

Foundations for Social Change

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



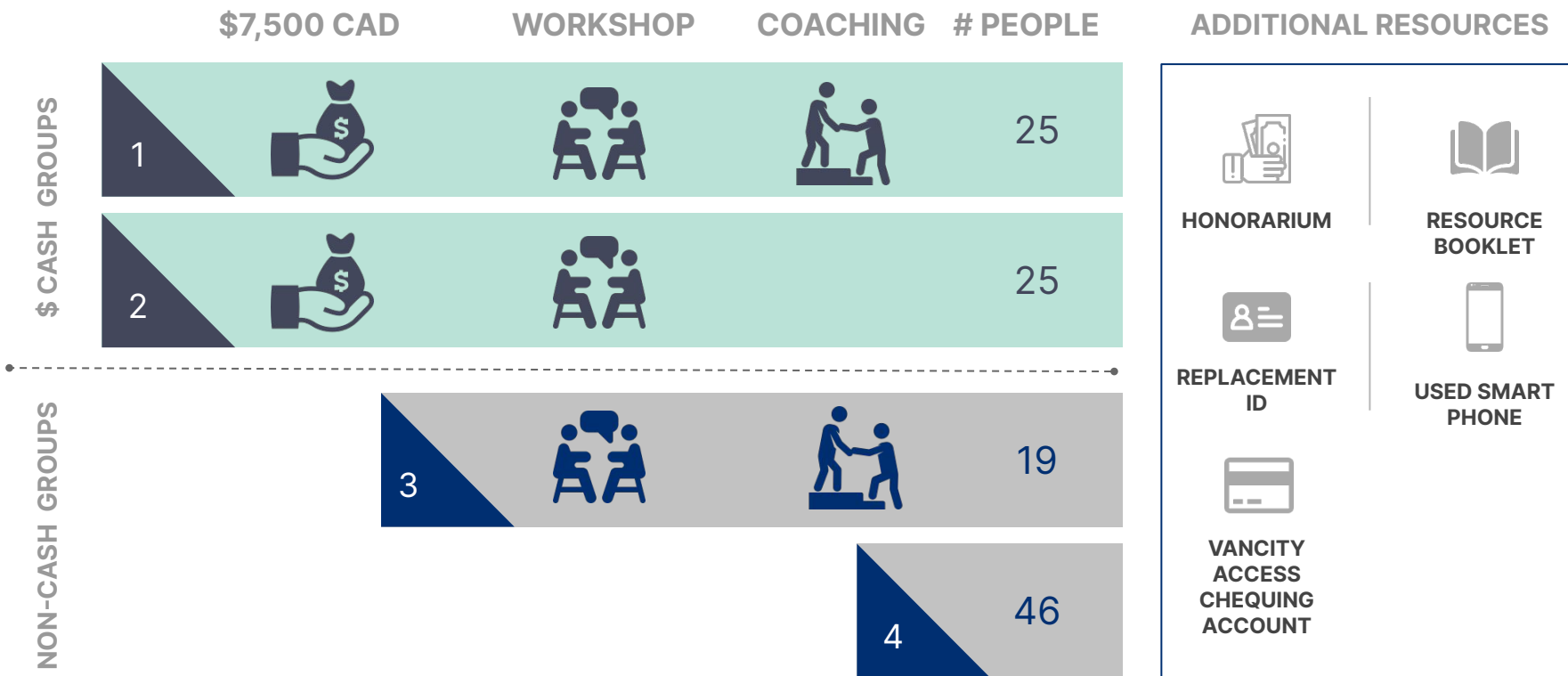
03

Financial Support

A one-time unconditional cash transfer of \$7,500 CAD



Randomised Control Trial





Identifying our Target Population

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

PROJECT SCREENING CRITERIA

- **Age:** 19-65 years old
- **Length of Time Homeless:** Two calendar years or less
- **Citizenship:** Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- **Functionality:** Severity of mental health, alcohol and substance use



Who is in the New Leaf project?

In total, **115** participants were successfully enrolled in the study

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**:



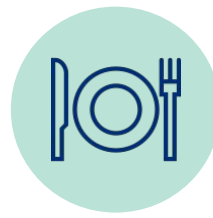
Housing
Stability



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

Spending



Cash recipients spent more money on **rent, food, clothing, durable goods, transit, and on their children**

Food Security



In only one month, **65%** of cash recipients achieved food security

More cash recipients became food secure by 12 months

Temptation Goods



-39%

There has been a significant
reduction in spending on
alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes



Cost of Services

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**

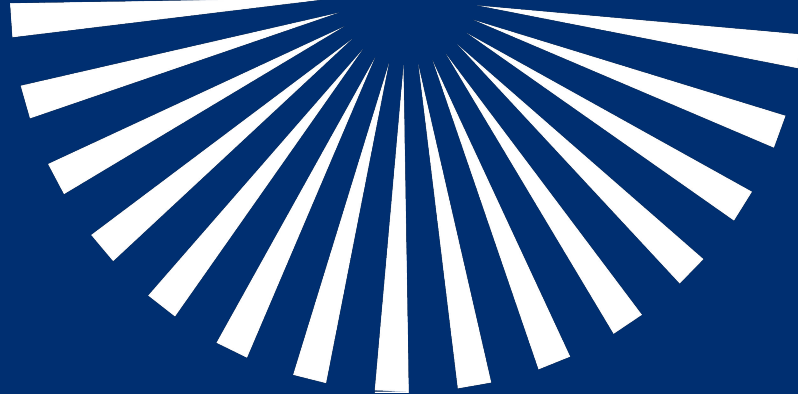


**Transformation
Project:
Vancouver,
Toronto, Halifax**



**Expanding
Partnerships in
North America**





forsocialchange.org

Alice Hopkins

Program Manager

alice@forsocialchange.org

Heather Hay

COO

heather@forsocialchange.org