Pre-Analysis Plan

for

"Beliefs About Need and Informal Help — A Field Experiment"

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1 Non-compliance

I do not expect serious issues of non-compliance, as participants in both the Small Cash and Large Cash treatments will receive their unconditional cash transfer payments through direct deposit into their bank accounts. This means that participants in these groups should always be compliant with the receipt of the cash. The only exceptions to this are if there are clerical or technological issues that prevent the cash transfer, or if a participant refuses to receive payment. The primary analysis is an Intent-to-Treat, and so even participants in the Small Cash and Large Cash groups who do not receive their UCTs will be treated in the analyses as if they did. However, we will observe any clerical or technological issues that prevent the cash transfer in our data. Thus, we will be able to examine these participants separately, as well.

One possibility is that some participants may receive the cash but not be aware of it. Awareness of the cash payments will be assessed in the survey (please see the RECEIVEDSTUDY question in the Docs & Materials of the main preregistration— found under "A Randomized Controlled Trial Varying Unconditional Cash Transfer Amounts in the United States," by Oliver Hauser, Jon Jachimowicz, Julian Jamison, and Ania Jaroszewicz.). A participant who received a UCT but who does not check off the box indicating that they have received money from the non-profit organization, and/or indicates that they have received no more than $40 in the last month (where $40 is the sum of the payments that they would receive for completing the first two surveys), will be marked as unaware of their treatment status. Similarly, a participant who does not receive a UCT but reports that they did will also be marked as unaware.

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Because the primary analysis will use an Intent-to-Treat approach, even those participants who are unaware of their treatment status will be analyzed based on the treatment group to which they were assigned. However, in additional analyses, I will also examine the outcomes of only those participants who correctly reported their treatment status, using a Treatment-on-the-Treated approach.

2   Data Exclusions

I do not plan on excluding any observations in my primary analyses. However, as described above, I intend on separately analyzing those participants who seem to hold incorrect beliefs about their treatment status.

3   Outliers

Offers for help will be censored at $1,000. To account for outliers, I will employ a 90% and 95% winsorization on the focal participants' own reported need, beliefs about the outside participant's reported need, and offers for help.

4   Confirmatory Analyses

My identification strategy is based on random assignment to a treatment group. The primary analyses will involve collapsing across the participants who do and do not have access to the non-profit organization's online platform, simply examining the main effects of UCT levels. In addition, in the primary analyses I will collapse across the ordering of the questions. I will use an Intent-to-Treat approach.

The primary specification will be an OLS regression where the outcome variable is the focal participant's beliefs about the outside participant's needs and the primary right hand side variable is a dummy for whether the focal participant was in either of the Cash groups. I will also test whether the ordering of the questions and access to the online platform affects beliefs about need. I will also separately examine the two cash groups and interactions between the UCT levels and access to the online platform. In robustness checks, I will run these specifications including covariates like participant demographics and survey time variables (when the survey was taken), as well as separately analyze participants who did and did not correctly report whether they received money. Finally, I will examine whether one's own reported need predicts beliefs about others' needs and whether beliefs about others' needs predict the offer amount.