

Accelerating Employment Retention Strategies for the Precariously Housed

Employment and housing stability are interdependent. A 2016 study found that renters who lose their homes are much more likely to lose their jobs. Lack of hygiene materials, inadequate transportation, and unreliable cell phone access are some factors that impede the precariously housed from maintaining steady jobs. Additionally, low-wage workers frequently do not have advance notice of work schedules, paid leave options, or other termination protections (Kang, 2019; Desmond and Gershenson, 2016). Workers then lack the flexibility to tend to personal matters, including finding affordable housing. These barriers require the development of new employment retention strategies to ensure the precariously housed maintain stable jobs and housing.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted worker housing vulnerability. As of May 2020, an estimated 1.8 million residents in Los Angeles County are newly unemployed, and approximately 365,000 renter households will not receive unemployment benefits because they are ineligible or will not apply, leaving them vulnerable to eviction (Blasi, 2020).

USC's Price Center and LeadersUp, a nonprofit and social enterprise focused on connecting unemployed youth and businesses with recruitment challenges, are partnering to research new employment retention strategies for the precariously housed.

Our Work

With support from the California Workforce Development Board and in partnership with employers in Los Angeles, the project aims to do the following:

- Listen to employers to understand barriers and opportunities for supporting precariously housed employees;
- Examine the landscape of employer-led housing solutions; and
- Co-design and develop new retention strategies with employers as key stakeholders.

How to Get Involved

Partner with us!

Throughout this project, there will be several opportunities to express your ideas and thoughts. The Price Center and LeadersUp will be releasing an employer survey and facilitate a series of listening and design thinking sessions. For more information, please contact **Victoria Ciudad-Real** at vciudadr@price.usc.edu.

Follow us!

Visit socialinnovation.usc.edu to sign up for our Price Center newsletter to be notified of the final report's publication and share employment retention strategies that support the precariously housed. Also, visit leadersup.org to become part of a large collaborative network of businesses.