

## Diversion Strategies to End Homelessness Consent Script

### To be read to eligible callers by CAP:

We are partnering with the University of Notre Dame to learn if the Shelter Diversion program is working to reduce emergency housing shelter use. This will help us better serve people who participate in the program in the future.

If you agree to be in the study, the University of Notre Dame's research team will access information about you in our system including your name, birthdate, and last address. This information will be collected whether or not you get a spot in the Diversion program. They also may access information about you from sources including Cincinnati Public Schools, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Experian, and Infutor Data Solutions.

We value your privacy and will only use your information for research. The study's results will only be about groups, never about you individually. Your information will be stored on secure computers and servers. Though we cannot completely guarantee confidentiality, a breach of confidentiality is unlikely, and we will make every effort to keep your information safe.

You do not have to be in the study and you can leave at any time. Choosing to leave the study will not affect your relationship with us. Upon leaving the study, the research team will delete any of the information that was collected about you.

If you have questions about this study or your rights as a research participant, you can contact Notre Dame Research Compliance (574-631-1461 or [compliance@nd.edu](mailto:compliance@nd.edu)). This script can be found on our website at <https://www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org/what-we-do/prevention-and-shelter-diversion/>.

Do you have any questions about the study?

Do you agree to participate in the study?

- Yes
- No

*If the individual is a parent or guardian of someone who is less than 18 years of age, please read the following to them, reading for each child/dependent:*

Do you agree to allow your child/dependent to participate in this research study?

- Yes
- No

## **FAQ**

### **1. Why is Strategies to End Homelessness doing this research?**

We want to know how we can best assist individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. We think that our Diversion Program could be beneficial to these individuals and families. Our goal is to learn about the impact of this program, which is why we are doing research about this initiative. This research is about the program, not specific individuals or families—we want to learn about how the program could affect participants' outcomes in the future.

### **2. Why are individuals selected by chance for the Diversion Program?**

Strategies to End Homelessness currently doesn't have the capacity to offer every caller a spot in the Diversion Program. To be fair, we are going to select individuals randomly to participate.

### **3. Will being in this study change my timeline of service within the Diversion Program?**

No, it won't! If you are selected for the program, you will still follow the usual timeline and receive assistance based on your situation.

### **4. What's the main thing I could expect from being a part of this study?**

Outside of potentially participating in the Diversion Program, the only difference is that we'll be sharing information about those in the study with researchers at the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame. This is so that they can compare outcomes for individuals and families that are selected to participate, and those that aren't.

### **5. What information will be accessed as part of this study?**

By consenting, you agree to allow the research team to use this information to access other data about you such as:

- Information that Strategies to End Homelessness records about you, including demographics, housing needs, program enrollment and exit dates, services used, and completion status and outcomes.
- Your family's educational information from Cincinnati Public Schools, including school enrollment, school changes, and absences.
- Your participation in government benefit programs such as employment status, earned income, and benefits enrollment, from sources such as the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- Your creditworthiness and use of credit from Experian.
- Your housing stability information from Infutor Data Solutions.

### **6. Why would I want to participate?**

If you participate in the study, you will help us better understand the impact of our program! In the long run, by participating in the study, you will contribute to the greater good—if we learn about what works for individuals and families seeking our services, we can expand those resources to more individuals and families like you! Plus, there isn't anything extra that you would have to do specifically for the study.

**7. What are the risks if I participate?**

The risks are minimal and relate to the security of your information. We are working with the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame to make sure that your data wouldn't be lost or accessed by someone who shouldn't see it, but we can't perfectly guarantee confidentiality. You should know that a risk to your confidentiality is very unlikely to occur. Only researchers will be able to see your data, which will be password protected and stored on secure servers.

**8. If I'm not selected for the program, am I no longer in the study?**

It's important to know that even if you aren't picked for the Diversion Program, you will still be part of the study. Your information will be shared with researchers the same as other participants in the study so that researchers can learn about the program's impact.

**9. What happens if I am not selected? Can I join later?**

If you are not selected for the Diversion Program, you will be provided information on other services that you are eligible to receive. If your situation doesn't change, please call the CAP helpline again.

**10. Can I join the Diversion Program without consenting to research?**

Yes! Your chance of being selected for the Diversion Program will be the same whether or not you consent to be a part of the study.

If you have further questions about the research, you can contact the researcher, Mary Kate Batistich at ([mbatisti@nd.edu](mailto:mbatisti@nd.edu)).