



CAREGIVER SURVEY INFORMATION STATEMENT

RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT

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We are asking you to be in a research study. We are evaluating whether the HSYNC program is helpful in supporting youth housing stability. The purpose of this information form is to give you the information you will need to help you decide whether to be in the study or not. When we have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want to be in the study or not. This process is called “informed consent.” We will give you a copy of this form for your records.

You do not need to participate in this research study. If you decide to participate, you can also change your mind later and stop at any time. Participating in the study has very few risks. The greatest risks are that you may feel uncomfortable answering some of the questions in the survey. Our research team makes every effort to keep your information private and safe and we have never given away private information before. However, no research study can completely assure that your information will not be accidentally revealed. If your information is accidentally shared, it is possible that someone may see your answers to survey questions. This includes questions about your service engagement. The benefit of participating in the study is that your responses will help the community learn about what works to best to support safe and stable housing for youth. This may lead to improving current services in your community. You will also receive a \$20 gift card by participating.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

We are studying a new community program trying to prevent youth homelessness for youth involved in the juvenile court system. This program is called Project H-SYNC (Housing Stability for Youth in Courts). Your and your child's participation in this study will help the University of Washington evaluate the impact of the H-SYNC program. We are asking you to participate in the research study.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?

- If you agree to participate, you **will be asked to participate in a 15 minute survey**. You will receive the survey as a link in a text message, email or in the mail with a stamped addressed return envelope. You will have the option of mailing it back or completing the survey online at a secure website.
- For participating, you will be mailed, e-mailed, or texted a \$20 gift card upon completion of the survey.
- You may request to view a sample survey by contacting one of the researchers. We can post the survey online, mail, email, or verbally read the questions to you over the phone.
- **We will protect your privacy.** You will be assigned a study ID and this ID will be used instead of your name on all forms. All surveys will be viewed only by research staff at the University of Washington. We won't share your personal information or survey responses with anyone else. All surveys will be kept securely at the University of Washington offices.

HOW WILL YOU KEEP MY INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL?

We will protect your information in a number of ways.

- First, we will keep all information on a password protected computer at the University of Washington that is only open to members of the research team.
- We will also make up a study identification number for you that is not related to any other information. This number will be used in all databases and surveys that contain your responses instead of your name or any other personal information.
- We will not share your name or responses with anyone outside of the research team at the University of Washington. This means we will not share your responses with anyone at court, school or anyone else. When we write up the results of this study, we will report averages and other group data. We will not share whether you are participating in the study with the court.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS TO PARTICIPATING?

There is a chance that you may feel uncomfortable responding to particular questions or experience distress. You will be reminded in the survey instructions that you do not have to answer all questions and may stop filling out the survey at any time. There is a small chance that your responses may be accidentally revealed. This is most likely to happen while you are completing the survey (someone could look at your responses if you are completing the survey on paper in a public place, for example). Return envelopes will not have any personal identifying information on it and online surveys are secured by a password known only to the study team. If you think you've been harmed by this research, contact Dr. Sarah Walker right away at (206) 685-2197 or e-mail HSYNC@uw.edu.

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

There are no negative consequences for not participating in the study. You and your child can continue to attend or participate in all of the court activities that are offered.

HOW DO I BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING?

Some people benefit from studies like this by feeling good about helping discover better programs. You may benefit from the study in this way.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

You may refuse to participate and you are free to withdraw from this study at any time with no negative consequences.

You will receive a \$20 gift card for completing the survey.

Government or university staff sometimes review studies such as this one to make sure they are being done safely and legally. If a review of this study takes place, your records may be examined. The reviewers will protect your privacy. The study records will not be used to put you at legal risk of harm.

All of your information is confidential. We don't ask you any questions on the survey that we would have to report to the authorities. However, if we learn that you or your youth have thoughts of hurting or harming themselves or others, or that they are being abused or have been abused, we will need to report this to the authorities.

The information that we obtain from you for this study might be used for future studies. We may remove anything that might identify you from the information. If we do so, that information may then be used for future research studies or given to another investigator without getting additional permission from you. It is also possible that in the future we may want to use or share study information that might identify you. If we do, a review board will decide whether or not we need to get additional permission from you.

If your responses to surveys conducted in this study are requested by a court order, we are required to provide this information to the requesting legal authority.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

The University of Washington is receiving funding for this study from the Raikes and Block-Leavitt Foundations.

If you have questions later about the research or believe your child has been harmed by participating in the study, you can contact HSYNC@uw.edu. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject you can call the Human Subjects Division at (206) 543-0098.