



May 19, 2023

Annual Evaluation Report 2023



Looking Back to Move Forward

Baseline Data to Inform Future Long-term Tracking



Executive Summary

Saranam has been serving families experiencing homelessness in the Albuquerque community for 19 years through housing, education, and supportive communities. When a family enters Saranam, they move into a newly furnished apartment, commit themselves to pursuing an education, and join a supportive community where peer-to-peer engagement occurs both in the classroom and at the small apartment complex that is home for up to 2 years. Saranam offers a refuge where families can ground themselves, focus on their families, and thrive in the community while cultivating their social and human capital. Saranam's two-generation (2-Gen) approach combines parent and child interventions to interrupt the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

This year's evaluation project sought to develop a blueprint for assessing Saranam's effectiveness in ending homelessness and poverty, and in breaking the intergenerational cycle of homelessness.

The "Gold Standard" for program evaluation, and the method that designates a program as "evidence-based," is random assignment of potential participants into a treatment and control group. In the same way that a drug is determined to be effective – by comparing people who receive it with people who receive a placebo – effectiveness for a social program requires that those randomly assigned into a program experience better outcomes than those randomly assigned to the control group that does not participate in the program. This experimental design is called a Randomized Controlled Trial, or RCT.

As we explored what would be required to perform an RCT, we learned that a preliminary study is necessary. The preliminary study needs to establish that a large share of families engages meaningfully with the program, and that program participants have better outcomes compared to similar families who did not enroll in the program.¹

Regarding the first requirement, the majority of Saranam families engage meaningfully with the program. The average stay at Saranam for families was 15.7 months and 43% stayed in the program for 18 months or longer. These rates compare favorably with transitional housing programs that were part of the national Family Options Study. The Family Options Study reported an average stay of 11.5 months and a stay of 18 months or longer for 21% percent of families.²

Regarding the second requirement, we used Saranam's ongoing Alumni Survey to estimate a range of likely outcomes for homelessness, education, poverty, and supportive social

¹ See, for example, the Arnold Ventures' Request for Proposals for RCT's of social programs <https://craftmediabucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/Request-for-Proposals-RCTs-of-programs-that-others-are-funding-March-2019.pdf> (accessed on January 31, 2023).

² United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2013-2021. The Family Options Study: 2013-2021 Reports https://www.huduser.gov/portal/family_options_study.html (accessed on May 10, 2023).

networks. The Alumni Survey response rate was 63 percent: 33 of 52 families in the period we studied responded to the Survey and 19 did not respond. Survey respondents may not be representative of all families, and, in fact, we discovered that survey respondents had stayed longer at Saranam, had better attendance in the educational component of the program, and were more likely to be housed at exit. Using the survey results would therefore be overly optimistic. To counter this effect, we produced an overly pessimistic estimate that assumed that all non-respondents had the worse outcome.

The range of estimates was quite large. For example, we estimated that at about 36 months (3 years) after starting at Saranam, between 21 percent (optimistic) and 50 percent (pessimistic) of families were homeless or “doubled up.” (A “doubled-up” family is living with extended family or non-kin.) In the Family Options Study mentioned above, 38 percent of families without access to transitional housing reported being homeless or “doubled up.” The range we estimated for Saranam includes 38%. With a higher response rate, it would be possible to narrow the range to see if Saranam families have a lower than 38% homelessness rate.

We offer several recommendations for producing more precise outcomes estimates. The first recommendation is to work with the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) McKinney-Vento program to track housing stability. McKinney-Vento is a federal program that requires schools to provide support for students in unstable housing, including those in transitional housing or “doubled up.” McKinney-Vento could share housing status for students from its annual certification process for Saranam parents who sign a release. Saranam could then determine whether housing status outcomes for Saranam families compare favorably to outcomes in the Family Options Study. An enormous advantage of this recommendation is that housing data is already being collected and Saranam could track housing status with very little effort.

The second recommendation is to adopt Family Options Study questions into the Alumni Survey and to invest in resources to improve the Alumni Survey response rate. With a response rate of 80 percent or higher and an interview process that mirrors the national study, Saranam could determine whether their families have better outcomes than families in the Family Options Study.

