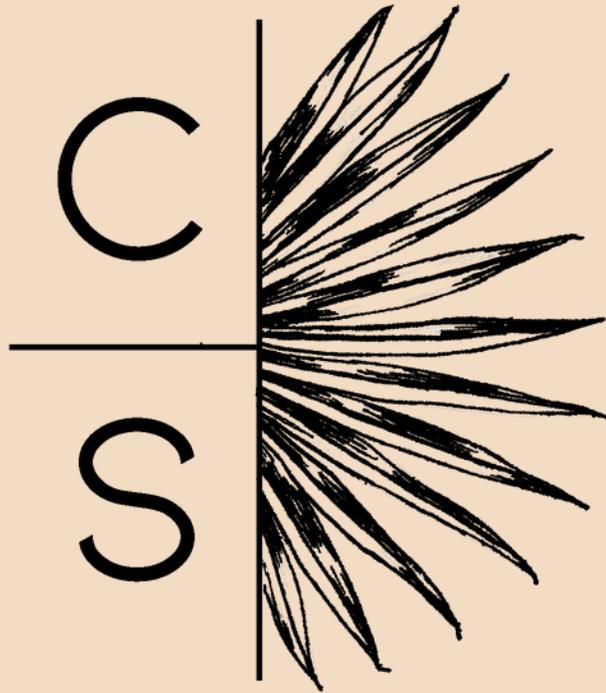


JUST INCOME
— **GNV**



2022 - 2023

Impact Report



COMMUNITY
SPRING

JUST INCOME



NOBODY SHOULD BE TOO POOR TO BE FREE

Just Income is a project by Community Spring, which envisions communities where no one lives on the fringes – where everyone has the resources they need to have agency over their lives and a sense of belonging. Built on the pillars of income and power, our mission is to dismantle structural poverty and spur economic mobility at a grassroots level.

Located in Gainesville, Florida, Just Income provides temporary, unconditional monthly payments directly to people who have been impacted by the justice system - no strings attached. This pilot is designed and administered by formerly incarcerated people. We believe a guaranteed income can mitigate known barriers to successful reentry and unlock the inherent potential of our justice-impacted neighbors. Our pilot year of disbursements finished in February 2023.

OUR TEAM



(Left to right) Dr. Lucius Couloute, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice at Suffolk University is a part of the research team. Lindsay Kallman is the Executive Director of Community Spring. Tequila McKnight is the Participant Coordinator for Just Income. And Kevin Scott is the Program Director of Just Income.

WHY

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Florida's rate is even higher. Enormous sums of money are spent imprisoning people.

People coming out of the prison system are often already in debt. Serving time is expensive for the people inside and their supporters on the outside, often placing entire families and communities into a deep financial hole. After release from prison, people encounter an array of obstacles, including financial insecurity, elevated levels of unemployment and homelessness, and the trauma of Post-Incarceration Syndrome.

Former prisoners are burdened with fines and fees related to supervision, classes, court costs, electronic monitoring, polygraphs, drug tests, and more. The inability to pay can result in re-incarceration. Locally, **23% of probation violations are because of a lack of money.**

People are, in essence,

TOO POOR TO BE FREE.

Racial and economic divisions are clearly visible when looking at the effects of the carceral system. Despite representing just 21% of Alachua County, people of color account for 70% of Just Income participants. Also, recipients' average median household income was 37% below the county's before disbursements began.

WHAT

ELIGIBILITY

Alachua County residents who met one of these criteria within six months of the application deadline were eligible to apply:

- Released from a Florida state prison
- Released from federal prison
- Released from a Florida county jail with a felony conviction
- Began felony probation in Alachua County

THE WORK

115 justice-impacted people were randomly selected from our applicant pool to receive \$1,000 in the first month, followed by \$600 a month for the next eleven months – no strings attached.

