



INFORMATION STATEMENT FOR YOUTH

RESEARCHERS

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RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT

We are asking you to be in this research study. This study is trying to understand how to help youth find or stay in stable places to live. Your participation in this study will help the University of Washington evaluate whether this program is acceptable to youth who take part in it.

You do not need to participate in this research study. Being in this study is up to you. If you decide to participate, you can also change your mind later and stop at any time. We will not tell anyone at the court whether or not you decide to participate. Participating in the study has very few risks. The greatest risk is that you may feel uncomfortable answering some of the questions in the surveys. Also, while our research team makes every effort to keep your information private and safe and we have never given away private information before, 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 or hear your answers to survey questions. The benefit of participating in the study is that your responses will help the community learn about what works best to support youth safe and stable housing. This may lead to improving current services. You will also receive a \$30 gift card by participating.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

We are studying a new community program that provides services and connections to services for youth involved in the juvenile court system who may need support with safe and stable housing. This program is called Project H-SYNC (Housing Stability for Youth in Courts). Your participation in this study will help the University of Washington determine whether H-SYNC is working.

WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO?

- If you agree to participate, you will be asked to provide feedback on your program experience via a phone interview. The interview will take about 30 minutes. It will be recorded and kept as a recording for up to six months after the interview. The interview will be transcribed into a written document with any names or identifying information removed. These transcripts will be kept on a secure server at the University of Washington. If you complete this phone interview, you will receive a \$30 gift card.
- You may request to view a sample list of interview questions by contacting one of the researchers. We can post the questions 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 responses will be viewed only by research staff at the University of Washington. We won't share your personal information or responses with anyone else. All responses 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 about you. Instead, the number will be a random combination of numbers and letters. This number will be used in all databases that contain your responses to the questions instead of your name or any other personal information. Your name and your answers will never be in the same physical place or in the same database on a computer.
- 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 and no names. We will not even 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. You do not have to answer all questions and may stop participating 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 phone interview (someone could overhear you). 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.com.

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

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

HOW DO I BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING?

Some people benefit from studies like this by feeling good about helping researchers and community agencies discover better programs to help youth.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

You may refuse to participate and you are free to stop being in the study any time without any negative consequences.

You will receive a \$30 gift card for participating in the phone interview.

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 do not ask you any questions on the survey that we would have to report to the authorities, like child abuse. However, if you report that you have thoughts of hurting or harming yourself or others, or that you are being abused or have been abused, we will need to report this to the authorities. If this happens, we will first call you to discuss your response and will determine at that point whether we need to call 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 you have been harmed by participating in the study, you can contact the research team at 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.