The third recommendation is for Saranam to consider asking *all Saranam applicants* to consent to be in a tracking study. Those accepted into the program could then be compared with those who were not offered a spot using both the McKinney-Vento data and data from the Alumni Survey (which would be completed by Alumni and comparison group parents). A downside to this option is that small sample sizes reduce the likelihood of finding a meaningful program effect, even if the program is in fact effective.

Finally, Saranam could explore joining with other similar 2-Gen housing programs. With a group of programs, sample sizes would be large enough to ensure that meaningful program effects can be detected. A funder would need to be willing to make a large investment to bring such a study to fruition.



Introduction

Saranam LLC is a not-for-profit organization that has been serving homeless families and their children in New Mexico since 2004. Saranam’s mission is to “empower families to end their homelessness and poverty through housing, education, and supportive communities.”³ Saranam families live rent-free in fully furnished units for up to 2 years in a small apartment complex a few blocks away from the Saranam administrative offices and classrooms. A case manager provides wraparound case management. During their stay at Saranam, parents forego employment in order to pursue an education full-time. In the first semester, parents attend classes devoted to foundational academic concepts, life skills, and parenting for 28 hours per week. Instructors and staff support families in developing healthy daily structure and habits. In the second semester, parents attend 12 hours of on-site classes and enroll in community college or other off-site programs that will lead to a degree, certificate, or license. In the third semester, parents attend on-site classes for three hours per week. Throughout the duration of the program, families participate in a variety of community building extracurricular activities, for two to three evenings a week. These activities include life skills, literacy and academic support and family fun nights.

Beginning in the spring of 2024, Saranam will expand to a second campus that will provide 25 additional residential units and program space in Northwest Albuquerque.

Saranam is in its third year working with the Evaluation Lab at the University of New Mexico and is making progress toward tracking long-term outcomes. In the first year, the Evaluation Lab assisted Saranam in developing a logic model that would guide data collection. The team also reviewed the annual Alumni Survey and came up with revisions that aligned with the logic model. In the second year, the evaluation team used Saranam’s administrative data to explore whether incoming characteristics and program adherence were associated with family success. The team found that family success was independent of all incoming characteristics, including reasons for homelessness, family structure, age, race and ethnicity. At the same time, families with higher attendance in Saranam life-skills and academic classes and those who stayed in the program longer experienced better outcomes at the end of their stay.

The goal of this year’s evaluation was to define a process that would allow Saranam to assess its effectiveness. The guiding evaluation question was, *How can we determine whether Saranam has a positive long-term impact on Saranam families?*

The “gold standard” for assessing a program’s effectiveness is a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT). In an RCT, potential participants are *randomly assigned* to a “treatment group” or a “control group.” The treatment group receives program services. The control group receives whatever other services are available in the community. Outcomes for the control

³From Saranam’s website: <https://saranamabq.org/about-us/who-we-are/> (accessed on May 11, 2023).

group are considered what happens without the program. At the end of the program, a comparison of outcomes for the treatment and control groups provides the program effect. For example, if those in the treatment group have better outcomes than those in the control group, then we can say with confidence that the program produced positive effects. If, however, there is no difference between the treatment group and the control group, then we know that the program did not produce outcomes different from what would have happened without the program.

A program is considered “Evidence-Based” if an RCT demonstrates that people in the treatment group have better outcomes than people in the control group.

In 2008, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) began enrolling participants in the Family Options Study, a large national RCT for three different interventions designed to end homelessness for families. Over 2,800 homeless families in 12 communities across the United States participated. Families in the treatment group were randomly assigned to receive expedited enrollment in either (1) a permanent housing subsidy, typically a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, (2) a temporary housing subsidy, for up to 18 months with housing related services, or (3) project-based transitional housing (PBTH), which included 24 months of housing coupled with intensive on-site services, including wraparound case management. Each intervention had its own control group based on the “treatment” requirements. For example, PBTH programs that required participants to be substance free were evaluated with a control group that was also substance free.

Researchers compared the treatment and control groups 37 months after random assignment. Of the three interventions, only the permanent housing subsidy showed increased family stability as defined by housing, retention of custody, and children’s outcomes. For the PBTH group, 38 percent of both the treatment and control groups reported that they had experienced homelessness in the past 6 months, and 36 percent of both groups reported that they had participated in education or training classes for 2 weeks or longer.