12 Months

115 randomly selected participants

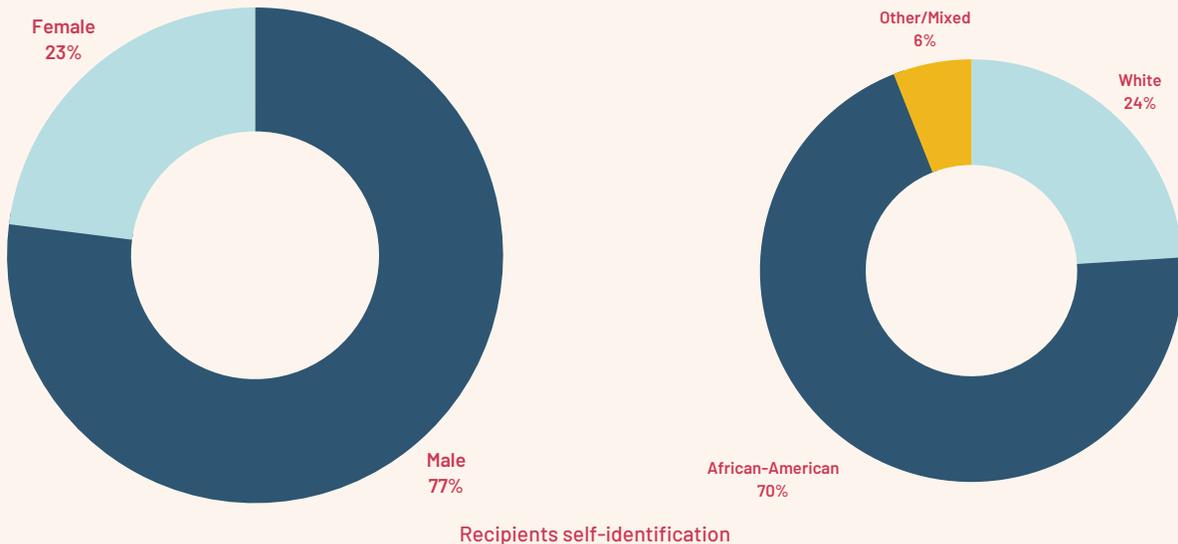
\$1,000

First month

\$600

Next eleven months

IMPACT

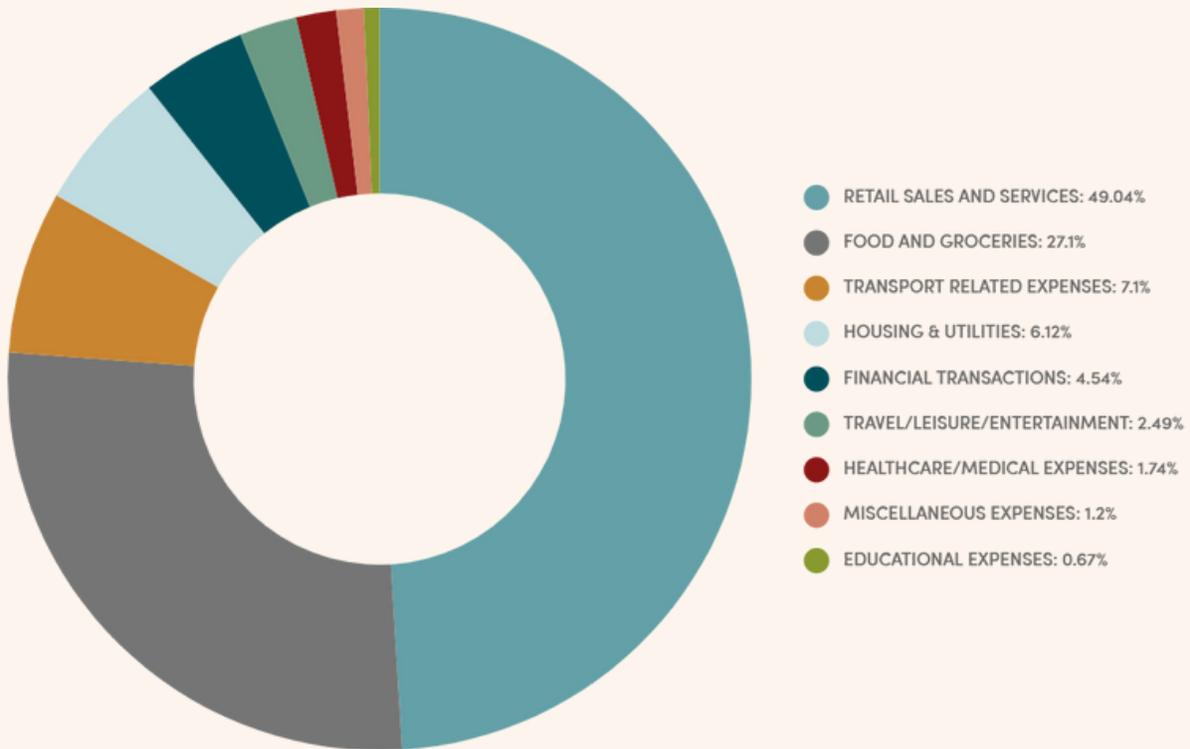


Recipients have shared how they used their unrestricted income to fulfill essential needs like housing, utilities, groceries, and reliable transportation. They've made forward-looking decisions by resolving legal fees, improving employment situations, pursuing entrepreneurship, tending to their physical and mental well-being, and building up savings. The income floor enabled recipients to not only support themselves and their families but also experience a sense of optimism, forge connections within their communities, and dedicate quality time to their children.

The University of Pennsylvania's Center for Guaranteed Income Research and Dr. Lucius Couloute are conducting a comprehensive evaluation using a mixed-method randomized controlled trial. This rigorous examination will provide valuable insights into the outcomes and implications of a guaranteed income for formerly incarcerated people. The academic findings are anticipated to be published in the fall of 2024.

SPENDING DATA

\$874,000 directly to recipients



Preliminary data shows that recipients' top three categories of spending are retail, food, and transportation.

Retail Sales and Services:

49.04%

What this could look like:

- Buying a new interview outfit.
- Purchasing a cell phone.
- Purchasing a gift for a loved one.

Food and Groceries:

27.1%

What this could look like:

- Stocking up on weekly groceries.
- Having a birthday party.
- Cooking a family dinner.

Transport and Related Expenses:

7.1%

What this could look like:

- Daily bus fare for work.
- Filling up a tank.

as of March 2023

RECIPIENT QUOTES

