

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

Consent to Take Part in a Research Study

Title of research study: *Cold Weather Housing Strategies for Addressing Urban-Rural Homelessness in Alaska*

Principal Investigator: Lisa McNair, lmcnair@vt.edu, (540) 808-8795

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Key Information: The following is a short summary of this study to help you decide whether or not to participate. More detailed information is listed later on in this form.

The primary goal of this research is to gather information on how the expertise of cold climate designers, in collaboration with social scientists, can be used to address housing insecurity issues in Alaska, including homelessness, off-site modular construction practices, and cold climate design and housing construction collaborations among builders, home occupants, and community stakeholders.

Through interviews the researchers will gather insights from design experts, community organizers, home occupants, and other specialists working on urban-rural housing issues in Alaska. The insights collected from this research will inform the development of a multi-year research study, academic presentations and publications.

Detailed Information: The following is more detailed information about this study in addition to the information listed above.

Who can I talk to?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints, or think the research has hurt you, talk to the research team at lmcnair@vt.edu or call (540) 808-8795

This research has been reviewed by the Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board (IRB). You may communicate with them at 540-231-3732 or irb@vt.edu if:

- You have questions about your rights as a research subject
- Your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team
- You cannot reach the research team
- You want to talk to someone besides the research team to provide feedback about this research

How many people will be studied?

We plan to include about _ 100 _ people in this research study.

This study will be conducted in multiple sites in Alaska. This includes at organizations focusing on cold climate design, community organizations, and in professional settings related to the research topic.

We plan to include about __25__ people at this location out of __100__ people in the entire study nationally.

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What happens if I say yes, I want to be in this research?

Interview participants will be asked to participate in a 40-60 minutes interview that will be conducted virtually or by phone. Participation is voluntary. After completing the interview participants will receive a \$45 gift card for their time.

What happens if I say yes, but I change my mind later?

You can leave the research at any time, for any reason, and it will not be held against you.

If you decide to leave the research, contact the investigator so that the investigator can *share this information with their co-researchers. Once a participant withdraws from the study they will no longer be asked to participate in interviews and their participation in future meetings and related activities that are observed by the researchers will not be included in the fieldnotes of said meetings and activities.*

Is there any way being in this study could be bad for me? (Detailed Risks)

There are no known risks to participating in this study.

What happens to the information collected for the research?

We will make every effort to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information, including research study and medical records, only to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete confidentiality. Organizations that may inspect and copy your information include the IRB, Human Research Protection Program, and other authorized representatives of Virginia Tech. *Additionally, the data collected from this preliminary study will be shared with representatives from the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) who will be involved in co-designing of a long-term research study. This includes Stacey Fritz who serves as the resident anthropologist for CCHRC.*

If identifiers are removed from your private information or samples that are collected during this research, that information or those samples could be used for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without your additional informed consent. The results of this research study may be presented in summary form at conferences, in presentations, reports to the sponsor, academic papers, and as part of grant applications.

Can I be removed from the research without my OK?

The person in charge of the research study or the sponsor can remove you from the research study without your approval. Possible reasons for removal include difficulties identifying a time to conduct an interview. In such cases the lead researchers would have to make a unanimous decision based on the problem.

What else do I need to know?

For participants who will be participating in audio recorded interviews, consent will be obtained verbally (e.g., at the start of the audio recording). Participants who agree to be interviewed but do not want to be audio recorded can provide verbal consent. In this case, the interviewee will take notes based on the interview conversation and these notes will be used according to the criteria outlined in this consent form.