One limitation of the Family Options Study is that it combined a wide variety of PBTH programs. The Family Options Study cannot distinguish among program characteristics, and it cannot tell us whether a program like Saranam – which combines housing, education and community – is effective. In fact, the only commonality among programs was that they provided intensive case management. Most of the PBTH programs in the Family Options Study required that participants pay some of their income toward rent.⁴ By contrast, Saranam does not collect any rent and its case management is provided in addition to intensive classroom instruction and programming designed to build community. Another limitation is that not all families that received expedited enrollment into a PBTH program chose to enroll. At the 20-month follow-up, only 54 percent of those offered a place in a PBTH program had enrolled.¹ This means that the study was unable to test whether the subset of families who *want* to enroll will benefit from the program. The only way to know

⁴ HUD Family Options Study, 2015 Short-Term Outcomes Report, accessed on May 9, 2023 at https://www.huduser.gov/portal/family_options_study.html

with a high degree of certainty whether Saranam is effective is to evaluate the program using an RCT, where families who *want* to enroll are randomly assigned to participate.

The evaluation team therefore explored how Saranam could become the subject of an RCT evaluation. We discovered that researchers hoping to do an RCT must first show that most program participants adhere to the program, and that participants have better outcomes than similar people who did not participate. Our evaluation work thus consisted of a series of explorations about how Saranam could meet these requirements.

This work could not have been completed if not for the incredible partnership between the Evaluation Lab and Saranam. This year's team consisted of a diverse public service team in program and project management, trauma-informed care, education, community outreach, and social work. The Evaluation Lab contributed two members: Melissa Binder, Evaluation Lab Team Lead (and MPP Director) and Marisa Wagner, Evaluation Lab Fellow. Saranam contributed four members: Tracy Weaver, Executive Director; Jennifer Mullen, Program Director; Ellen Shepherd, Director of Continuous Improvement; and Rachel Zepper, Alumni Coordinator.



Work Performed

As mentioned earlier, our task was to explore options for meeting the requirements for an RCT study. These requirements are, first, that most program participants adhere to the program, and second, that program participants have better outcomes than similar people who did not participate.

Time in program

The average stay at Saranam for families who started the program between 2015 and 2019 was 15.7 months. This compares favorably with the PBTH programs in the Family Options Study, where the average stay was 11.5 months. Similarly, whereas only 21% of the PBTH sample in the Family Options Study stayed for 18 months or longer, 43% of Saranam families stayed that long.

Saranam participants therefore have high adherence compared with other transitional housing programs.

Outcomes from the Alumni Survey

Our next step was to see what we could learn from Saranam's ongoing annual Alumni Survey. Every year, Saranam sends a Google Forms survey to all past participants. Survey questions cover a variety of housing, parenting, employment, education and community topics. As an incentive for participation, respondents receive a \$25 gift card.

Saranam reported that 33 of 52 families from the 2015-2019 cohorts responded to at least one Alumni Survey in 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022. Saranam thus had follow-up data for 63% of families from 2 to 7 years since a family's program start.

The team then decided to reach out to the 19 non-respondents in an attempt to increase the response rate. With eight more survey responses, we would have an 80% response rate,

Saranam participants have high program adherence compared with other transitional housing programs.

which would greatly improve the inferences we could make about the program.

In anticipation of conducting telephone interviews, we streamlined the existing survey so that the survey would take no more than 15 minutes. (See Appendix A for the revised survey.) The Saranam team then called the non-respondents to ask for permission for the UNM team to contact them. Saranam reached three non-respondents who agreed to sign a release; however, none of them followed through.

We decided to proceed with the data we had. Because of selection bias, we knew that survey respondents were likely to be doing better than non-respondents.⁵ We therefore would provide a range of estimates for each outcome measured as follows:

- The optimistic estimate for any yes or no outcome would be measured from survey respondents.
- The pessimistic estimate would assume that all non-respondents had the worse outcome.
- The true outcome would lie in between these two values.

