

Informed Consent to take part in a Human Research Study

KEY INFORMATION

Comparative Effectiveness of Single-Site and Scattered-Site Permanent Supportive Housing on Patient-Centered and COVID-19 Related Outcomes for People Experiencing Homelessness

You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Benjamin Henwood, Ph.D., at the University of Southern California (USC) and Lillian Gelberg, MD, at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), because you have been approved for supportive housing for people who have experienced homelessness. This study is funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Your participation is voluntary. After you read this form, which will tell you about the details of the study, you will have the chance to contact the research team and ask any questions that you may have. If you consent to participate, please sign this form by entering your name and date in the box at the end of this page.

A person who takes part in a research study is called a “research subject.” The use of “you” in this consent form refers to you as the research subject.

The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether or not you should participate. More detailed information is listed later on in this form.

Purpose of the Study

Why am I being invited to take part in a research study?

We have invited you to take part in a research study because you have been approved for supportive housing in Los Angeles County. To be eligible for this study, you must be: (1) an adult (aged 18+) with recent (past 12 months) lived experience with homelessness; (2) approved for supportive housing; (3) proficient in English; and (4) able to provide informed consent.

What should I know about being in a research study?

- Someone will explain this research study to you if needed.
- Whether or not you take part is up to you.
- You can choose not to take part.
- You can agree to take part and later change your mind.
- Your decision will not be held against you.
- You may discuss whether to participate with family, friends and/or your doctor.
- You can ask any questions before making a decision.

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Why is this research being done?

We are inviting you to take part in a research study because we are trying to compare how receiving either single-site or scattered-site supportive housing impacts quality of life, well-being, and health, including COVID-19 related outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

How long will I take part in this research?

Once you enroll in this study, we will arrange for you to receive a smartphone that is yours to keep when the study is over. The phones will come with an unlimited data plan that we will pay for throughout the length of the study. Once you receive the phone, we will ask you to use it to complete a survey that should take approximately 25 minutes to complete. A week after completing the baseline survey, we will notify you to complete a follow-up survey that should take approximately 20 minutes. You will be asked to complete the follow-up survey a total of 6 times over the course of the study. After completing your first follow-up survey, the timing of your second follow-up survey will be based on when you move into housing. While you are waiting to move-in, we will check-in with you over the phone weekly so that you can let us know the timeline for your move-in. You will be asked to complete the follow-up survey monthly once you move into your apartment for 4 consecutive months.

When it is time to complete a survey, we will notify you via text or phone call. We will remind you to complete the survey once a day for 5 days or until you complete the survey. You will be given the option to self-administer the surveys or complete them by interview over the phone with our study staff. If you do not complete a survey during a 5-day window, it will be considered missing. If you miss a survey on a given month, you can still complete future monthly surveys until the study is over, which is 4 months after you have moved into housing. You will always be able to skip any surveys or certain survey questions that you do not want to answer.

More detailed information about the study procedures can be found under the “*What can I expect if I take part in this research?*” section.

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me?

You may feel uncomfortable because you may be asked about sensitive topics. You do not have to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable. There is a small risk that people who are connected with this study will learn your identity or your personal information; however, steps will be taken to minimize this. If people not connected with the study learn about some of the sensitive information you provide, there is a chance that you could experience negative consequences. For example, in a highly unlikely situations, information you provide about illegal activity could result in you being charged with a crime. The research team may not be able to keep confidential any disclosure or endorsement of thoughts to harm yourself.

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More detailed information about the risks of this study can be found under the “*What are the risks and possible discomforts?*” section.

Will being in this study help me in any way?

We cannot promise any benefits to you or others from your participation in this research.

What happens if I do not want to be in this research?

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You can decide to participate or not to participate. Your relationship with USC, UCLA, or your housing provider will not be affected whether or not you participate in this study.

Your alternative to participating in this research study is to not participate.

DETAILED INFORMATION

To follow, please find more detailed information about this study than already provided above.

About this consent form

Please read this form carefully. It provides important information about participating in research. You have the right to take time in making decisions about participating in this research. If you have any questions about the research or any portion of this form, you can ask us at any time. If you agree to participate in this research you will be asked to sign this form online. A copy of the form will be sent to you for your records.

