In April 1996, the staff of the IACIR developed a survey to identify other advisory commissions and those issues being addressed by other state ACIRS. In an effort to learn from their experiences, the IACIR staff developed a questionnaire that requested information on successful and not so successful work plans, forms of communication, and legislative and budgetary approaches utilized by other ACIRS. While trial and error is also an important learning tool, the knowledge that will come from veteran ACIRs' practices may promote additional efficiencies.

The U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations provided IACIR with a directory of 22 intergovernmental contacts across the nation. The profiled state and local organizations, similar in purpose, structure, and function to the U.S. ACIR, received the 18-question survey (Appendix A). Massachusetts and Wisconsin informed us that their ACIRs were no long in existence, however, of the 20 remaining organizations, 12 responded to our survey, providing us with a 60 percent return rate. Most of the states responding expressed an interest in receiving the results of our survey.