Ideally, we would calculate outcomes at a set number of years since the beginning of the program. As mentioned before, survey respondents had different lengths of time since being at Saranam. (See Table 1.) And although some families responded every year, most families did not. We therefore could not select a specific time frame without losing respondents and further reducing the response rate.

Table 1. Number of years since program start, by year enrolled at Saranam for each survey year

Year enrolled at Saranam	Survey Year			
	2019	2020	2021	2022
2015	4	5	6	7
2016	3	4	5	6
2017	2	3	4	5
2018		2	3	4
2019			2	3

Note: To interpret these numbers, note that if a respondent enrolled in Saranam in 2015 and responded to the 2021 survey, 6 years have passed since they enrolled. For a respondent who enrolled in Saranam in 2019 and responded to the 2021 survey, only 2 years will have passed.

Our solution was to choose surveys as close to three years since the start of the program as possible. We chose this period for two reasons. First, 20 families had a survey at three years after the program started, more than for any other period. Second, a national study of homeless families reported outcomes after 37 months for a reference population.

To choose the survey response for families that had not responded three years since the program start, we used their earliest survey. The resulting sample has a median number of years after the program start of 3, with a mean of 3.4 years, and a standard deviation of 1.1. (See Table 2.)

⁵ See Table B in the Appendix, which shows that respondents stayed in the program longer, earned higher grades, and were more likely to have overall program success and be housed upon exit.

Table 2. Responding families, by number of months after they enrolled in Saranam

Months since start	Number of families	Percent
24	3	9.1
36	20	60.6
48	6	18.2
60	3	9.1
84	1	3.0
ALL	33	100

Median = 36 months (about 3 years); Mean (Standard Deviation) = 41 months (12 months)

SOURCE: 2019-2021 Alumni Survey Data for families who started at Saranam between 2015 and 2019.

Note: If a family responded to more than one survey, we used the survey year that was closest to 36 months after enrollment.

We report estimated outcomes in the next section.

McKinney-Vento as a data source for long-term outcomes

The Saranam team suggested that families participating in the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) McKinney-Vento program might be a good comparison group for long-term outcomes. All Saranam families enroll in McKinney-Vento, a federal program that requires public schools to provide an adequate education to children living in unstable housing, including those who are “doubled up.” Families in transitional housing programs like Saranam qualify for McKinney-Vento.

The UNM team met with the Director of the APS McKinney-Vento program, Cristal Wilson, who provided an overview of the data they collect. We learned that McKinney-Vento programs certify families’ eligibility every June. (Children remain in the program until the next certification period.) It would therefore be possible to track families into the future to learn if they continued to be eligible, i.e., homeless. Ms. Wilson indicated that McKinney-Vento would be willing to share information about Saranam families if they signed a release. Typical release documents are for one year at a time, but a family could sign a release for any amount of time.

APS data also include (1) whether children qualify for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to accommodate a disability, (2) year-to-year grade progression, and (3) graduation. It is therefore possible to track academic outcomes for the second generation of Saranam’s 2Gen approach.

When asked whether non-Saranam McKinney-Vento families could serve as a comparison group, Ms. Wilson pointed out that many McKinney-Vento families don’t meet Saranam’s entrance requirements of no substance use and no domestic violence. Nevertheless, the tracking study that we propose in the Recommendations section could use a Saranam-eligible subset of McKinney-Vento families.



Data Analysis

In this section, we provide estimated ranges of outcomes from the Alumni Survey.

We identified five measures from the survey that address Saranam's approach of housing, education, and community. The first measure is based on a respondent's description of their current housing, and defines a family as homeless if they reported living in a shelter, car, or motel, on the street, or staying with others ("doubled up"). (See Question 17 in Appendix A.)

The second and third measures are about education. Respondents reported whether their current education status was "Enrolled full-time" or "Enrolled part-time." (See Questions 8 and 9 in Appendix A.)

The fourth measure concerns supportive social networks, defined as being comfortable asking family and friends for support or describing family and friends as reliable. (See Question 24 in Appendix A.)

The fifth measure captures whether a family has escaped poverty. We considered respondents who chose that they were "Always" able to cover basic expenses as not poor. The other options were "Usually," "About half the time," "Seldom," and "Never." (See Question 25 in Appendix A.)