Who can I talk to?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, please feel free to contact Benjamin Henwood, Ph.D.: USC School of Social Work, (213) 821-6449 or bhenwood@usc.edu

This research has been reviewed by the USC and UCLA Institutional Review Board (IRB). If you wish to speak with someone from the IRB, you may contact the USC IRB at (323) 442-0114, by email at irb@usc.edu, or by mail at the following address:

USC Institutional Review Board (IRB)
1640 Marengo St., Suite 700
Los Angeles, CA 90033

The IRB is available between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday. Contact the IRB for any of the following:

- If your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team,
- If you cannot reach the research team,

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- If you want to talk to someone besides the research team,
- If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or
- If you want to get information or provide input about this research.

Participation is voluntary

You are invited to take part in this research because you have been approved for supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. It is your choice whether or not to participate. If you chose to participate, you may change your mind and leave the study at any time. Refusal to participate or stopping your participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

How many people will take part in this research?

There could be as many as 800 people who take part in this research.

What can I expect if I take part in this research?

Once you enroll in this study, we will arrange for you to receive a smartphone that is yours to keep when the study is over. The phones will come with an unlimited data plan that we will pay for throughout the length of the study. Once you receive the phone, we will ask you to use it to complete a survey that should take approximately 25 minutes to complete. We will ask you about demographic characteristics, physical and mental health status, health services, residential stability, abuse or neglect, homelessness history, and housing preferences.

A week after completing the baseline survey, we will notify you to complete a follow-up survey that should take approximately 20 minutes. We will ask you about your housing status, COVID-19-related concerns, risk perception, ways that you protect yourself (such as handwashing and social distancing), outreach and testing, exposures and symptoms, access to care, substance use, and well-being. You will be asked to complete this follow-up survey a total of 6 times over the course of the study. After completing your first follow-up survey, the timing of your second follow-up survey will be based on when you move into housing. While you are waiting to move-in, we will check-in with you over the phone weekly so that you can let us know the timeline for your move-in. You will be asked to complete the follow-up survey monthly once you move into your apartment for 4 consecutive months.

When it is time to complete a survey, we will notify you via text or phone call. We will remind you to complete the survey once a day for 5 days or until you complete the survey. You will be given the option to self-administer the surveys or complete them by interview over the phone with our study staff. If you do not complete a survey during a 5-day window, it will be considered missing. If you miss a survey on a given month, you can still complete future monthly surveys until the study is over, which is 4 months after you have moved into housing.

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You may also be provided an opportunity to participate in 2 additional components of the study. First, you may be asked to participate in an open-ended interview conducted by our staff. These interviews will be completed over the phone and audio recorded. Questions will cover your experience in supportive housing and how you have managed COVID-related concerns. If you are selected and choose to participate, we will ask that you complete an interview on 3 different occasions: when you first enroll in the study, 3-months, and 6-months later. Second, you may also be selected to participate in additional short surveys that are conducted in between your monthly follow-up surveys. If you are selected for this component of the study, we will provide more details so that you can decide whether you want to participate in this additional component of the study. It will be your decision whether you choose to take part in these additional components of the study and your decision will not impact your ability to complete the monthly follow-up phone surveys described above.

What are the risks and possible discomforts?

You may feel uncomfortable because you may be asked about sensitive topics. You do not have to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable. While we keep your information confidential, there is a small risk that people who are connected with this study could learn your identity or your personal information; however, steps will be taken to minimize this. If people not connected with the study learn about some of the sensitive information you provide, there is a chance that you could be negatively impacted.

You will be asked questions about activities that are illegal. Although highly unlikely, if your information becomes public, it might result in the loss of a job or job opportunity, housing or access to housing, or criminal or civil liability.

In the event that you tell the research staff that you are thinking about killing yourself, the research staff will ask you more questions about these thoughts. Depending on how intense your thoughts are or how much you feel like hurting yourself, the research staff may provide you with referrals for treatment, work with you to contact your personal physician, trusted family member, or therapist to discuss your thoughts of harming yourself; or work with you on a plan that may include getting you to a hospital for safety. In such cases, the research team may not be able to keep confidential any disclosure or endorsement of thoughts to harm yourself.

