



**Community Care & Justice Program**  
**Township of South Orange Village**  
**Letter of Solicitation for Research Study Participation**

Dear Township of South Orange Village Resident:

You are being asked to take part in this research study because you are a valued South Orange resident. The purpose of this study is threefold. First, we will examine the community's needs in the areas of public health and public safety in the Township of South Orange Village. Second, we will conduct a community values and assets assessment in order to identify the values and assets of the community. Third, we will explore the community members' and stakeholders' perceptions of police and community relations, especially regarding racial equity, social justice, and the social determinants of health.

If you agree to participate in this study, the researchers will ask you to complete the Community Care and Justice Values Assets and Needs survey. Part 1 (required) should take an average of 15 minutes to complete. Respondents then have the opportunity to continue to Part 2 (optional) which will enable respondents to view the associated questions. This section is supplemental and optional. The total time should take an average of 30 minutes to complete this section. Only respondents that continue to Part 2 can see the questions listed in said section.

The survey will consist of background demographic questions, perceived and desired community values, perspectives on diversity, social capital, caring justice-e.g., importance of compassion and kindness to others, and the Community Survey on Public Safety and Law Enforcement-e.g., perceived relationships with law enforcement, feelings of safety, fairness, and satisfaction.

Part 1 sample questions include: *What does justice mean to you? How important is it for you to feel a part of this neighborhood? Over the last 12 months, to what extent have your feelings of safety in your community increased, decreased, or stayed the same?*

Part 2 sample questions include: *If you were having a personal or emotional problem, who would you seek help from? If you had help, how willing would you be to volunteer or be of service to others on any of the following issues in the neighborhood? What would you want to see improved the most in this neighborhood?*

Focus group sample questions include: *How can my community expand our mutual aid and resource sharing programs? What random acts of kindness, if any, have you experienced in South Orange? In what ways are equity and inclusion practices demonstrated in the municipality I live in?*

Survey instruments included in the Values, Assets and Needs Assessment are as follows: The Sociodemographic Questionnaire; Personal Perspective on Diversity, Justice and Community Scale; Adapted Social Capital Measure; Community Perceptions Scale; Caring Justice Scale; Community Survey on Public Safety and Law Enforcement (COPS); Community Care and Connections Scale; Social Determinants of Health and Justice Scale; Adapted Influence in the Neighborhood and Community Scale; Solution-focused Community Visioning; Self-Inventory of Service and Support Seeking Behaviors; Informal Supports Scale-Crisis (Part 1); Informal Supports Scale- Crisis (Part 2); and Community Values Scale.

After completing the survey, you can opt into a selection process to participate in a focus group on a volunteer basis. The researchers will select participants from the pool of respondents who have opted-in based on representation of diversity data points such as age. Focus groups will be divided by ages 15-17, 18-24, 25-49, 50 and over. Adults and minors will not be placed in the same focus groups. Participants will be asked to partake in a 1 hour and 30-minute group face-to-face session, whether in person or via Zoom. The focus group session on the above topics will ask you to elaborate on their experiences, thoughts, and feelings in relation to the community in which they reside. You can share as much or as little as they feel comfortable with; however, the researchers hope that you will be willing to share as many of their experiences as they can. The researchers would like your consent to record the session to ensure accuracy of the information; however, you may decline to do so.

This survey is being hosted by *Qualtrics* and involves a secure connection. Data collection software utilized in this research are: *SPSS*, *QDA Minor 5*, and *Qualtrics*. Information pertaining to terms of service and confidentiality, may be viewed at <http://southorange.org/806/Community-Care-and-Justice>. Upon receiving results of your survey, any possible identifiers will be deleted by the investigator. You will be identified only by a unique subject number. Your email address will be stored separately from the survey data and only collected if you wish to possibly participate in the focus group portion. All information will be kept on an encrypted flash drive, secured in an office desk with lock and key. The results of the research study may be published, but your name or any identifiable will not be used.

Furthermore, any identifying information gathered from your potential focus group session will be changed or deleted in order to ensure that the situation cannot be tracked to you. Because the researchers need to link your survey and focus group participation to you as one person, they will use a tracking number but this along with your signed consent form will be kept confidential and under lock and key in Dr. Juan A. Rios's office for at least three years beyond the end of the study, as required by law. At the end of that time, your consent forms will be shredded if a physical copy exists or otherwise deleted if they were gathered electronically.

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community at large to advance knowledge. We will remove or code any personal information that could identify you before files are shared with other researchers to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify you from the information we share. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee confidentiality of your personal data.

This study will collect data from July 2021- January 2022 and will be destroyed immediately after 10 years on July 31, 2031. Data will be utilized for ongoing comparative analysis and academic publication.

Your participation in this research study is expected to be for the duration of the survey completion or if selected in the focus group for additional follow up.

You will be one of 16,743 people who are expected to be invited in this research study.

Respectfully,

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