Recall that our most optimistic estimate is based on survey respondents, who we have reason to believe are doing better than non-respondents. Our most pessimistic estimate assumes that all non-respondents have the worse outcome. For example, 7 of the 33 survey respondents (21 percent) reported that they were homeless at the time of the survey. Our optimistic estimate assumes that the same rate holds for the non-respondents. Our pessimistic estimate assumes that all of the 19 non-respondents had the worse outcome (i.e., they were homeless). If that were the case, then $19 + 7 = 26$ of the 52 families who participated in Saranam from 2015-2019 (50%) would be homeless.

Using the same method, the percent of respondents currently enrolled in an education program ranges from 27% to 42%; the percent who earned a new degree, certificate or license since leaving Saranam ranges from 15% to 24%; the percent who have a supportive social network ranges from 44% to 74%; and the percent who have escaped poverty ranges from 19% to 37%. (See Table 3 and Figure 1.)

We compare these ranges to outcomes reported in the Family Options Study. Recall that at 37 months since random assignment, 38% of both the treatment and control groups for the PBTH programs had experienced homelessness in the past six months. This percent lies within our range of estimates for Saranam families. The Family Options Study also found that 36% of PBTH treatment and control groups reported having attended at least two weeks of education or training. This percent also lies within our range of estimates. (See Table 3 and Figure 1.)

Table 3. Estimated Range of outcomes ~ 3 years after program start, with Family Options Study comparison

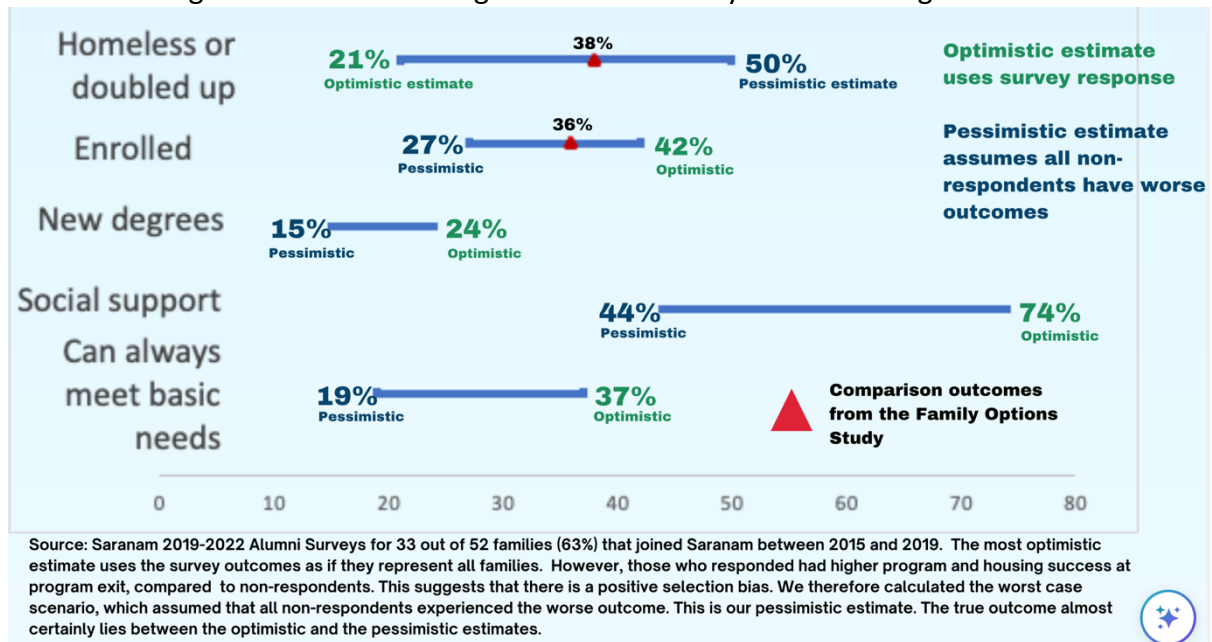
	Optimistic	Pessimistic	37-month comparison from Family Options Study
Homeless (in a shelter, car, motel, on the street, or “doubled up”)	21 %	50 %	38% homeless in last 6 months
Education status is currently enrolled full-time or part-time	42 %	27 %	36% had 2 weeks or more of classes
Earned a new degree, certificate, or license since leaving Saranam	24 %	15 %	
Social Support*	74 %	44 %	-
Can always cover basic expenses**	37 %	19 %	-

SOURCE: 2019-2021 Alumni Survey Data for families who started at Saranam between 2015 and 2019, and HUD Family Options Study (2016).

