

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO  
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY**

**Study Title:** *Silicon Valley Guaranteed Income Project*

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**STUDY SUMMARY**

**Introduction:** We are asking you to consider taking part in a research study being done by Dr. Oanh Nguyen and Dr. Margot Kushel at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

The first part of this consent form gives you a summary of this study. We will give you more details about the study later in this form. The study team will also explain the study to you and answer any questions you may have.

**Purpose of the study:** The purpose of this study is to understand the needs and experiences of families in difficult housing situations and/or experiencing homelessness, and explore if and how no-strings cash payments (also called ‘Guaranteed Income’) given directly to families might help improve their living situation, health, and well-being.

You are being asked to participate in this study because your family is currently either in a difficult housing situation or experiencing homelessness.

**Study Procedures:** If you choose to be in this study, you will be eligible to be randomly assigned for no-strings cash assistance, also called Guaranteed Income. You will select between two options to receive the Guaranteed Income. For Year 1, you can opt to receive \$1,000 per month for 12 months or you can opt to receive a \$6,500 lump sum in the first month and \$500 per month for 11 months thereafter. At the beginning of Year 2, you may continue to receive the Guaranteed Income in the same way you received it in Year 1 or you can opt to receive the other payment option. After you complete the first interview, we will enter your information into a computer program that will randomly assign you to one of two groups. About half of the people participating in the study will be randomized to receive Guaranteed Income. You have a 50/50 chance of being assigned to either group. Neither you nor the researchers can choose the group you will be in. Everyone participating in the study will be eligible for separate cash incentives for completing surveys and interviews.

Everyone participating in the study will also be able to receive the same services from Destination: Home SV, the ¡Sí Se Puede! Collective, Sacred Heart Community Services and all other agencies in Santa Clara County that they would have received even if they did not participate in the study.

You do not have to participate in this study. **If you choose not to be in the study, you will not be eligible for the Guaranteed Income program.**

There are no experiments, blood samples, or medications as part of the study – only surveys, interviews and sharing your information. If you choose to participate, you will be in this study for 3 years total. During the first 2 years you will be asked to do an initial, in-depth 45-minute survey, and then in-depth surveys every 6 months (a total of 5 surveys). In year 3, to help us evaluate long-term impacts, you will be asked to do in-depth surveys at 3, 9, and 12-months (a total of 3 surveys). If you participate in all surveys, this would be a total of 8 in-depth surveys over 3 years.

We will also ask for your permission for Santa Clara County agencies to share information with us on housing, social and health care services that you receive. This information will be kept anonymous, private, and confidential, and will be used only by the UCSF study team to better understand what types of services families similar to yours might need. We will keep this information only through the end of the study, and you can choose to stop sharing this information at any time.

**Possible Risks:** There are risks to taking part in a research study. Some of the most likely risks of participation in this study include:

- *Disappointment if you are not randomly assigned to be in the Guaranteed Income (GI) program*
- *Discomfort with questions being asked*
- *Fatigue from participating in surveys*
- *Loss of privacy*
- *Loss of confidentiality*

We will tell you more about these risks and other risks of taking part in the study later in this consent form. There may also be risks that we do not know about.

**Possible Benefits:**

You may benefit from participating in the study, but this cannot be ensured. By participating in the study, you are eligible to be randomly assigned for the guaranteed income program.

There may also be no direct benefit to you from participating in this study. However, the information you provide may help benefit people in the future who are affected by difficult housing situations and/or homelessness.

**Your Other Options:** You do not have to participate in this study. Your other choices may include:

- Not participating in the study.
- Getting services and assistance from our community partners without being in a study

Following is a more complete description of this study. Please read this description carefully. You can ask any questions you want to help you decide whether to join the study. If you join this study, we will give you a signed copy of this form to keep for future reference.

## **DETAILED STUDY INFORMATION**

This part of the consent form gives you more detailed information about what the study involves.

Research studies include only people who choose to take part. Please take your time to make your decision about participating, and discuss your decision with your family or friends if you wish. If you have any questions, you may ask the researchers.

You are being asked to take part in this study because you and your family is currently either in a difficult housing situation and/or experiencing homelessness.

### **Why is this study being done?**

The purpose of this study is to better understand the experiences and needs of families in difficult housing situations and/or experiencing homelessness in Santa Clara County, and explore if and how no-strings cash assistance (also called ‘Guaranteed Income’) given directly to families might help improve their living situation, health, and well-being.

