



Information for Study Participants

Thank you for participating in this study about involuntary job and career transitions. This document explains what your participation in this study requires and what efforts the researcher will take to protect your confidentiality (that you cannot be identified by others as a participant in this project). Your participation is voluntary, and you should only participate if you completely understand what the study requires.

Why am I being asked to volunteer?

You are invited to participate because you were previously employed at a company that the federal government identified as negatively impacted by trade.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to learn more about your experiences as a worker who involuntary lost their job and any interactions you have had with resources or programs for unemployed workers.

What does my participation in this study require?

You will be asked to participate in a forty-five (45) minute to one hour interview about your work experiences, including times that you lost your job, and any interactions you have had with resources or programs for unemployed workers. Your participation is completely voluntary: you may choose not to participate, not to answer any question, or to end the interview at any time.

What are the risks of this study?

You may be asked about losing a job during this interview. You may find some of these questions upsetting or feel uncomfortable answering them. If you do not wish to answer a question, you may skip it and go to the next question.

What are the benefits of this study?

You will receive a twenty-five (25) dollar prepaid MasterCard gift card to thank you for your participation in this study. You will receive your gift card in the mail one to two weeks after your interview. You will still receive your gift card even if you choose not to answer a question or decide to end the interview.

In order to receive your gift card, you must provide the researcher with your name, address, and date of birth. The researcher is required by law to provide this information to Greenphire, Penn's contracted vendor of gift cards. To protect your confidentiality, the researcher will destroy any documents containing this information. Only the researcher and Greenphire will have access to your personally identifying information.

How will you protect my identity?

To protect your confidentiality, any information that could identify you will be removed or replaced before files are shared with other researchers, known as de-identification (e.g. your name and employer will be removed, and your industry will be generalized, such as "manufacturing," "medicine," etc.). We will use our best efforts to remove or replace any personal information before the data are shared to ensure that, by current scientific standards and known methods, no one will be able to identify you from the data.

Only the researcher in this study will have access to information that identifies you. You will not be identified in any publication from this study. All personally identifying information will be destroyed once it is no longer needed for this study.

An exception to confidentiality is if you report child or elder abuse or neglect, or if you report suicidal or homicidal ideation or intent. Any information about child or elder abuse or intent to harm yourself or others will be reported to the authorities, as required by law.

How will my data be used?

De-identified information that we discuss may be used in the researcher's Ph.D. dissertation and other written publications. De-identified information may also be shared with other researchers to advance scholarly knowledge. We plan to deposit de-identified data at the Qualitative Data Repository. Other researchers will be allowed to use this de-identified data without your consent in the future. This use of your de-identified data applies only to the information collected in this study.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions, concerns, or complaints regarding your participation in this research study or if you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact Nicholas Bell at (814) 460-7454 or belln@sas.upenn.edu. If you want to talk to someone other than the researcher, you may contact the University of Pennsylvania's Institutional Review Board, which is responsible for managing research involving human subjects, at (215) 573-2540 or irb@pobox.upenn.edu. Reference protocol #834295.