“Stepping out [of prison] with \$50, there was no way to make it. This thing with guaranteed income happened and it was a relief. It’s got me motivated to go around picking up trash, and just trying to do more things because I have some finances.”

- D.

“When you get out of prison, you have nothing. The system is designed for most people to fail. I’m in a position through Just Income to be able to provide for myself. It’s been an enormous help.”

- C.

“This program has changed my life. And it makes a person want to do what’s right when there is someone on their side trying to push them forward. And if you aren’t being pushed forward, well, you’re falling back in the hole.”

- S.



RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



MURRAY is a proud native of Gainesville, FL. After finishing high school, and struggling in a low-income environment, he had his first interaction with the justice system.

With the burden of a criminal record, it became even harder to make ends meet. Murray has interrupted the revolving door of poverty and incarceration with his guaranteed income. He paid off debt for correctional supervision, removing the threat of re-incarceration. He had the flexibility to buy a mobility scooter, giving him the freedom to get around town and visit his sick mother. Feeling called to give back to his community, Murray made and gave out 100 food and care packages to those experiencing homelessness as he once did.

Murray also provides supportive care for people dealing with illness. He enjoys spending time with his family and is a passionate cook, feeding stomachs and hearts alike.

"I appreciate what's happened in my life and I want to give back, and I want to share and give hope to other people. This income has moved mountains."

FEEDBACK

"We need to invest in people. That's how we provide a legitimate second chance... Basically, our system is currently setting people up for failure. Programs like this... are common sense, cost-efficient solutions."