*Question was asked in 2020, 2021 & 2022 Surveys (30 responses)

**Question was asked in 2021 & 2022 Surveys (27 responses).

Figure 1. Estimated Range of Outcomes ~3 years after Program Start



Recommendations & Next Steps

This evaluation began with the scope of work that was moving toward the planning that goes into preparing to conduct a randomized control trial. However, before conducting an RCT, Saranam needs to conduct a preliminary study that shows promising results.

We have established that Saranam families have high rates of program adherence, compared with other transitional housing programs. What is needed is a plan for tracking long-term outcomes for Saranam families and a comparison group of similar families who did not enroll at Saranam.

Recommendations:

1. **Partner with McKinney-Vento to track housing status for Saranam families.** The McKinney-Vento Director welcomes this partnership. Saranam would need families to sign a release of information regarding the McKinney-Vento recertification process for five years. Limiting the release to housing status only may increase the number of families who sign the release. Documentation of a homelessness rate that is less than the 38% for families in the Family Options Study would help to make the case for Saranam as a promising program.

An enormous advantage of drawing from McKinney-Vento data is that there would be no need to go looking for alumni!

An enormous advantage of this option is that McKinney-Vento already collects housing status information for all Saranam families. There would be no need to go looking for alumni!

2. **Align Alumni Survey with Family Options Study and use best practices to increase response rate.** Incorporating key questions from the Family Options Study would increase comparability between Saranam alumni and Family Options Study participants. Increasing the response rate to 80% would narrow the estimated range of outcomes. For example, with an 80% response rate and a homelessness rate of 21% for respondents, the estimated range would be 21% to 37%, instead of 21% to 50% as reported above. A range that performs better than the Family Options Study would help make the case for Saranam as a promising program.

In order to increase the response rate, Saranam would need to develop a tracking system following best practices, such as those proposed in the Urban Institute report, [Finding out what happens to former clients](#).

3. **Enroll applicants who are not offered a Saranam placement into a tracking study that includes 1 and 2 above.** Saranam screens in applicants who are 18 years and older, have physical custody of their minor child(ren) for at least 50% of the time, can participate in English-language instruction, have no recent history of criminal violence, have no record of crimes against children, and who are willing to participate in Saranam's educational program full-time without working. Screened-in applicants are invited to take a drug test, and all who pass are considered for an

interview, based on a subjective assessment of being a good fit. Not all interviewees are offered a place in the program, for reasons as varied as discovery of recent substance use, available units that can accommodate the family, and ensuring that there is overlap in family characteristics. For example, Saranam would want more than one family whose household head would be getting her GED, and more than one family that is headed by a single father.

Those not offered an interview, and those who were interviewed, but were not offered a place in the program, would serve as a comparison group. It is possible that Saranam chooses applicants who have traits that might make them more successful than those not chosen. For example, those chosen might have better social skills. With or without Saranam, those with better social skills might experience better outcomes, and if they do, then a comparison of long-term outcomes might overstate Saranam's effectiveness. On the other hand, given the criteria based on apartment availability and family characteristic overlap, it is possible those offered a place are similar to those turned away. In that case, those not offered a place would be a valid comparison group. In any case, a comparison group of families who pass the drug screen make a much better comparison group than, say, all families in the McKinney-Vento program.

Small sample sizes present an additional challenge. With fewer than 200 members in both the Saranam and comparison families groups, there is a fairly large probability that the tracking study will fail to detect meaningful differences in outcomes, even if the program is effective. Because Saranam will be accepting at most 20-25 families a year, it will take at least eight years to get to 200 study participants, plus another three years to track long-term outcomes.