Are there any benefits from being in this research study?

We cannot promise any benefits to you, or other from taking part in this research.

What happens if I do not want to be in this research?

Participation in research is completely voluntary. You can decide to participate or not to participate. Your relationship with USC, UCLA, or your housing provider will not be affected whether or not you participate in this study.

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Your alternative to participating in this research study is to not participate.

What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?

You can leave the research at any time. Your decisions will not be held against you. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study.

If you withdraw from the study, you will no longer be able to participate in the study. No new information or samples will be collected about you or from you by the study team. Your withdrawal has no effect on the lawfulness of the data processing that occurred prior to your withdrawal.

It is possible that the investigator may ask you to stop the study before it is finished.

Will I be compensated for participating in this research?

If you participate in this research, you will receive a cell phone at no cost to you. The phone is yours to keep once the study has been completed. Your phone will have an unlimited data plan at no cost to you for 5 months after you move into your apartment. In exchange, we ask that you use this phone to complete a baseline survey followed by 6 follow-up surveys. For follow-up surveys only, you will receive compensation in the form of a \$15 electronic gift card for each follow-up survey you complete. You can receive up to \$90 in electronic gift cards if you complete all the follow-up surveys.

If you are selected and choose to participate in open-ended interviews that are conducted by our staff and are audio recorded, you will receive a \$50 incentive for each phone interview, for an additional total possible compensation of \$150.

If you are selected to participate in additional short surveys that are conducted in between your monthly follow-up surveys, we will provide you more information about the compensation at that time so you can decide whether or not you want to participate in those additional surveys.

If you receive more than \$600 per year for taking part in one or more research studies, you may be required to pay taxes on that money. This does not include any payments you receive to pay you back for expenses like parking fees [add other expenses if applicable]. You may receive an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1099 if you receive more than \$600 in one year for taking part in one or more research studies.

Study ID: UP-20-01081 Valid From: 12/16/2020 To: 11/30/2021

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If I take part in this research, how will my privacy be protected? What happens to the information you collect?

We will keep your records for this study confidential as far as permitted by law. However, if we are required to do so by law, we will disclose confidential information about you. Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your Personal Information, including research study records, to people who are required to review this information. We cannot promise complete confidentiality. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the USC IRB.

Your answers to the survey questions are being collected and stored by Akido Labs using their Pulse platform, which is Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) compliant. The Pulse platform is secured using physical, technical and administrative security measures.

Your answers to the survey questions will be identified using a random code or false name. This information will be stored indefinitely in the investigator's office in a locked file cabinet and on a password protected computer. The consent form and any documents containing your name or other identifiable information will be maintained separately from your responses and destroyed three years after the study has been completed.

The de-identified data for this study will be maintained indefinitely but for a period of at least 7 years as required by the funding organization, namely PCORI. The data may be used in research studies in the future and made available to other researchers through a PCORI-designated repository. If you do not want your responses to be used in future research studies, you cannot participate in this study.

When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no identifiable information will be used.

The research team may not be able to keep confidential any disclosure or endorsement of thoughts to harm yourself. In the event that you tell the research staff that you are thinking about killing yourself, the research staff will ask you more questions about the thoughts. Depending on how intense your thoughts are or how much you feel like hurting yourself, the research staff may provide you with referrals for treatment, work with you to contact your personal physician, trusted family member, or therapist to discuss your thoughts of harming yourself; or work with you on a plan that may include getting you to a hospital for safety.

To help us protect your privacy, we have obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. This Certificate allows researchers to legally refuse to disclose information that may identify you in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings, for example, if there is a court subpoena. The Certificate of

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Confidentiality will not be used to prevent disclosure to local authorities of child abuse and neglect, or harm to self or others.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I have read (or someone has read to me) the information provided above. I have been given a chance to ask questions. All my questions have been answered. By signing this form, I am agreeing to take part in this study.

Name of Research Participant (serving
as electronic signature)

Date Signed

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