CALIFORNIA POLICY LAB

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Background on the California Policy Lab

The California Policy Lab's (CPL's) mission is to improve the lives of Californians by working with government to generate evidence that transforms public policy. We do this by forming lasting partnerships between California government and the state's flagship universities to harness the power of rigorous research and administrative data.

CPL's Research on Preventing Homelessness

Over the last few years, Los Angeles County's homeless services system has housed tens of thousands of homeless individuals. However, at the same time, job loss and other crises have pushed previously housed individuals and families into homelessness. As inflows into homelessness outpace exits to housing, the overall homeless population in Los Angeles County continues to grow. In response to this problem, public officials at the City, County, and State are exploring strategies to prevent homelessness before it occurs.

Studies suggest that homelessness prevention programs do in fact work, yet they are very difficult to target efficiently. For example, in any given year, more than a million individuals in Los Angeles County receive government services, are living in poverty, and are rent burdened. Yet only about 1% of those individuals will experience literal homelessness and seek support from publicly-funded emergency housing programs.

CPL is working on a variety of projects with state and local agencies to target, develop, and evaluate evidence-based homelessness prevention programs. CPL's research is focused on understanding who is at risk of homelessness and how we can prevent these individuals and families from becoming homeless.

In early 2021, CPL plans to launch a community advisory board (CAB) to promote community engagement in its homelessness prevention research agenda. Our research agenda includes (1) improving the Prevention Target Tool used by providers to screen clients for prevention services, (2)

predicting risk of homelessness among single adults and families, (3) and evaluating the impact of different prevention programs.

Role of the Community Advisory Board in CPL's Prevention Research

CAB input is an essential part of the research process and will help to ensure that community needs are addressed and prioritized in all phases of research. The success of our research is largely dependent upon active participation from community stakeholders, including: people with lived experiences of homelessness, people who utilized prevention programs, service providers who administer prevention programs and tools, program managers who supervise program implementation, and professionals who work within other systems that impact homelessness prevention.

Role of the Community Advisory Board

- Help CPL develop and refine research questions
- Help CPL interpret research results
- Serve as a voice for the community
- Bring different perspectives to CPL's work

Opportunities for Community Advisory Board Participation

- **CAB Co-Chair/ General Member (1 position available)**: The CAB Co-Chair will work with the Co-Chair from the CPL Research Team to set meeting agendas and to co-facilitate quarterly CAB meetings. The Co-Chair will be selected by the CAB (scope of work for this position can be made available).
- **General Member (10 positions available)**: CAB members will serve as voices for the community and will bring unique expertise to the research process. CAB members are expected to contribute to the research agenda and inform the research team of local issues or concerns that may impact the projects.

Compensation

CAB general members will receive $100 per meeting and compensation will be based on meeting attendance.

Responsibilities of Community Advisory Board Members

- Attend virtual CAB quarterly meetings for a two year period and provide feedback on issues under discussion.
- Voice feedback, questions, and concerns about research findings and recommendations.
- Provide input on development and implementation of study methodology and approach.
- Use your expertise to inform the study team about prevention tools and programs.

- Evaluate the feasibility of proposed policy changes.

Community Advisory Board Engagement

We know that availability can change over time so we will work together to determine guidelines to ensure that the CAB has consistent membership. Applications for 10 advisory board positions will be evaluated based on knowledge and experience with homelessness prevention programs in Los Angeles County, representation and availability to attend meetings.

Community Advisory Board Application Process

To qualify, a candidate must demonstrate all requirements listed below:

1) Have expertise in one or more of the following subject areas:
   A. Single Adult Homeless Services System
   B. Families Homeless Services System
   C. Lived Expertise
   D. LGBTQIA Advocacy
   E. Legal Services
   F. Child Welfare System
   G. Criminal Justice System
2) Demonstrate experience/understanding of the homelessness prevention landscape.
3) Demographic Representation: membership will include diverse demographic representation in terms of age, race, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
4) Commit to actively participate in CAB meetings and related activities.
5) For interested lived experts, please complete the application through this link. For interested providers, please complete the application through this link. Please complete these applications by **February 12, 2021. Thank you!**