– *Kara Gross, Legislative Director and Senior Policy Counsel of the ACLU of Florida*

"When you get released, the odds are stacked against you. With something like guaranteed income, it allows others to get back on their feet, and it gives them agency to prioritize their needs."

– *Lauren Poe, Mayor of Gainesville*

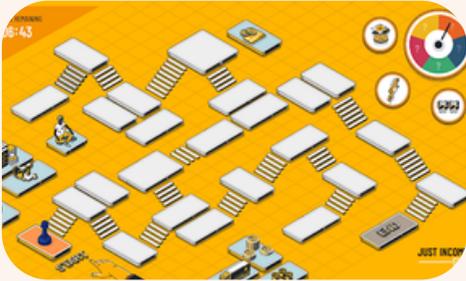


"If this can work for folks who are really at the lowest point of our social and economic hierarchy, then I think the implications are going to be both broad and specific. It'll pertain to other folks with criminal records across the country and also to anyone who is struggling with issues of economic stability and social disadvantage."

– *Dr. Lucius Couloute, Co-Investigator, Just Income*

ADVOCACY

In addition to providing funds, we are actively engaged in advocacy initiatives focused on reshaping narratives and empowering communities.



We created an e-learning platform called "ReEntry: A Look at the Journey Back to Life." It sheds light on the role that guaranteed income can play in the lives of individuals after their incarceration while showcasing real-life experiences.

Some recipients and staff have bravely shared their stories with various media outlets and have been invited to speak at conferences, effectively reaching and influencing thousands of people. Just Income contributed to a documentary titled "It's Basic," which explores the nationwide efforts surrounding guaranteed income.



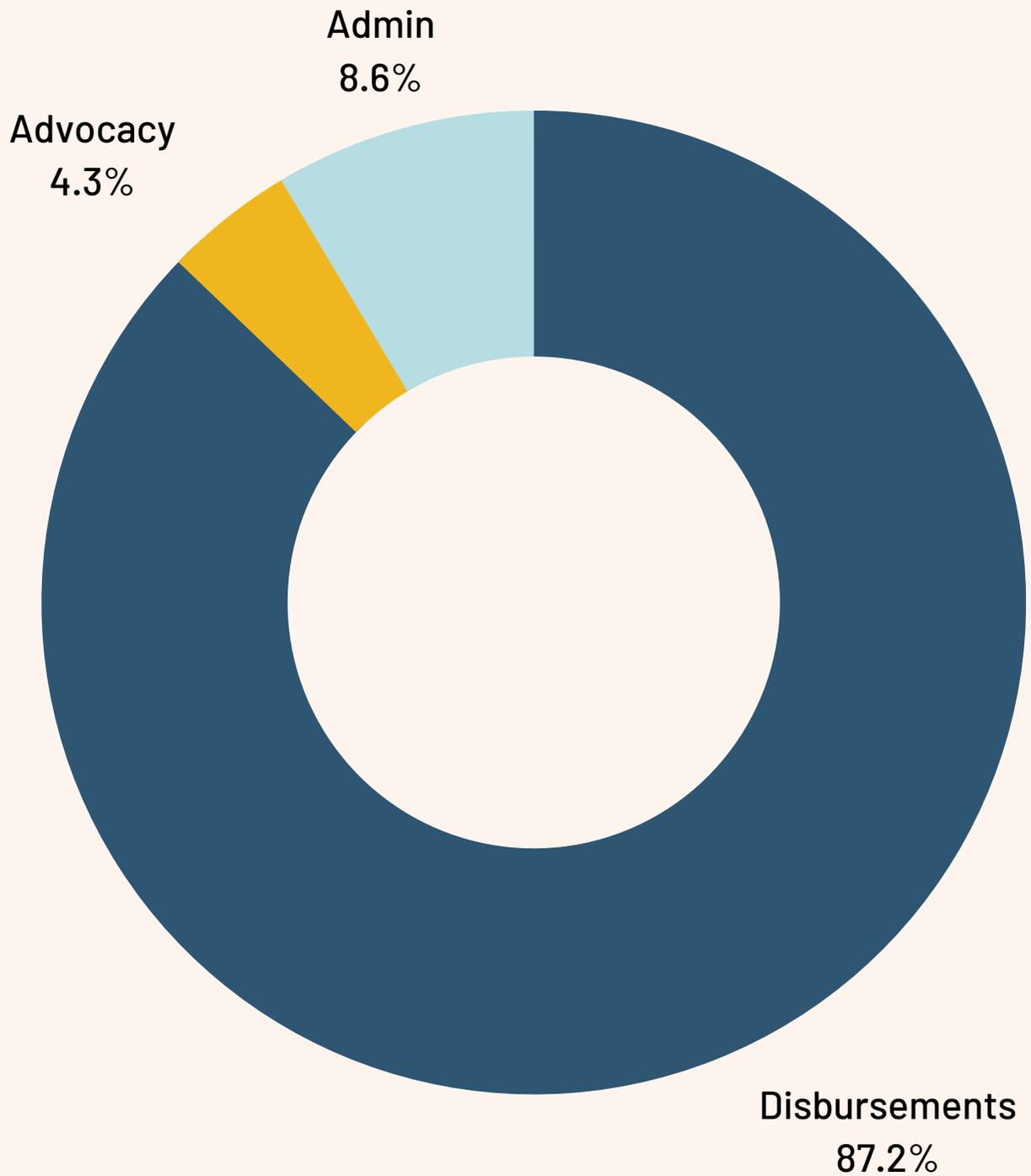
We have been active in community coalitions that have achieved groundbreaking policy victories. Our collective efforts have resulted in the successful implementation of a fair chance hiring ordinance, enabling individuals with criminal records to have equitable employment opportunities.