### **Who is paying for this study?**

This study is paid for through private donations and by funds from Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative at the University of California, San Francisco.

### **Why am I being asked to be in this study?**

You are being asked to be in this study because:

- Your name was in a database as someone who received services while experiencing homelessness  
OR
- Your name was referred to us by a social service agency who you work with and may receive services from.

### **Study Procedures**

There are no experiments, blood samples, or medications as part of the study – only surveys, interviews and sharing your information. If you choose to participate, you will be in this study for 3 years total. During the first 2 years you will be asked to do an initial, in-depth 45-minute survey, and then in-depth surveys every 6 months (a total of 5 surveys). In year 3, to help us evaluate long-term impacts, you will be asked to do in-depth surveys at 3, 9, and 12-months (a total of 3 surveys). If you participate in all surveys, this would be a total of 8 in-depth surveys over 3 years.

Finally, you may be invited to do a 45-minute in-depth interview once a year (up to a total of 3 interviews).

### **Group assignment**

If you choose to be in this study, you will be eligible to be randomly assigned for no-strings cash assistance, also called Guaranteed Income. You will select between two options to receive the Guaranteed Income. For Year 1, you can opt to receive \$1,000 per month for 12 months or you can opt to receive a \$6,500 lump sum in the first month and \$500 per month for 11 months thereafter. At the beginning of Year 2, you may continue to receive the Guaranteed Income in the same way you received it in Year 1 or

you can opt to receive the other payment option. After you complete the first interview, we will enter your information into a computer program that will randomly assign you to one of two groups. About half of the people participating in the study will be randomized to receive Guaranteed Income. You have a 50/50 chance of being assigned to either group. Neither you nor the researchers can choose the group you will be in. Everyone participating in the study will be eligible for separate cash incentives for completing surveys and interviews.

Everyone participating in the study will also be able to receive the same services from Destination: Home SV, the ¡Sí Se Puede! Collective, Sacred Heart Community Services and all other agencies in Santa Clara County that they would have received even if they did not participate in the study.

You do not have to participate in this study. **If you choose not to be in the study, you will not be eligible for the Guaranteed Income program.**

### **How many people will take part in this study?**

About 300 people will take part in this study. Approximately half of that number, or 150, will receive the guaranteed income cash assistance.

### **What will happen if I take part in this research study?**

If you agree, the following procedures will occur:

First, you will answer general questions about yourself to make sure you are eligible to be in the study. This should take about 10 minutes.

If the screening shows that you are eligible and you choose to continue, THEN:

- We will ask you to complete an initial survey on your living situation, housing, health, well-being, social support, employment, income, food insecurity, and transportation. This will take about 45 minutes and we will ask you to complete this interview today if you choose to participate, or in the near future when it's more convenient for you.
- Santa Clara County agencies collect information on housing, social and health care services you may use. With your permission, we would like to look at those records, and will ask you to sign three additional consent forms and/or Releases of Information to allow the Santa Clara County Office of Supportive Housing, Social Services Agency, and/or Valley Medical Center to share this information with us. We will use this information to understand what types of services families like yours use.
  - You can decide to stop sharing the above information at any time by telling the study researcher. If you cancel your permission, you will still be in the research study and information that was already collected and disclosed about you may continue to be used.
  - The Social Services Agency of Santa Clara County requires that we specifically ask your permission every year to allow them to share this information with us.

After you complete the first interview, we will enter your information into a computer program that will randomly assign you to one of two groups. You have a 50/50 chance of being assigned to either group. Neither you nor the researchers can choose the group you will be in.

