



Dear Springfield Resident:

We would like your help with a research project. We are studying how residents feel about the streets and sidewalks around their home and/or place of employment. Your input is valuable. We cannot promise any changes will happen because of this study, but what we learn may help the people who design streets better understand what kinds of changes benefit residents like you. We will share what we learn with city officials and professionals interested in health and city planning. The LiveWell Springfield Coalition will use photos and stories to advocate for change in our community. The study is led by Dr. Kathleen Szegda of the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts and Dr. Erin Hennessy of Tufts University in partnership with the LiveWell Springfield Coalition. The study is paid for by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

We are looking for residents to help us by participating in our study. If you are interested in participating, we would ask you to answer a few questions to determine if you are eligible. Your participation in the study would take place in fall 2019.

The study team would ask you to:

- **Participate in 2 group meetings at a community place near your home (~1.5 hours each)**
- **Take photos related to the study topic using a study-issued digital camera**

We will lend you a digital camera and show you how to use it at the initial meetings. You will be asked to take photos over the course of 1-2 weeks about a related topic. You will return the camera to an agreed upon location so study staff can develop your photos. At a follow-up group meeting, you will select the photos you would like to share. We want to know your personal opinion. To thank you for your time, we can give you up to \$35 after the 2nd group meeting. All payments you receive will be in the form of a gift card or ClinCard. The ClinCard can be used to withdraw cash. **Some participants will be invited back in 2020 to participate in another session and will receive an additional \$35 giftcard.**

Your participation is voluntary. We would need your name, phone number, and address in order to contact you. If you are interested, we will give you more details about your rights as a study participant in a written consent form. We would keep all of your information confidential. There is minimal/no risk in participating. You can choose whether to participate after receiving this additional information.

If you have any questions, would like to know more, or would like to volunteer, please call our Study Coordinator at 413-794-2897 or through email at kwaldner@publichealthwm.org. We would be happy to talk to you and hope you will find this neighborhood research interesting. On behalf of the research team, thank you in advance for considering this opportunity.

Sincerely,

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