We have advocated for and achieved free and unlimited phone calls from the county jail, facilitating better communication for incarcerated individuals. Additionally, our work has led to the elimination of all unnecessary jail fees, ensuring fair treatment and reducing financial burdens on incarcerated people and their loved ones.

Just Income has also provided consultation to other cities and organizations as they explore their own projects to support formerly incarcerated people.



BUDGET



Thank You!



On behalf of current and former prisoners everywhere, words cannot adequately convey our appreciation for the overwhelming support we've received. It truly speaks to the heart of what community means.

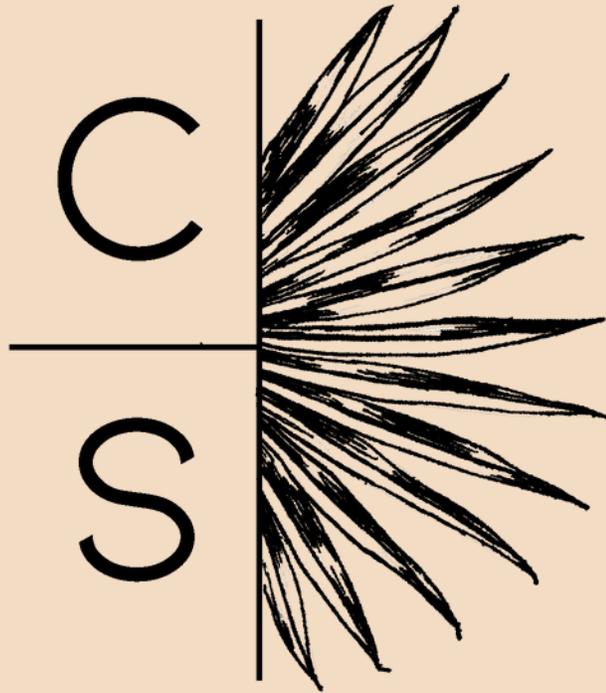
Special thanks to Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, Spring Point Partners, Guaranteed Income Community of Practice, Results for America, The Wagmore Foundation, and all of our generous donors. Your support means the world.

We will continue our guaranteed income work in 2024! Looking forward to the road ahead!



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