The Impact of Direct Giving on People Experiencing Homelessness

UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies
May 2021
New Leaf Project
What Does the New Leaf Project Involve?

01 **Workshop**
One-on-one self affirmation and goal setting exercises every three months

02 **Coaching**
Three 45-minute coaching sessions per month for six months

03 **Financial Support**
A one-time unconditional cash transfer of $7,500 CAD
## Randomised Control Trial

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<th>$7,500 CAD</th>
<th>WORKSHOP</th>
<th>COACHING</th>
<th># PEOPLE</th>
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### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
- HONORARIUM
- RESOURCE BOOKLET
- REPLACEMENT ID
- USED SMART PHONE
- VANCITY ACCESS CHEQUING ACCOUNT

- $7,500 CAD
- WORKSHOP
- COACHING
- # PEOPLE

**Randomised Control Trial**
Identifying our Target Population

- Recruited from 22 shelters around Metro Vancouver
- Screened for program eligibility to ensure the highest likelihood of success

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<td><strong>Age:</strong> 19-65 years old</td>
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<td><strong>Length of Time Homeless:</strong> Two calendar years or less</td>
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<td><strong>Citizenship:</strong> Canadian citizen or permanent resident</td>
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<td><strong>Functionality:</strong> Severity of mental health, alcohol and substance use</td>
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In total, **115** participants were successfully enrolled in the study.

**Who is in the New Leaf project?**

**AGE**
- Average: 42
- Range: 19-64

**GENDER**
- Male: 58%
- Female: 40%

**CHILDREN**
- 34% have children

**ETHNICITY**
- 12% Indigenous
- 42% European

**HOMELESS**
- Average: 6 Months

**NO ID**
- 24% had no personal ID

**WORK**
- 28% rate of employment
Our Impact
Results & Evaluation

Six domains of **positive impact:**

- Housing Stability
- Spending
- Savings
- Food Security
- Employment
- Executive Function
Housing Stability

- In only one month, **50%** of cash recipients moved into stable housing.
- **75%** of cash recipients moved into stable housing by 12 months.
- Each cash recipient spent **88 fewer days homeless** per year than the non-cash participants.
Money Management

Each cash recipient retained $1,000 more in savings over 12 months
Gender-Based Analysis Plus

Women cash recipients saved more and spent more on their children than men did.

BIPOC cash recipients saved more, increased their pay per hour and executive function more than white cash recipients did.
Cash recipients spent more money on **rent**, **food**, **clothing**, **durable goods**, **transit**, and **on their children**.
In only one month, 65% of cash recipients achieved food security.

More cash recipients became food secure by 12 months.
There has been a significant reduction in spending on alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes.
Each cash recipient saved $8,172 more over 12 months via reduced reliance on shelter services

Generating $672 net savings per person per year
Next Steps

Vancouver/Toronto Expansion Project

Transformation Project: Vancouver, Toronto, Halifax

Expanding Partnerships in North America