

Consent to Participate in Data Chat about Recertification in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Introduction

You are invited to participate as a community collaborator in a Data Chat for the study titled **Integrating Community Knowledge and Resources into a Certificate in Data Science for Social Impact (DSSI)** at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). The Principal Investigator for this study is **Francisca G. - C. Richter**, faculty affiliate at the Center on Poverty and Community Development at CWRU. The Community Liaison for this study is **Alice Jackson**, Director of ThinkingCapp.

A Data Chat is a dialogue between researchers and community members to improve our understanding of a specific social issue. Researchers share data and community members share their perspectives about how their experiences are represented in the data.

The Data Chat on SNAP is a guided conversation about Recertification in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

To participate in the Data Chat, we ask that you give your informed consent. Informed consent means you understand what this study is about, the potential risks of participating, and your rights and protections.

Please read this document and take as much time as you need to decide if you want to participate. You do not have to participate, and you can stop participating at any time with no consequences to you. You can ask questions at any time.

What is the Purpose of The Study and The Data Chat?

Data is often collected on communities, without the input from community members. This can lead to a biased understanding of the social problem. For instance, 2011 administrative data for Illinois shows that 28% of SNAP participants experienced churn since they exited the program yet returned within four months. Without insights from program participants on how they experienced the recertification process we may overlook problems with the data intake process that make it harder for participants to recertify. *The purpose of this study is to help students who participate in the Data Science for Social Impact Certificate program understand the importance of including the experience and knowledge of a community when analyzing data, so that they critically examine the data, challenge their assumptions, and advance social justice.*

The Data Chats will provide examples of how community knowledge -your collective knowledge- can enrich data analysis.

The Data Chat on SNAP will focus on challenges people may have when trying to recertify for the SNAP program. You were invited to participate because you have experience with the SNAP recertification process. We will share data tables and charts on SNAP recertification and hear your thoughts about this process. We will then write a report illustrating how we integrated community perspectives and data analysis to further our understanding of this social problem.

What Will Happen During the Data Chat on SNAP Recertification?

If you decide to participate in the Data Chat, you will be part of an in-person meeting with up to seven other people. The meeting will be held on the Case Western Reserve University campus and will take about two hours.

A few weeks after the in-person session, we will follow up with a virtual session to share results and receive feedback. This second session will be held on Zoom and will take an hour.

In the first session, we will present data in tables and charts on the topic. But the data do not speak for themselves. So, we will jointly discuss what the data suggests and complement it with your perspectives.

The conversation will be recorded so we can include your perspectives into the analysis of data. We will tell you when the recording starts and stops. We will write a report illustrating how we integrated community perspectives and data analysis to improve our understanding of this social problem.

In the second session, we will present a draft of our report and you will be able to provide feedback.

Do I Have to Participate in The Data Chat?

No. Participating in the Data Chat is completely voluntary. It is your choice whether to attend and you can refuse to participate. You can also skip questions or stop participating at any time. Whatever you decide, there will not be any negative consequences for you. You will still be able to receive the same services from the community organization that helped recruit you for the Data Chat. You will receive full compensation for participating, even if you skip questions or stop participating.

What Are the Potential Risks or Discomforts If I Participate?

Since this is a meeting with other community members, there is a chance that what you say may become public. The group facilitator will ask all Data Chat participants to not share what they hear in the group with anyone outside the group. Still, we cannot control what other participants may do.

The group facilitator will ask everyone in the group to maintain a respectful tone. However, it is possible that disagreements may occur. The facilitator will also try to ensure that everyone's voice is heard, and so may call on you if you have not spoken for a while. Even though we wish to hear from everyone, you may always refuse to answer any question at any time. You may also stop participating at any time, with no consequences to you.

What Are the Potential Benefits if I Participate?

By participating in the Data Chat you will contribute your subject matter expertise to demonstrating the value of community perspectives for the analysis of social data. We will write a report on how community knowledge enriched the understanding of SNAP recertification data. After sharing a draft report with you, we will acknowledge the group's contribution to this report without singling out any particular perspective by name.

How Will My Information Be Kept Private?

No identifying information about you will be included in the notes and/or transcripts. All information will be kept on a secure computer, and only people in the study team will have access to it. The recorded files and anything else with identifying information will be destroyed no later than one year after the meeting date.

Any reports about this study that include the group's perspectives will not identify any participant by name or include information that could identify individual participants.

Will I Receive a Stipend for Participating in This Study?

Yes, we appreciate your contribution of time and collaboration. You will receive \$50 for participating in each of the two sessions. An additional \$10 will be provided at our first meeting to help with transportation costs. In total, you will receive \$110 as cash gift cards if you participate in both sessions.

Whom Can I Contact About the Data Chat?

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this study, please contact Francisca G.-C. Richter at 216.554.2121.

How Do I Give My Consent to Participate in The Data Chat?

If you understand and agree with everything stated above, please read the statement below and sign. We will also give you a copy of this consent form.

I have read and understood the provided information and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost. I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form. I voluntarily agree to take part in the Data Chat.

Participant's signature _____ Date _____

Investigator's signature _____ Date _____