



**MAYORS FOR A
GUARANTEED
INCOME**



**COUNTIES FOR A
GUARANTEED
INCOME**

Statement on Texas Supreme Court's Ruling Blocking Uplift Harris Program
June 14, 2024

The goal of Uplift Harris is to help working families in the top-10 highest-poverty zip codes in Harris County make ends meet. This pilot program would provide households with \$500 per month for 18 months to pay for basic necessities: food, childcare expenses, medicine, transportation, etc. There are over 100 pilots nationwide that are in-process or have completed with great success, including in Austin, San Antonio, and El Paso. Uplift Harris isn't a new idea, it's based on programs that have worked time and time again. Guaranteed income recipients are more likely to find full time employment and experience less income volatility than their neighbors, allowing families to stabilize and plan for the future. Recipients are also healthier, showing less depression and anxiety, and enhanced wellbeing.

Unfortunately, Attorney General Ken Paxton misled the public and politicized the program, and the Texas Supreme Court sided with him. This ruling is a loss for everyone but won't stop the momentum for creating economic opportunity for all. Reactionary leaders across the country are seeking to halt progress, but the work will continue. We appreciate Commissioner Rodney Ellis's commitment to fighting poverty in Harris County, and we will keep working with him on this vital mission.

Michael D. Tubbs
Founder and Chair,
Mayors & Counties for a Guaranteed Income