

Attachment D: Focus Group Brochure

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Your participation would involve **one focus group session** that lasts 1.0-1.5 hours. We will conduct the focus group at **[AGENCY]**. You will be provided a \$20.00 gift card in appreciation for your time. You can leave the focus group at any time, but you won't receive the \$20 unless you finish most of the focus group.

IS EVERYTHING PRIVATE?

All information you give us is kept **strictly** private. By agreeing to be part of the study, you and the other young people in the focus group agree to not discuss with anyone else things said during the focus group after the focus group ends. The information you share with us will only be used for this project and will never be used for anything else.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS INFORMATION?

The information from this study will be used to design programs to help homeless youth and young adults with housing, education, healthcare, counseling services, and other important needs.

If you have any questions,
please call the project manager,
Devan Crawford at 1-888-567-5285

Street Outreach
Program Data
Collection Project

OUTREACH PROJECT
Focus Group
2012-2013

[AGENCY NAME]
in partnership with
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln
and
The Family and Youth Services Bureau

WHAT IS THE STREET OUTREACH PROJECT?

We are doing a study to understand the needs of homeless youth and young adults. You have been randomly selected as one of the 62 individuals we will be talking with in [CITY]. If you are a youth or young adult currently without permanent housing we would like you to participate in a focus group as part our study.

This important study involves talking to runaway and homeless youth in 11 cities. It is one of the most far-reaching studies of homelessness among young people in the nation.

The information we collect while talking with you will help us identify what kinds of services will best help young people who do not have permanent housing.

By participating in the focus group you will be providing us with valuable information about your childhood history, your life experiences, and your housing history which will help us provide agencies in your area with helpful information about how to better serve you and your community. Our hope is that agencies in your area can use this information to increase the quality of life of homeless young people in and around the [CITY] metro area.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Only young people age 14-21 without a permanent place to stay in each of the cities can participate. Participation is voluntary. The individuals who participate in the focus groups will be selected by [AGENCY].

WHAT WILL WE ASK YOU TO DO?

Specially-trained project staff members will set up a convenient time, date, and location for you and about five other homeless young people to meet in a confidential location. They will ask the group questions and use an audio-recorder so the conversations can be typed to text. The typed data from the focus group will be analyzed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and deidentified information will be sent back to agencies in your city.

Your responses will be linked to you with ONLY a random ID number. Your name will not be linked to your answers. All responses will be private and your answers will not be shared with anyone. Agencies will not be allowed to see your individual responses.

WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS ARE ASKED?

We will talk to you about many different topics during the focus group. During the focus group, you may share as little or as much as you want for each question.

You may choose not to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable or that you do not want to answer.

We will ask you about:

- Your thoughts and feelings
- Your relationships and family
- Your own behaviors and emotions
- How you became homeless
- Where you have been staying
- What has happened to you since you have been without permanent housing
- Your healthcare and counseling needs

We are also very interested in the services offered to homeless people your age in your city. We want to know which services you utilize and why. We also want to know about the services that you do *not* use, and why you don't use those services. The focus group conversation will allow you to talk about services you want, need, or would like to see improved.