END OF YEAR REPORT



Mayors & Counties for a Guaranteed Income End of Year Report 2023

Letter from MGI & CGI Leaders

Earlier this year, we learned that in 2022 the United States experienced its largest ever one-year increase in the poverty rate.

Child poverty more than doubled. The worst part is that it was self-inflicted. When Congress sent direct payments to Americans during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, it worked: we saw a historic decrease in poverty across the board. When those payments stopped, the progress was reversed.

Guaranteed income works. We've seen it in mayor and county-led pilots across the country. We've seen it in targeted guaranteed income programs, such as the expanded Child Tax Credit and pandemic relief payments. The evidence is there, so now we are redoubling our efforts to turn pilots into policy.

Since launching in 2020, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income has grown its ranks from 11 to 125 mayors. Building off of that momentum, we launched Counties for a Guaranteed Income this past February, led by co-chairs Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, who is the first to promise a permanent program, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, who led the creation of Breathe: Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program, which is currently the largest in the nation. In less than a year, 30 county elected officials have joined our movement.

In just three years, we've moved the conversation forward about guaranteed income in our mayors' cities, in county offices, in state capitals, and in Congress. We've supported nearly 60 pilots, with more in the pipeline. In total, these pilots will deliver at least \$250 million in direct, unconditional relief to everyday Americans.

This year we created more opportunities for involvement in state and federal policy advocacy and elevated the voices of MGI members as champions for a guaranteed income. We sent meaningful sign-on letters, held one-on-one and group meetings with the Biden Administration, members of Congress, and state legislators, and produced digital advertising campaigns promoting guaranteed income.

We're also continuing to invest in narrative change efforts to highlight the lived experiences of economic insecurity. Our feature-length documentary, It's Basic made its global premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in June. The film explores the power of cash, the importance of dignity, and the ongoing work of providing an income floor through the eyes of guaranteed income recipients who have witnessed firsthand the life-altering effects of financial stability. It is a powerful call to action for policymakers to invest in guaranteed income to build a more just and equitable society.

In June we also launched the Guaranteed Income Works Tour, with our first stop in Long Beach, CA with Congressman Robert Garcia and Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. This nationwide tour is amplifying the voices and stories of guaranteed income pilot recipients, sharing their experiences, and shedding light on the benefits and existence of pilots in cities and counties throughout the country. We've convened mayors, local elected officials, and pilot participants from coast to coast to foster conversations about the importance of expanding guaranteed income programs and restoring the expanded Child Tax Credit.

Our work has been effective, but we still have a long way to go. In 2024, along with finishing pilots currently in the works, our mayors and county leaders will make the data-driven case to their constituents and other policymakers that a guaranteed income can end poverty in the United States. Your help got us this far. We look forward to continuing working together to create a more just country.

In Service,

Michael D. Tubbs, Founder of MGI and CGI and MGI Co-Chair

Melvin Carter, Mayor of Saint Paul, MN and MGI Co-Chair

Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President and CGI Co-Chair

Holly J. Mitchell, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and CGI Co-Chair

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From Pilots to Policy



STATES BEGIN TO FUND GUARANTEED INCOME

This year, multiple states passed targeted guaranteed income programs that are not only helping people across the country immediately, they're laying the groundwork for a national guaranteed income.



MINNESOTA

Minnesota included a landmark state-based child tax credit in its tax overhaul legislation this year, which will provide up to \$1,750 per child in the state. This no-strings-attached funding will be a lifeline for thousands of Minnesota families in 2024.

- "Minnesota is going to enact not just a nation-leading, but a global-leading child tax credit that will reduce childhood poverty faster than anyplace else."
- -Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz

WASHINGTON

About 400,000 families in Washington are eligible for the state's new Working Families Tax Credit, which went into effect this year. The tax credit gives up to \$1,200, no-strings-attached, to low-income families and individuals in the state who made less than \$60,000 in 2022.

"In 2021, an analysis found that low-income Washingtonians pay 17% of their income in taxes while middle-class people pay 11% and the wealthiest pay just 3%. Programs like the WFTC are righting this upside-down tax structure by making Washington's tax system less regressive."

-Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's Office

MICHIGAN

This year, Michigan expanded its Earned Income Tax Credit, providing about 700,000 Michiganders with increased direct payments. Individuals earning about \$57,000 or less will receive an additional \$600 a year because of this expansion - for an average combined tax refund of \$3,150.

- "Getting this done will help people pay the bills, put food on the table, and afford essentials like groceries and school supplies. It will ensure seniors can keep more of what they've earned over a lifetime of hard work and put money back in the pockets of 700,000 working families."
- -Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

CALIFORNIA

In November, California launched its first state-funded guaranteed income pilots in San Francisco and Ventura County. The City and County of San Francisco pilot will provide 150 former foster youth with \$1,200 per month for 18 months. The Ventura County pilot will provide \$1,000 per month to 150 former foster youth, also for 18 months.

- "Guaranteed income programs help level the playing field and will give these former foster youth the support and resources they need to pursue their California dream."
- -California Gov. Gavin Newsom

CONTINUED

CAMBRIDGE EXPANDS ITS PILOT

This year, Cambridge, MA became the first guaranteed income pilot in the nation to expand to include everyone who qualifies. Rise Up Cambridge provides \$500 per month for 18 months to households earning at or below 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, with children 21 years of age and younger. Rise Up Cambridge is being run in partnership with the Office of Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, and the Cambridge Community Foundation.

