNDER NEW YORK CITY'S WELFARE REFORM INITIATIVE**

City of New York Human Resources Administration, Office of Policy and Program Analysis

October 2001 – April 2002

Project Summary: The enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PROWRA) of 1996, followed by passage of the New York State Welfare Reform Act (WRA) by New York State, provided local governments in New York State with the flexibility and resources to design and implement welfare reform initiatives. These landmark acts ended entitlement for cash assistance and ushered in lifetime limits on the receipt of welfare benefits and work requirements for individuals receiving public assistance. Critical goals of the legislation were to make public assistance (under New York's Family Assistance and Safety Net Assistance programs) temporary and to assist needy individuals (and their families) in making the transition from welfare dependency toward economic self-sufficiency. The City of New York had already embarked on reform of its welfare system prior to the enactment of federal and state legislation – for example, requiring able-bodied public assistance recipients to work. However, the scope and pace of change in the welfare system increased as the 1990s drew to a close.

The objective of this project was to conduct a process study of the New York City welfare reform effort, documenting the various program initiatives and administrative changes undertaken over the past few years. Capital Research Corporation staff played an integral part in conducting site visits to local welfare offices and employment service vendors, interviewing HRA administrators and staff, and preparation of the final report.

Reports:

D. Nightingale, N. Pindus, F. Kramer, J. Trutko, K. Mikelson, and M. Egner, *Work and Welfare Reform in New York City During the Giuliani Administration: A Study of Program Implementation*, The Urban Institute, prepared for the New York Community Trust and the New York Human Resources Administration, 2002.