



Best Practices and Safety Tips

Conducting the Survey and Addressing Sensitive Topics

Do:

- Work in groups or teams
- Respect personal space of neighbors
- Dress appropriately and leave valuables at home
- Have emergency contact numbers prepared and available
- Only record the information/answers provided, without assumptions or guesses

Do NOT:

- Enter any area where you feel uncomfortable or unsafe
- Follow a neighbor to another area
- Wake up someone who is sleeping
- Force participation or answers to survey questions
- Offer or promise services, money, rides, housing, or your personal information

Suggested Script:

"[Greeting], we are volunteers with Housing Forward (or your city/organization) and we are completing a survey about homelessness in our area. Would you be willing to answer a few questions?"

Great, thank you! I need to ask every person the same set of questions, so I might ask things that seem personal or have obvious answers. You do not have to answer any question that you don't want to answer, but honest and true answers will help us have a better understanding of homelessness in our community."