



ECONOMIC
ROUNDTABLE
Knowledge for the Greater Good



July 28, 2017

Dr. Max Stevens, Principal Analyst
Research and Evaluation Services unit
County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
500 West Temple Street, Room 713
Los Angeles, California 90012

Analyzing Homeless Population Attributes and Building Predictive Models to Support Los Angeles County's Coordinated Effort to Combat Homelessness

Dear Dr. Stevens:

Overview

The Economic Roundtable team, made up of the Economic Roundtable and the Advanced Analytics Lab of SAS Institute Inc., proposes to work with the CEO's Research and Evaluation Services unit to build predictive models that assist Los Angeles County's coordinated effort to combat homelessness. Our team has exceptional ability and qualifications to successfully apply predictive methodologies to support Los Angeles County's strategies to combat homelessness.

The Economic Roundtable has been awarded grants from The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and The John Randolph Haynes Foundation that provide support for analyzing data about individuals experiencing homelessness and developing predictive analytic tools for targeting interventions on specific high priority groups. We propose to carry out this work on a no-cost basis with the County, i.e. we will provide these research services and the end results at no cost to the County.

The purpose of this work is to produce new insights into groups most at risk of chronic homelessness and develop tools for targeting interventions that will help prevent chronic homelessness. Our plan is to produce results from predictive analytic models that can be evaluated by the County as well as written reports that will be shared with the County and the Home for Good Task Force. This work will address the three Board priorities of (1) combatting homelessness and adopting an increasingly preventive approach to the homeless crisis, (2) employment and economic development, and (3) preventing youth involvement in the juvenile justice system. This project will focus on foster youth but our team will be able to assist the County with selecting the correct data elements for analyzing risks and outcomes of youth involvement in the justice system.

Data Requested

To carry out these two research projects we propose linking CEO-SIB's linked and de-identified records with de-identified linked records previously provided to the Economic Roundtable by CEO-SIB that cover 2001 through 2010. This will provide a 14-year time window that we anticipate will make it possible to identify early antecedents of chronic homelessness and to target early interventions for two high-risk groups. The linkage between 2001-2010 records and more recent records will be done using the encrypted SAS DataFlux identifiers in both sets of records.

Predictive Model for Targeting Employment Services

We propose to identify early attributes of employable individuals who become chronically homeless and high-cost users of public services. We will develop a predictive analytic model that targets the subgroup employable individuals who have a high probability of becoming high-cost homeless individuals and for whom employment is a feasible intervention prior to the onset of chronic homelessness.

Predictive Model for Targeting Supportive Services for At-Risk Foster Youth

We propose focusing on the risk of homelessness and chronic homelessness among children and youth in the foster care system. The records previously provided by CEO-SIB include linkages to Child Protective Services records. We propose linking those de-identified records with more recent CEO-SIB records for these individuals. We propose analyzing risk factors for homelessness and chronic homelessness among these children and youth. We will develop a predictive analytic model for estimating the probability that foster youth will become high-cost homeless individuals. This tool can be used to target high-risk youth for additional social and employment services.

Collaborating with the County in Releasing Research Findings and Predictive Models

Our purpose is to collaborate with Los Angeles County in investigating population dynamics, attributes and points of intervention for homeless residents. The County will have a 30-working day review and comment period for all draft reports. This review will occur prior to release or publication. Any factual mistakes, misinformation or lack of clarity that is identified will be corrected by the Economic Roundtable team before the report is released. The County will have the option to have its comments included in the final published report.

Please let us know if this research proposal meets with your approval.

Sincerely,



Daniel Flaming, Ph.D.
President