- One group will receive usual services from the county and/or any agencies that you have signed up with.
  - If you are randomly assigned to one group, you will be referred for benefits counseling and will receive a \$50 gift card after its completion. We will ask you to do additional surveys for the study.
- One group will receive Guaranteed Income (GI) equivalent to \$1,000 per month for 24 months, in addition to their usual services.
  - If you are randomly assigned to the other group, you will be referred for benefits counseling and will receive help activating the guaranteed income payments. You will receive additional information about how receiving these payments might affect your taxes and other benefits you may be receiving (such as disability or Social Security). You will also have an opportunity to ask additional questions, and the option to select how you would like to receive the payments before they start. We will also continue to ask you to do additional surveys for the study.
- All participants will be offered benefits counseling so that they are aware and can enroll in all assistance programs in Santa Clara County that they might be eligible for. This is not required, but we hope it will help people get any additional help they might need.
- UCSF will contact you 2 weeks after you complete the first interview to let you know which group the computer program assigned you to and refer you to Sacred Heart, a community partner, to go over the onboarding process for your assigned group.
- If you are randomly assigned to be in the Guaranteed Income (GI) program, those funds are considered a gift and not income, and should not affect your taxes or any other benefits such as CalWORKS, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, WIC, General Assistance, SSI, child care, or housing assistance.
- The research team will not know which group you are in until the end of the study. We ask that you do not share with any of the researchers from UCSF which group you were assigned if possible.
  - **Initial and Follow-up In-Depth Surveys:** We will conduct surveys with you over the phone, by video using Zoom or MS Teams, or in-person in a private office at one of our community partner buildings, where you live with COVID-19 safety guidelines in place, or at another place of your choosing.
  - The surveys will take about 45 minutes every 6 months for the first 2 years; in year 3, they will happen at 3, 9, and 12 months. You will receive a \$50 gift card or cash for each in-depth survey you complete.
  - There will be a total of 8 in depth surveys, including the first one today. If you complete all 8 surveys, you will receive a total of \$400 for your participation.
  - **Check-ins:** We will check-in with you once a month, to make sure your contact information is up to date. Check-ins can be done by phone, text, or e-mail and take about 5 minutes.
  - You will receive a \$5 gift card or cash for each check in.

- There will be a total of 30 check-ins. If you complete all check-ins, you will receive a total of \$150 for your participation.
- **In-Depth One-on-One Interviews**: You may be invited to do an in-depth interview at 12, 24, and 27-months after study enrollment to help us better understand how your living situation may or may not have changed in that time period. You will receive a \$50 gift card for each interview you complete, for a total of up to \$150 for three interviews.
- The researcher will make a sound recording of the one-on-one information interview. We use audio taping to make sure we do not miss any of your opinions.
- After the interview, we will transcribe the recording and remove any mention of names and any identifying information to ensure your privacy.
- We will lock the audio recordings on a secure computer without your name on it. The audio recordings and data will be stored and destroyed after the study is completed according to UCSF's data security rules.

If there are any questions you don't want to answer, or any tasks or parts of the study that you don't want to do. Let us know. You can still participate in the rest of the study.

- Before you leave today,
  - You will complete the first survey or be scheduled for the first survey in the near future.
  - We will schedule your 6-month follow-up survey.
  - We will ask you to give us your contact information, so we can stay in touch with you—things like your phone number, your mailing address, your e-mail address, and where you stay.
  - We will ask you to give us the names and the contact information of people who would know how to get in touch with you in case your contact information changes.
  - We will ask you to update this information frequently. You are always free to change any contacts or tell us not to contact a particular person anymore.
  - If we call you, or call on of the contacts, we will only say that we are with a research study and are trying to get in touch with you.
- We will call, text, or email you ahead of time to remind you about your appointment for the follow-up surveys. Please let us know your preferred method of contact and if your contact information has changed.
- Your survey data will be collected and stored on the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap), a secure and HIPAA-compliant web-based system based at UCSF. This information will be private and confidential. We will not share your data with anyone outside the research team, including the community partners that you are receiving services and assistance from. We will use this information only for research purposes.



### **How long will I be in the study?**

If you choose to participate, you will be in the study for a total of 3 years.

### **Can I stop being in the study?**

- Yes. You can decide to stop at any time. Just tell the study researcher or staff person right away if you wish to stop being in the study.
- If you tell us that you want to stop, we will stop calling you for study appointments and stop looking for you.
- We will continue to collect information on housing, social and health care services you may use, if you have signed those releases.
- You can tell us that you want us to stop collecting this information when you tell us you want to stop being in the study.
- We also may ask you to stop taking part in this study if we feel it is in your best interest, if you do not follow the study rules, or if the study is stopped.

### **What side effects or risks can I expect from being in the study?**

There are risks to taking part in a research study. Some of the most likely risks of participation in this study include:

- You might experience disappointment if you are not randomly assigned to be in the Guaranteed Income (GI) program.
- You may feel uncomfortable with some of the questions during the interviews. You can decline to answer questions or stop the interview at any time.
- Answering the questions may make you tired. You can stop and rest at any point.
- There is always a risk of loss of privacy with any research study. However, your study records will be kept as confidential as possible. Study information will be kept in locked files and/or secure, encrypted computers at all times. Only people working on the study will have access to these files. No one, not even family members, will be told how you answered any questions in this study.
- You will be assigned to receive usual services or the Guaranteed Income intervention by chance, and the group you are in may prove to be less effective or to have more side effects than the other study group.
- These are the risks we know about. There may be risks that we do not know about yet. For more information about risks, you can ask the study researchers or their staff.

