



HACSB and Loma Linda University Research Partnership

For the past ten years HACSB has partnered with Loma Linda University (LLU) for third-party research and evaluation to help inform policy and shape program design. LLU has conducted nationally recognized research reports and needs assessments of several of our Moving to Work (MTW) initiatives. As a result of our growing partnership, LLU continues to spearhead ongoing and new research and evaluation projects.

Term Limited Lease Assistance (TLA) Program

Two annual research projects are conducted for this program: 1) annual longitudinal research for existing TLA families (since 2012); and 2) post-housing assistance research of up to two-years of a TLA family's exit of the program (since 2017).

The longitudinal study has included nearly 2,000 families to date, and reports the following outcomes:

- 26.5% increase in employment status for families that participate for the full five years.
- 31.4% increase in earned income over the five-year term.
- 12.5% increase in education levels.
- 78.6% of families meet the self-sufficiency goal by their fifth year in the program.

The post-assistance research has included 268 families to date, and provides insight into what happens after families leave the TLA program:

- Employment gains were retained even two years after leaving assisted housing, with 71% of families employed full-time.
- 4.5% of exited families report having purchased a home, 7.2% are staying with a friend or relative, and the majority of exited families report that they are renting their current residence.
- 91.8% of families participating in the research reported positive experiences in the program, including providing safety/security, improved standard of living, and the opportunity to improve their educational/vocational level.

"They helped me realize that if I just believe in myself I can do anything that I put my heart and mind to...they really pushed me to better my life for not only me but for my children... I am forever grateful." – Exited TLA Participant

"My children benefited with better school supplies. They were able to join cheer, football, and baseball. My bills got paid in time" – Exited TLA Participant

Families leaving the TLA program also shared helpful feedback about ways the program could be improved, including increased accountability and supports for families. *"I would have them enrolled in monthly classes offered once a month to deal with the core issue of why they are not self-sufficient. They would also have to turn in monthly budgets and expense reports showing what was paid what was used for what."* – Exited TLA Participant

Housing Support Program

LLU developed a research and data plan to launch an annual evaluation of the services provided and its impact on the homeless families with children served through the Housing Support Program.

Moving On Strategy

Launched in February 2020, this project will evaluate families “moving on” from the Continuum of Care Shelter Plus Care program into traditional voucher program assistance. Families identified for the Moving On strategy will be evaluated for readiness by LLU, and will be assessed periodically after the transition to ensure their continued well-being.

No Child Left Unsheltered

Since 2016, LLU has provided ongoing research on the progress of the families served through this program. The research outcomes helped inform the decision to modify the program design to allow NCLU families to simultaneously enroll in the Housing Support Program (HSP). In FY 2018, the research scope was expanded to include enhanced program services provided through mutual customer enrollment in HSP.

LLU reports that the number of children participating in the No Child Left Unsheltered program who are at risk of developing a clinically significant behavioral problem decreased by 78%. Families interviewed by LLU shared their experiences in the NCLU program, including the changes they saw in their family dynamics and feedback to improve the program:

“He having problems at school he’ll come in and tell me about it. You know, I’ll play the game with him and we’ll sit down. We’ll be laughing giggling. They were things that we weren’t doing in beginning, but now we’re doing it.” – NCLU Participant

“I feel like if everybody gets some kind of therapy or help just some involvement with them. Just coming to reassure them and everybody that “you’re okay, let’s get you going on something” you know? That’s how I feel. Like I said, I feel like in the beginning of the program that they should be more structured to help, if that answers it.” – NCLU Participant

Maplewood Homes Needs Assessment

In 2019, LLU provided an updated needs assessment of the community/resident for partner and resource coordination. Previous assessments took place in 2010 and 2017.

Permanent Supportive Housing Programs

In FY 2019, LLU launched the research and data plan in anticipation of new households being served at Desert Haven and Golden Apartments, HACSB’s first permanent supportive housing sites for chronically homeless individuals. Data collection began at Golden Apartments in February 2020.