4. **Connect with other 2-Gen transitional housing programs to assess the possibility of a multi-site study that could provide an evidence base for the 2-Gen approach.** The problem of small sample sizes can be overcome if Saranam were to recruit other similar programs for a study. This strategy requires that the programs share many design similarities. A positive finding in a large-scale study could provide meaningful evidence for the 2-Gen approach.

Recommendations 1 and 4 require the fewest resources and could be pursued immediately. Recommendations 2 and 3 could be the focus of next year's evaluation. For example, Saranam might consider a pilot study to track families not accepted into the program. These families may need to receive a sizable incentive to agree to repeated contact. Nevertheless, establishing the feasibility of a tracking study, along with a positive outcome for Recommendation 1, could help make the case for a funder to invest in the larger scale study envisioned in Recommendation 4.

References

Arnold Ventures. Undated. RCT Opportunity: Request for Proposals.

<https://craftmediabucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/Request-for-Proposals-RCTs-of-programs-that-others-are-funding-March-2019.pdf> (accessed on January 31, 2023).

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The Urban Institute. 2003. Finding out what happens to former clients.

<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/finding-out-what-happens-former-clients>

(accessed on May 10, 2023).



Appendix A — Proposed revisions to Saranam’s Alumni Survey

We made these revisions in preparation for a telephone interview, however we think they clarified some questions and streamlined the survey. Please note that some of the question prompts would need to be reverted back to a form appropriate for a self-administered survey.

Saranam Alumni Survey - Proposed Telephone Interview Version

Hi, my name is Marisa Wagner, I am an evaluator fellow from UNM working with Saranam. They gave me the ok to call you so you can be part of Saranam's alumni Survey. Saranam wants to know how alumni are doing since leaving Saranam. Do you have time to talk now, or would you like me to schedule a specific time?

Schedule a time if they can not take the call.

If ok to talk: Great! thank you! This is a 15 minute survey. After completing the survey, Saranam will send you a 25\$ gift card in appreciation for completing this survey with me today.

This survey is confidential and we will not share individual responses with Saranam.

Let's get started with confirming or updating your contact information:

** Indicates required question*

1. List phone number before starting survey *

Employment Update

The next section will be questions about your employment status.

2. Who supports your household? *

Mark only one oval.

- Saranam Alumni
- Saranam Alumni and Partner
- Partner
- Parent / Grandparent
- Other family member
- Other: _____

3. What is your employment status? *

Check all that apply.

- Employed full time (35 or more hours per week)
- Employed part time (less than 35 hours per week)
- Not employed but looking for work
- Not employed and not looking
- Other: _____

4. What is your total household income from work and any other sources?

5. That income is: *

Mark only one oval.

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Annual
- Other: _____

6. If employed,

Mark only one oval per row.

	unsure	very unlikely	likely	very likely
What is the probability of continued employment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Has childcare been a barrier for your education or employment? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Skip to question 8

Education Update

Saranam would like to know if you continued or increased your education since leaving Saranam.

8. Tell us about your current education: *

Mark only one oval.

Currently enrolled full time

Currently enrolled part time

Not attending but planning to enroll

Not attending and not planning to enroll

Other: _____

9. Have you completed any degrees, certificates, or licensures since leaving Saranam? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

10. If yes, please share your details! When? Where? What field?

Family Update

Saranam would love to hear about your family accomplishments and updates.

11. How many people live in your household? *

12. Not including yourself, what are the initials of your dependents, their age, and what grade are they in?

13. Have there been any changes to your family since leaving Saranam? *

Check all that apply.

- Married
- Divorced
- New child
- No changes
- Other: _____

Parenting

Saranam

aims to help or support alumni families by providing resources and encouragement in their parenting journey. The next questions have to do with living arrangements.

14. Did your children (under age 18) live with you consistently since you left Saranam? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No
 Other: _____

15. If your child was not always with you, where did they stay? (Check all that apply.)

Check all that apply.

- Child entered foster care,
 kinship guardianship was granted by court,
 100% physical or legal custody was granted to someone else.
 kids stayed with another family member
 Shared custody with other parent
 Other: _____

16. If you answered no.
Are children still out of your care?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No
 Other: _____

Housing

The next set of questions will ask about housing and homelessness.

17. We're curious about your current living situation. . .For example, do you have your own apartment? Are you in transitional living?