"Our direct cash assistance pilot program has proven that guaranteed income works, and we are proud to be at the forefront of this national movement. The \$22 million expansion, Rise Up Cambridge, includes 1,922 families, nearly 6,500 total residents, and reflects our commitment to ensuring financial stability and dignity for all."

-Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui

National Association of Counties Adopts Guaranteed Income Resolution

As counties across the nation invest in guaranteed income programs, it's important that recipients' access to federal safety net programs is preserved. CGI members Angela Conley and Irene K. Fernando, two County Commissioners in Hennepin, MN, sponsored a resolution on this, which was passed by the National Association of Counties (NACo) in July 2023.

GUARANTEED INCOME WORKS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Data from four mayor-led guaranteed income pilots in the South shows a positive connection between guaranteed income and the well-being of both children and parents.

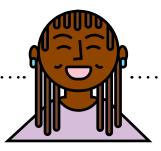
The new brief from researchers at Abt Associates, "My kids deserve the world": How children in the Southeast benefit from guaranteed income, is based on stories shared by 67 parents and guardians receiving a guaranteed income in Atlanta, GA; Birmingham, AL; Louisville, KY; and Shreveport, LA. Researchers identified five key benefits:

- 1. Providing for Basic Needs
- Better Educational Outcomes and and Children's Development
- 3. Work-Life Balance
- Enrichment, Parent-Child Bonding, and Parental Confidence
- Parents' Mental Health

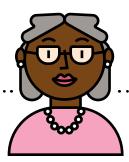
In all these parents' experiences, guaranteed income brought meaningful positive changes for themselves and their children. The findings in this research brief add to the body of evidence that guaranteed income programs improve child welfare and are most effective in doing so when the payments are ongoing.

Read more at:

guaranteedincomeworks.org/child-outcomes









MAYORS FOR A GUARANTEED INCOME



COUNTIES FOR A GUARANTEED INCOME

Since launching in June 2020, MGI has grown from 11 to 125 mayors, across 34 different states. And CGI has grown to 30 members across 15 states. All together, our coalition has launched nearly 60 pilots, providing more than \$250M in direct, unconditional relief to everyday Americans.

President Barack Obama for a Guaranteed Income

"One of the bright spots coming out of the pandemic has been evidence that the generous benefits people received during the lockdowns, which is unusual for the United States, may be one of the reasons why the U.S. economy has actually seen an unprecedented increase in new business formation over the past couple years. Because people had a little bit of a cushion to go out and take a risk and try that new idea. And that's the thing about giving people a safety net and helping them achieve their basic needs. Not only does it relieve hardship. Not only does it strengthen our democracy. It can also empower people to be more productive and raise their ambitions, and set an example for their children. And that benefits all of us. And that benefits the economy, and that benefits business."



Member Spotlight: Nida Allam, Durham County Commissioner

Commissioner Allam is the first Muslim woman elected to any office in North Carolina and an outspoken champion for guaranteed income. In 2022, the City of Durham launched its first guaranteed income program, StepUp Durham, which provided \$600 per month for one year to 109 people who are formerly incarcerated or justice system-involved.

Commissioner Allam was a leading advocate for Durham County's guaranteed income expansion, DCo Thrives, alongside CGI member and fellow Commissioner Brenda Howerton.

DCo Thrives launches in early 2024 and will provide 125 low-income families with \$750 per month for one year.



Alameda to give 150 households monthly stipends of \$1,000 for two years (Mercury News) "During the pandemic we learned that while in many ways we were all in it together, certainly some individuals and groups were impacted more heavily than others."

-Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft







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lt"s Basic: the Tribeca film premiere







This year, MGI released a new documentary, It's Basic, executive produced by founder Michael D. Tubbs and directed by award-winning filmmaker Marc Levin.

It's Basic spotlights guaranteed income programs across the U.S., following recipients through their daily lives and featuring commentary from leading mayors. In June, It's Basic was selected to premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City.







Following the premiere, MGI took It's Basic on the road, beginning the 50-city Guaranteed Income Works tour. We're crossing the nation to share how guaranteed income improves financial resilience, strengthens families and gives people the opportunity to build a more stable life.

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Guaranteed Income Works National Tour

In addition to a screening of It's Basic, each tour stop features the voices and stories of recipients of guaranteed income, as well as local Mayors, elected officials and community partners.

"Nobody wakes up one day and says I want to be low income. I am living proof, the people in the film are living proof. If you give us the opportunity, we will rise to the occasion... to be what you didn't think we could be."

—Alisha Roe

A recipient of Oakland Resilient Families guaranteed income



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS:

•••••• Try this in a small town. And in every town.
(Boston Globe)

Now we need legislators to take the next step.

(NJ.com)

of Guaranteed Income Programs

(Los Angeles Sentinel)

"It's Basic" Documentary, Fanning the Flames of the Guaranteed Income Movement

(The Metropolitan)

Program for Single Mothers

(Birmingham Times)

Income Documentary
(WCJB Gainesville)

TOUR STOPS IN 2023

- **t** Long Beach, CA
- Saint Paul, MN
- n Oakland, CA
- 🟠 Cambridge, MA
- Boulder, CO
- Newark, NJ
- Gainesville, FL
- 🏠 Birmingham, AL
- 🛖 Durham, NC
- Portland, ME
- thaca, NY
- A Madison, WI



Gainesville, FL Former Mayor Lauren Poe



Cambridge, MA Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui



Saint Paul, MN Mayor Melvin Carter





