

Consent Letter

Date:

Dear Participant:

I invite you to participate in a research study entitled UGA SNAP-Ed Program that is being conducted under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Your participation in this study will help the researchers understand how Georgians who are eligible for SNAP benefits (food stamps) may improve their healthy eating behaviors and knowledge. This study will be conducted by using your data collected through a short online survey about your health and personal information (example: your age, household income, address, how many people live in your household). The survey will take about 5-10 minutes.

Your involvement in the study is voluntary, and you may choose not to participate or to stop at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you agree to the use of your information/data for this research project, please simply check the box marked “I agree” below; if you don’t agree, none of your data will be included in the research study and you can still participate in the program. If you decide to stop or withdraw from the study, the information/data collected from or about you up to the point of your withdrawal will be kept as part of the study and may continue to be analyzed.

The results of the research study may be published, but your name or any identifying information will not be used. In fact, the published results will be presented in summary form only. You will be assigned a non-identifying number (i.e., study number) and all of your data will be recorded and stored based on that number. By using the study number, researchers will be able to link your data from different online assessments without losing confidentiality. The study number connecting your name to your data will be stored in locked filing cabinets in a locked office on the UGA campus as well as in a password-protected, encrypted electronic file. The list connecting individual participant’s name to their data can be accessed by only the researchers and staff involved in the study and USDA and only for the purpose of data analyses, interpretation of results, and regulatory oversight. The study number list will be destroyed at the conclusion of the study. Because this study is being conducted online you should note that confidentiality will be maintained to the degree permitted by the technology used. Specifically no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the internet by any third parties. There are no foreseeable psychological, social, legal, economic or physical risks and/or discomforts that may be caused by the proposed research procedures. There are no direct benefits to you for your participation in this study; however, the benefits to society include the development of a food and nutrition education program for Georgians who are eligible for SNAP benefits.

If you have any questions about this research project, please feel free to call Dr. Mona Habibi at (706) 542-9904 or send an e-mail to mhabibi@uga.edu. Questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant should be directed to The Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board, telephone (706) 542-3199; email address irb@uga.edu.

Thank you for your consideration. By checking the box marked “I agree” you indicate that you have read this letter, have all of your questions answered, and agree to participate in the above described research project.

- ☐ Yes, I agree to participate.
- ☐ No, I do not agree to participate.

Sincerely,

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Professor
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