Mark only one oval.

- I am staying in a car, park, campground, or on the street, or in an abandoned building or public space.
- I am staying in an emergency shelter
- I am staying in a hotel
- I am staying with others ("doubled up").
- I received a legal threat of eviction or foreclosure recently.
- I'm staying in transitional housing.
- I am receiving temporary rent/mortgage subsidy (recently or within the last 3 months), but it will expire.
- I have public housing, or housing with a Section 8 voucher or other subsidy.
- I rent my housing.
- I own my own home.
- Other: _____

18. Do you feel safe in your current housing situation?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, always
- Yes, most of the time
- No, not always
- No, never
- Other: _____

19. Is your rent, mortgage, or other payment for housing more than 30% of your income? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

20. Have you experienced homelessness since leaving Saranam? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

21. Since leaving Saranam, have you had to rely on others for shelter, including couch surfing or being doubled up?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Other: _____

22. Did you experience any of the following situations in the past six months? (Check all that apply.)

Check all that apply.

- I stayed in a park, campground, or on the street, or in an abandoned building or public space.
- I stayed in an emergency shelter
- I stayed in a hotel
- I stayed with others because I did not have my own home ("doubled up")
- I did not experience any of the above situations
- Other: _____

Daily life

The next set of questions will ask about social networks, community, and household expenses.

23. Describe your involvement in your community, such as attending church, volunteering, membership in a group, etc.

24. Supportive Social Networks - Select the best answer to describe your current circumstances.

Mark only one oval.

- My friends and family are a negative influence.
- I do not have any friends or family to rely on.
- My friends and family are not accessible or available to supply support.
- My friends and family are not a reliable source of support.
- I am comfortable asking my family or friends for support.
- My relationships with family or friends are developing, growing, and strengthening.
- I can rely on friends and family during a real crisis.
- My friends and family are reliable most of the time.
- My friends and family always give reliable support.
- My friends and family always give reliable support, and I am able to give them support as well.

25. Expenses and Benefits : Give your answer based on the primary wage earner in the household.

Mark only one oval per row.

	Always	Usually	About half the time	Seldom	Never
I (or we) are able to cover basic expenses.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I (or we) are able to afford some extra purchases.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I (or we) are able to afford most things I need or want.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I (or we) have benefits through my employer (savings, time off, for example)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. Financial well-being: What types of savings (assets) do you have? Check all that apply. *

Check all that apply.

- I don't have kids or don't intend to pay for their college.
- I have emergency savings of at least \$500
- I have emergency savings that would last at least 3 months.
- I have at least \$2,000 in checking and/or savings.
- I have less than \$2,000 in checking and/or savings.
- I own a car (paid off).
- I own a car (with a car loan).
- I own a house (paid off).
- I own a house (with a mortgage).
- I have a retirement account (my employer and/or I regularly contribute).
- I have a retirement account (but don't contribute).
- I am saving for my kids' college.
- Other: _____

Feedback for Saranam

We are almost done. Saranam wants your input because it helps them improve their program! They value the Alumni's input. With that said...

27. Looking back at your time in Saranam what was most helpful and how did it impact your life?

28. What was least helpful ? **Or** What aspects of the program would you change? *

29. How likely are you to recommend Saranam to others, with 1 being less likely and 5 being most likely?

Mark only one oval.

1 2 3 4 5

Lea: Most Likely

Closing

Thank you very much for participating in this survey. Now that we are complete, you will receive your \$25.00 gift card to your email address in the next 1-2 weeks.

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Appendix B – Program Characteristics of Survey Respondents and Non-Respondents

Table B1. Compared with non-respondents, survey respondents had longer program stays, better grades, and better outcomes at exit

	Survey respondents	Non-respondents	Difference	
Weeks in program	81.0 (25.8)	46.5 (31.9)	34.5	*
Fall grade	63.8 (34.5)	47.3 (34.5)	16.5	†
Fall grade 70% or higher	58.3%	18.2%	40.1%	*
Program success at exit	93.8%	52.6%	41.2%	*
Housing success at exit	56.3%	16.7%	39.6%	*

*Significant at the 5% level

†Significant at the 20% level