

Appendix 2. Chafee SOTA Frequently Asked Questions

Chafee Strengthening Outcomes for the Transition to Adulthood (Chafee SOTA) Evaluation Study

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this study?

The Administration for Children and Families wants to learn about promising programs for young adults moving out of foster care into adulthood. They would like to know whether and how several programs around the country that provide housing, education and employment services, and/or case management services are working. The research will help the federal government serve young adults leaving foster care in the future.

Who is conducting the study?

Westat, an independent research organization located in Bethesda, MD, and the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, based at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, are working for the Administration for Children and Families to assess four promising programs for young adults moving out of foster care around the country. My First Place, time-limited subsidies (TLS), and Safe Place for Young adults (SPY) programs are part of this study. Westat and the Kempe Center are working with program staff to conduct this study.

Who is being surveyed?

Young adults ages 18 to 21 who are currently participating in 1) MFP's comprehensive housing, education and employment, and case management program; 2) TLS housing program in Los Angeles County, and 3) the SPY drop-in services center.

How much effort will the study involve?

Your participation in this study will involve 3 surveys that can be completed online over a period of up to 12 months. The first survey will be completed at MFP or TLS housing entry/third visit to the SPY drop-in center during study recruitment period (baseline), 6 months after entry, and 9-12 months after entry. Topics covered in the baseline survey will include: background information about yourself and your family; education and employment histories, status, and current barriers; housing histories and current location; independent living skills, and socio-emotional support. Follow-up surveys completed at 6 and 9-12 months will be designed to focus on activities accomplished and capture changes over time in education, employment, and independent living skills. Each survey will take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. You can complete each survey on a smart phone or computer.

What will participants receive for participating?

You will be given a \$50 token of appreciation for completing each survey. Bonuses for timely and full participation will also be offered. Participants who complete the survey within two days of receiving the survey link will receive a \$5 bonus and those who complete the baseline and the final follow-up survey will receive a \$50 bonus. All tokens of appreciation and bonuses will be provided in the form of Amazon gift cards.

What happens if I drop out of the program? Can I still participate?

If you leave the program, you can continue to participate in the study. You are also free to leave the study at any time and it will not impact your participation in the program or the services you receive.

What if I don't have a smart phone or computer? Can I still participate?

Yes. If you do not have a device to complete the survey, we will connect you with someone who will provide an iPad that you can use to take the survey, or you may

call a phone number to complete the survey with a Westat or Kempe research team member.

How will this information be used?

Everything you share will be kept private and you will not be identified. Nothing shared during the surveys will affect the services or supports you receive. We will analyze the results across all individuals to understand whether your program is working as intended.

How will my involvement benefit the program?

Over the course of the project, the research team will learn more about the program and your experiences, with the goal of providing the programs feedback on what is going well and suggestions for areas for improvement.

Who can I contact about questions related to the project?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the study team at ChafeeSOTAevaluation@westat.com.