



## HCHS/SOL Question by Question Instructions, Economic Form (ECE/ECS), Version A

### Question by Question Instructions

**Q1** This question assesses whether participants own, rent, or occupy without payment whatever property in which they live. **READ** the item exactly as it is written. **READ ALL** response choices. Continue to **READ ALL RESPONSE CHOICES** to ensure that participants' choose the best possible answer. When the participant responds affirmatively to a response, mark the corresponding box. Only one box should be checked since the responses are mutually exclusive.

**Q2** The question covers the entire household's income, not just what is earned by the individual. Income can include money received from rental property, dividends, capital gains on stocks, interests, public assistance programs, and gifts from friends or family. The household includes both family and non-family members living at the respondent's residence and sharing resources. The year is defined as a 12-month period. For most people, it will be helpful to think of the previous income tax year from January 1 to December 31.

To help reduce non-response bias due to sensitivity on income questions, this question is asked in unfolding brackets. **READ ITEM 2** to the participant followed by **THE FIRST TWO BRACKETS**. Then, skip to question 3 or 4 depending on the answer provided. If the respondent refuses to answer or does not know, assure them that a rough estimate is fine and **REPEAT THE FIRST TWO BRACKETS**. If the respondent continues to refuse or does not know, **LEAVE BLANK**

**Q3** The purpose of this question is to narrow down the household income for those with incomes under \$30,000 per year. If individuals provide you with an approximate amount of income (e.g. \$18,000), check the appropriate box next to the corresponding bracket and **REPEAT**, "so that is between \$15,001 and \$20,000. Otherwise, **READ ITEM 4** to the participant followed by the possible brackets. When the participant indicates the correct bracket, stop reading the brackets and check the appropriate box. Only one box should be checked for this item, since answers are mutually exclusive.

**Q4** The purpose of this question is to narrow down the household income for those with income greater than or equal to \$30,000 per year. If individuals provide you with an approximate amount of income (e.g. \$55,000), check the appropriate box next to the corresponding bracket and **REPEAT**, "so that is between \$50,001 and \$75,000. Otherwise, **READ ITEM 5** to the participant followed by the possible brackets. When the participant indicates the correct bracket, stop reading the brackets and check the appropriate box. Only one box should be checked for this item, since answers are mutually exclusive.

**Q5** The purpose of this question is to determine the number of people supported by the yearly household income, so that a relative indication of income can be derived. The question seeks the **TOTAL** number of people supported by the income, **INCLUDING THE PARTICIPANT**. This should include people who are not in the household who are supported by the income, as may be the case with immigrants sending money home to their families. **READ** item 5 to the participant, and enter the number in the boxes below the item. If the participant states that they are uncertain, ask them for their best estimate. If the participant refuses to answer or continues to state that they do not know, do

not enter a number.

- Q6 The purpose of this item is to determine the participants' assessment of their position on a social ladder that takes into account multiple dimensions of socioeconomic status. The ladder consists of 10 rungs, which are later converted to a low score of 1 and a high score of 10. READ the instructions in section C exactly as they are written, showing the participants the picture of the ladder. READ item 6 exactly as it is written. Mark the specific RUNG the participants indicate with an X to show where they feel they stand on the social ladder depicted. If participants ask for clarification or supplementary information – for example, how to weight the various components of SES, what the average level of education or income is in the United States, etc. – they should be told that they should define these things (or answer) in whatever way is most meaningful to them. In other words, no supplementary information should be offered. If participant states that they are uncertain, ask them to answer according to their best estimate. If the participant refuses to answer or continues to state that they do not know, the ladder will be left blank.