

## RESEARCH PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

**STUDY TITLE:** Richmond LGBTQIA+ Community Needs Assessment: Focus Group

**VCU INVESTIGATOR:** Eli Coston, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

**SPONSORS:** Richmond Memorial Health Foundation and the Laughing Gull Foundation

You are invited to participate in a research study about the experiences and needs of LGBTQIA+ identified persons living in or around Richmond and the provider perception of the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community. The study is being conducted to inform the development and targeting of potential requests for support for services, programs and resources for the LGBTQIA+ community. Your participation is voluntary. You may decide not to participate in this study. If you do participate, you may withdraw from the study at any time.

In this study, you will be asked to do the following things:

Be part of a focus group of people who will discuss and respond to a series of questions about experiences and needs of Latinx, African American, senior, youth, or transgender members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the Richmond area. A focus group is a facilitated discussion with a group of people who are asked to consider and respond to a series of questions on a specific topic. In this study, you will go to a group meeting, lasting about one hour. In the meeting, you will be in a group with 5 to 12 other members of the LGBTQIA+ community. In each meeting you will be asked to talk about things like experiences in the community, the kinds of support that you receive, needs that you see for LGBTQIA+ community and places where you feel safe. We will record your voice during the meetings so we are sure to get everyone's ideas. We will not record your name.

### **Will any parts of this study make me feel bad?**

Sometimes talking about some of the issues raised makes people upset. You do not have to talk about anything you do not want to talk about. You can leave the group at any time. If you do become upset, the people running the group will help you.

### **How will this study help me?**

We do not know if being in this study will help you. But the researchers might find out something that will help members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

### **What do I get if I am in this study?**

You get \$10.00 for your participation in a focus group.

### **Will you tell anyone what I say?**

We will not tell anyone the answers you give us. However, other members of your group will know what you say. We will not share your answers with others.

If you tell us that someone is hurting you, the law says that we have to let other people know so they can help you. If you tell us that you might hurt yourself or someone else, then we have to let people know.

**Do I have to be in this study?**

You do not have to be in this study. It is up to you. You can say okay now and change your mind later. No one will blame you or get mad at you if you don't want to do this. All you have to do is tell us you want to stop.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this study now or in the future, please contact Eli Coston, (804) 404-3179, [ecoston@vcu.edu](mailto:ecoston@vcu.edu)