



# Personalizing Homelessness Prevention: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial

## Background

- With homelessness prevention programs expanding due to increased federal funding, this research aims to determine whether combining emergency financial assistance with personalized case management improves housing stability compared to financial aid alone.

## Study Overview

- Through a randomized controlled trial in King County, WA, the authors evaluate the impact of case management combined with financial assistance versus financial assistance alone. The research tracks housing stability, eviction rates, and downstream outcomes using administrative data from homeless service programs, eviction records, and public benefits databases.

### Learn More

- Phillips, D. C. and Sullivan, J. X..(2023), Personalizing Homelessness Prevention: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial. *J. Pol. Anal. Manage.* doi:10.1002/pam.22547
- <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22547>

## Key Takeaways

- The authors found that participants who received personalized case management and financial assistance were 4.2 percentage points more likely to enroll in homeless service programs within a year compared to those receiving only financial aid.
- It was also found that case management did not significantly decrease eviction filings, with no substantial differences observed in eviction rates between the two groups.
- Some case managers delayed financial aid distribution while providing case management, which was associated with worse housing stability outcomes.
- Case management did not significantly increase public benefit use, but it was linked to a higher likelihood of arrests, suggesting potential unintended consequences.
- More intensive case management was associated with better outcomes, while delayed financial assistance and inconsistent implementation led to poorer housing stability.