

These past practices of paying respondents has direct implications on the HPWUS survey design and on response rates of the HPWUS. The success of the survey is dependent upon the cooperation of the service providers and respondents.

**(1) Cooperation of Service Providers**

Most service providers require (or prefer) respondents to be compensated for their participation in the survey. Paying the service providers is also critical to guarantee their cooperation. The cooperation of the service providers is essential for the following reasons:

- (a) Providers determine if the voluntary survey will be conducted at the facility. They also determine logistical arrangements for conducting the interview.
- (b) Providers must agree to allow respondents to remain at the facility (e.g., after eating) to be interviewed. Normally, persons are required to immediately leave the site once services are provided.
- (c) Providers often have significant influence with homeless persons seeking their services.

**(2) Respondent Cooperation**

The survey design of the HPWUS requires sampling persons at the facility. Paying respondents is critical to ensure that designated sample persons remain at the facility to be interviewed once they have used the services offered. Without payment, there is little incentive for respondents to remain on site for an interview that may take 45 minutes and asks personal questions, such as drug and alcohol use, mental health status, living conditions, victimizations, and imprisonment.

In our consultations with outside experts in this field, all persons indicated that paying respondents to participate in the survey was critical to achieving acceptable response rates. All experts agree that we should expect high nonresponse rates if respondents are not compensated for their participation.

To ensure the cooperation of the service providers and the respondents, we recommend that a Memorandum of Understanding (see Attachment I) be entered into by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the service facility. Under this agreement, the Census Bureau will compensate the service providers for their help. For example, the Census Bureau will ask the service provider to:

- Participate in pre-contact meeting(s) with Census Bureau regional office staff to make logistical arrangements to conduct the survey.
- Make space available at the facility to interview sample persons.
- Agree to allow the field representatives to conduct interviews on scheduled days and at scheduled times according to the statistical sampling schemes designed for the HPWUS.
- Administer cash payments of \$10 to survey respondents. Administering cash payments this way alleviates safety concerns about placing the field representatives and survey respondents at risk of crime.