

## **RAPID RE-HOUSING FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES DEMONSTRATION STUDY**

### Participation Agreement

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (or HUD) is studying the Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families Demonstration Program – the type of program currently providing you with rental assistance and supportive services. The FY 2008 budget for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.R. 2764) included funding to support this program, and required the Department to evaluate the effectiveness of the rapid re-housing approach in addressing the needs of homeless families. Abt Associates (Abt) and AbtSRBI, research and survey firms, are helping HUD with the study.

We invite you to participate in this study. If you participate, you will help HUD and your community learn more about how well the Rapid Re-Housing approach works so they can make good decisions about how to help homeless families in the future.

Participating in this study is voluntary, which means that you do not have to participate if you do not want to. If you decide to participate, you will be one of around 1,200 families from 23 communities helping HUD learn how well this type of program works. If you decide not to join the study, nothing will change about the assistance you receive from this program.

#### **What do I need to do to participate in this study?**

To join the study, you will need to sign this Participation Agreement and provide information about how we can get in touch with you in the future.

#### **What happens once I agree to participate?**

If you decide to participate, someone from Abt will contact you to interview you about 12 months after you finish receiving help from the Rapid Re-Housing program. The interview will take around 25 minutes. The interviewer will ask you questions about your housing; barriers you've faced keeping your housing; your income, benefits, and work experience; your health. The interviewer will also ask about people who are part of your family, including questions about your children, their school attendance, and foster care involvement. When you are contacted for the follow-up survey, you can choose not to participate in the survey if you have changed your mind. And even if you participate in the survey, you can choose not to answer any question. All information you provide will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law. You will be given \$25 as a way of thanking you for the time needed to complete the interview.

At the end of this form, we will be asking you to write down your contact information, information for your landlord, and contact information about others who are likely to know how to reach you in the future. Agreeing to participate in the study means that you give us permission to contact you for this interview and, if needed, to contact the other people you tell us about in case you have moved and we need help finding you for the follow-up interview.

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Agreeing to participate also means that you give the program staff and researchers permission to use information that was collected about you by this program or other homeless programs in this community to understand how the Rapid Re-Housing assistance worked.

#### **Who will see the information I provide?**

All information you share with us and all of information we collect from the Rapid Re-Housing program or any other programs about you is confidential. Your information will be protected to the extent allowed under the law as part of the Privacy Act.

- Only the interviewer and a small number of research staff at Abt and SRBI authorized to work on this research study will see your identifying information and the other information about you that we collect.
- A few other authorized researchers will have access to your individual information, but not your name, address, date of birth, or social security number.
- No one at the Rapid Re-Housing program, any other local agency, or HUD will see your interview responses.
- Reports for this study will only discuss summary information about groups of families who have received assistance. No names or other identifiers will ever be used in any research report.

#### **Are there any risks to me if I participate in this study?**

The risks to you of participating in this study are minimal. However, if you join, there *are some* potential risks. Risks could include the possibility that:

- You might be uncomfortable or even upset answering some of the questions on the interviews. If you feel that way, you can choose not to answer any question on any of the surveys. You can also stop the interview at any time.
- There is a remote risk that your information could be obtained by someone other than the authorized researchers doing this study. We have strict procedures in place to protect the information you provide and to help prevent this from happening.

#### **Questions About Participation**

If you have questions regarding this study, please contact the Abt Associates Inc. Project Director, Ms. Brooke Spellman at (301) 634-1816. You may also contact Ms. Anne Fletcher at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at (202) 402-4347. These numbers are not toll-free calls. You may have to pay for these calls.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant in this study, please contact Ms. Teresa Doksum from the Institutional Review Board at Abt Associates toll-free at 877-520-6835.

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### Directions

If you are willing to participate in the study, please sign below and work with a staff person from the Rapid Re-Housing program to record the requested contact information.

By signing this participation agreement, I confirm that I have read and understand the information presented in it. The information in this form has also been explained to me. I have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I can ask to be withdrawn from the study at any time. I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this consent form to keep. I voluntarily agree to take part in this study of rapid re-housing for homeless families programs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Participant Contact Information			
First Name		Middle Initial	
Last Name		Suffix	
Date of Birth		Social Security Number	
Street Address		Apt #	
City		State	
Zip Code		Email	
Home Phone		Mobile Phone	

Landlord Contact Information			
Landlord's Name		Company Name	
Address (where rent is paid)		City	
State		Zip Code	
Work Phone		Mobile Phone	

On the following page, please provide contact information for 2 to 3 people who do not currently live with you and will always know how to reach you.

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Privacy Act Statement: HUD's authoritative and principle purpose, conditions of uses, and impacts, if any, for not participating in the survey are referenced within the participant agreement.

#### Contact Information for a Friend or Relative

(Someone who does not live with you and will always know how to contact you)

First Name		Last Name	
Relationship	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Relative	Specify type of Relative	
Street Address		Apt #	
City		State	
Zip Code		Email	
Home Phone		Cell Phone	

#### Contact Information for a Friend or Relative

(Someone who does not live with you and will always know how to contact you)

First Name		Last Name	
Relationship	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Relative	Specify type of Relative	
Street Address		Apt #	
City		State	
Zip Code		Email	
Home Phone		Cell Phone	

#### Contact Information for a Friend or Relative

(Someone who does not live with you and will always know how to contact you)

First Name		Last Name	
Relationship	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend <input type="checkbox"/> Relative	Specify type of Relative	
Street Address		Apt #	
City		State	
Zip Code		Email	
Home Phone		Cell Phone	

#### RRHD Program Information (To be completed by RRHD Program Staff Person)

RRHD Site		RRHD Agency	
RRHD Entry Date		RRHD Exit Date (if known)	
Date Form was Completed		Timeframe Form was Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> At RRHD Program Entry <input type="checkbox"/> At RRHD Program Exit <input type="checkbox"/> Other