### **Are there benefits to taking part in the study?**

- You may benefit from participating in the study, but this cannot be ensured. By participating in the study, you are eligible to be randomly assigned for the Guaranteed Income program. If you are randomized for this program, you will receive direct cash assistance.
- The information you provide may benefit people in the future who are affected by difficult housing situations/homelessness.

### **What other choices do I have if I do not take part in this study?**

- You are free to choose not to participate in the study at any time.
- You may choose to be in all, some, or none of the parts in this study. It is your choice.
- If you decide not to take part in this study, there will be no penalty to you.

### **How will my information be used?**

- Researchers will use your information to conduct this study.
- We will only use the information gathered during this research study for this study.
- We will not share your information with anyone who is not a part of this study.
- If information from this study is published or presented at scientific meetings, your name and other personal information will not be used.

### **Will information about me be kept private?**

We will do our best to make sure that the personal information gathered for this study is kept private. However, we cannot guarantee total privacy. Your personal information may be given out if required by law. If information from this study is published or presented at scientific meetings, your name and other personal information will not be used.

Authorized representatives from the following organizations may review your research data for the purpose of monitoring or managing the conduct of this study:

- Representatives of the Sponsor
- The Institutional Review Board

To help study staff protect your privacy, we have obtained a **Certificate of Confidentiality** from the Department of Health and Human Services. With this Certificate, we cannot be forced to disclose information that may identify you, even by a court subpoena, in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings.

The Certificate DOES NOT:

- stop legally required reporting of child or elder abuse, and threats to harm yourself or others.
- stop a sponsoring United States federal or state government agency from reviewing research records to monitor or evaluate programs.
- stop disclosures required by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- prevent your information from being used for other research if that is allowed by federal regulations.

The Certificate does not stop you:

- from releasing information about your involvement in this research.
- from having access to your own medical record information.



### **Are there any costs to me for taking part in this study?**

No. There are no costs to you for participating in the study.

### **Will I be paid for taking part in this study?**

In return for your time, effort and any travel expenses:

- You will receive a \$50 gift card for each initial and follow-up survey you complete. If you complete all surveys, you will receive \$400.
- You will receive a \$5 gift card for each monthly check-in you complete. If you complete all check-in interviews, you will receive \$150.
- If invited and you complete a one-on-one in-depth interview, then you will receive a \$50 gift card. If invited and you complete all three in-depth interviews, you will receive \$150.
- If assigned to benefits counseling and complete the session, you will receive a \$50 gift card. If assigned to the GI program, then there will be no gift card issued for completing the session.
- If you participate in all elements of the study and are assigned to benefit counseling, then you will receive a total of \$750 over 3 years.
- If you participate in all elements of the study and are assigned to the GI program, then you will receive a total of \$700 over 3 years.
- There will be no check-in during the month that you complete a survey.

### **What are my rights if I take part in this study?**

Taking part in this study is your choice. You may choose either to take part or not to take part in the study. If you decide to take part in this study, you may leave the study at any time. No matter what decision you make, there will be no penalty to you in any way. You will not lose any of your regular benefits or services, and you can still receive services and assistance from our community partners and our institution the way you usually do.

### **Who can answer my questions about the study?**

You can talk to the researcher(s) about any questions, concerns, or complaints you have about this study. Contact the researcher(s) Dr. Oanh Kieu Nguyen at 628-206-3755 and/or Dr. Margot Kushel at 628-206-8655.

If you wish to ask questions about the study or your rights as a research participant to someone other than the researchers or if you wish to voice any problems or concerns you may have about the study, please call the Institutional Review Board at 415-476-1814, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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## CONSENT

You have been given a copy of this consent form to keep.

You will be asked to sign a separate form authorizing access, use, creation, or disclosure of health information about you.

**PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY.** You have the right to decline to be in this study, or to withdraw from it at any point without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

If you wish to participate in this study, you should sign below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature for Consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person Obtaining Consent

### Is it OK for us to contact you in the future about other studies?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES    \_\_\_\_\_ NO

If you agree to be contacted in the future, please indicate your preferred contact method and sign below.

Preferred contact method:     phone: \_\_\_\_\_

mail: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date