

'AT HOME' RESEARCH STUDY

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

This research is being conducted by the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital and the City of Toronto. This study is funded by the Mental Health Commission of Canada and is one of five Research Demonstration Projects on Homelessness and Mental Health taking place across the country.

You have been told about this research project because you are experiencing homelessness and might benefit from the services being offered as part of this study.

We are looking for people to participate in our study to evaluate housing and supports for people who are homeless and who have mental health issues. About half of the people who agree to participate in the study will receive housing and supports as part of the study. The other half will not receive housing and supports through the study but will be directed to the usual sources of care in our community. You will have an approximately equal chance of receiving or not receiving housing and supports as part of the study. In either case, we would like to interview you periodically for two years about your housing situation, physical and mental health, use of social services, and well being.

Frequently Asked Questions

All of these questions will also be addressed with you in more detail as part of the informed consent process before you agree to participate in the study.

What is the housing like? Housing will be made available through a rental subsidy which will be guaranteed until March 31, 2013. You will get housing of your choice, such as an independent apartment with your own kitchen and bathroom. If you use drugs or alcohol, you do not have to stop to receive this housing. You will get to choose where you want to live in the City of Toronto.

What kinds of supports are offered? Depending on your level of need, you will receive support through an Assertive Community Treatment team or from an Intensive Case Management team. Support around daily living

skills, employment, mental health issues and substance use will be offered but treatment is not required. The only requirement is that you meet with a case manager once a week for the duration of the project.

What happens after the project ends? You will receive the support services and rent allowance until the end of March 2013, at which time the support services and rent allowance will end. We will try to get funding to continue the rent allowance after March 2013, or else will try to help you move into other housing, but there is no guarantee that we will be able to do this.

What if I don't get assigned to the housing and supports group? The researchers will still meet with you every 3 months to ask you about your life situation, health and service use and you will get a cash honorarium after each of these interviews. The researchers will also make sure you are directed to other sources of housing and supports in the community.

What about privacy? All of the information that you provide to the researchers will be kept completely confidential and will not impact any services you receive through the project or elsewhere. The researchers will ask you for permission to use your health card number to look at your use of health and income assistance over time. Your name will not be associated with any of this information.

What if I agree to participate and then change my mind? You can stop participating in the research at any time with no penalty.

For more information about the study, please contact Vivian Lee, Referral Coordinator at (416) 864-6060 ext 3394 or 1-888-470-0902