Proposed No. 2022-0018.1

KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse 516 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 16045

Sponsors McDermott

1 A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the study and report 2 on the feasibility of a countywide basic income pilot 3 program as described in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget 4 Ordinance, Ordinance 19210, Section 18, as amended by 5 Ordinance 19307, Section 7, Proviso P3. 6 WHEREAS, the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget, Ordinance 19210, Section 18, 7 as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section 7, Proviso P3, requires the executive to 8 transmit a study on the feasibility of a countywide basic income pilot program and a 9 report providing recommendations based on the study, and 10 WHEREAS, the study and report includes the following: 11 1. A study on the feasibility of a countywide basic income pilot program; and 12 2. A report providing recommendations based on the study, and 13 WHEREAS, the executive is further required to submit a motion that 14 acknowledges receipt of the study and report by December 31, 2021; 15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County: 16 The receipt of the study and report on the feasibility of a countywide basic 17 income pilot program, which is Attachment A to this motion, in accordance with the 18 2021-2022

- 19 Biennial Budget, Ordinance 19210, Section 18, as amended by Ordinance 19307, Section
- 20 7, Proviso P3, is hereby acknowledged.

Motion 16045 was introduced on 2/8/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/22/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Balducci, Dembowski, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay No: 1 - Dunn

KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

— Docusigned by:

<u>Claudia Balduci</u>

Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedraza

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: A. Basic Income Pilot Program Feasibility Study and Report, January 2022

Motion 16045

Attachment A

Basic Income Pilot Program Feasibility Study and Report

January 2022



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III. Proviso Text

P3 PROVIDED FURTHER THAT:

Of this appropriation, \$50,000 shall not be expended or encumbered until the office of performance, strategy and budget transmits a study on the feasibility of a countywide basic income pilot program, a report providing recommendations based on the study and a motion that should acknowledge receipt of the study and report, and a motion acknowledging the receipt of the study and report is passed by the council. The motion should reference the subject matter, the proviso's ordinance number, ordinance section and proviso number in both the title and body of the motion.

The feasibility study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. An evaluation of the various types of basic income pilots and programs currently in existence in the United States and a recommendation on the type of a basic income pilot program that will achieve King County's specific goals of reducing income inequality and centering racial equity;
- B. An analysis on the feasibility and scalability of the recommended basic income pilot program on a countywide level;
- C. A description of how residents would be chosen to participate in the recommended basic income pilot program to ensure equity;
- D. Recommendations on the amount and frequency at which the county would disburse funds to participants. In making those recommendations, the study shall take into consideration cost of living in the county and the timing of when household expenses are due;
- E. A description of how the recommended basic income pilot program would provide data that informs impacts and outcomes related to, but not limited to, income volatility, both psychological and physical health and well-being;
- F. An evaluation of how the recommended basic income pilot program could enhance other existing countywide efforts to improve equity among county residents, such as the best start for kids levy, childcare subsidies and other programs; and
 - G. A comprehensive budget for the recommended basic income pilot program.

The office of performance, strategy and budget should electronically file the study, report and motion required by this proviso no later than December 31, 2021, with the clerk of the council, who shall retain electronic copies and provide electronic copies to all councilmembers, the council chief of staff and the lead staff for the budget and fiscal management committee, or its successor.

Ordinance 19307¹, Section 7, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, P3

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¹ Ordinance 19307

IV. Executive Summary

Basic income provides cash assistance to qualifying residents as a way to address systemic poverty. Since 2018, more than twenty local governments and other local organizations across the U.S. have launched basic income pilot programs to provide financial support for their residents.

The impact of basic income has been studied for decades, providing evidence that recurrent cash transfers are an effective anti-poverty measure that can begin to address income inequality.² At the same time, local governments have found that paying cash to individuals on an ongoing basis to alleviate poverty and address income inequality is a financial challenge.

According to an analysis by the Jain Family Institute of basic income pilot programs in the U.S., budgets for programs with a research component range from \$5-10 million, with about 20 percent of funds going to research and administrative costs.³ Nearly all of the 25 basic income pilot programs examined for this report are financed by philanthropy and/or institutional grants.

If a program were to be pursued with new or expanded resources, the following guidelines outline what a potential pilot project could look like in King County:

Structure & Funding	 A pilot program serving unincorporated area residents where King County is the local government would require funding partners as well as operating partner organization(s) to administer the program, as King County currently does not have the funding or infrastructure to support a basic income pilot. Partners in King County could include: Foundations or other philanthropic partners to support the program financially. A task force of community stakeholders to help identify community needs to be addressed by a pilot and to collaborate on pilot vision, design, and implementation. Community-based organizations (CBOs) to help identify potential participants. A financial partner to distribute funds. A research partner to evaluate the program.
Eligibility Requirements	It will be important to establish a narrow group of eligible families to ensure the program is focusing on the identified goals of reducing income inequality and centering on racial equity. Eligibility requirements could include: • Serving families below a certain income threshold, such as 60 percent of area median income, to ensure that the program focuses on those most in need.

² Jain Family Institute. <u>Guaranteed Income in the U.S.: A toolkit of best practices, resources, and existing models of planned and ongoing research in the U.S., May 2021</u>

³ Jain Family Institute. Guaranteed Income in the U.S.: A toolkit of best practices, resources, and existing models of planned and ongoing research in the U.S., May 2021

	 Centering on families with characteristics that make it especially difficult to succeed in the existing economic system, such as people with disabilities or former participants in the child welfare system. Focusing on residents of the unincorporated area where King County serves as the local government.
Payment Amount	Provide a benefit of \$1,000 a month to support participants' financial stability and provide them with enough money to withstand unexpected expenses. In addition to cash transfers, King County could consider providing voluntary financial coaching, job placement assistance, and/or social services, as the combination of cash transfers and services can be more effective than providing cash alone.
Size	Basic income pilots are scalable, and the size of the program would be dependent on available funding. Most pilot programs examined for this report serve 100 to 150 participants.
Duration	Providing a benefit for three years would allow for financial stability so that families could engage in longer-term planning and make commitments such as training or education.
Budget	Based on the guidelines outlined above, a pilot program providing 100 people with \$1,000 a month for three years would cost \$4.32 million in total (\$3.6 million for monthly cash payments, \$720,000 for administrative and evaluation costs). Offering social services, financial counseling, financial literacy, job training or other services would incur additional cost.

The Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB) does not recommend pursuing a basic income pilot at this time because full-scale implementation is not financially feasible with current revenues. If King County were to pursue a basic income pilot serving just 100 families at \$1,000 per month for three years, it would require \$3.6 million in total funding solely for direct payments to families. Planning, implementing, and evaluating the program would require at least \$720,000 in additional funding over the three-year period. Notably, each of the 25 pilots analyzed for this report were funded by foundations or other private donations, including 20 that were funded entirely through philanthropy. Further, there are number of pilots underway nationally, including in the City of Tacoma, that the County could learn from for the development of a full-scale program with new revenues.

With regard to full-scale implementation, the latest estimate of the number of households below the federal poverty line in King County is 70,562 from the Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey. Providing the \$12,000 annual benefit to these households would have a direct cost to King County of about \$847 million annually. Notably, this amount is more than the entirety of County's General Fund revenue. In addition, administration of such a full-scale effort would also involve significant administrative costs. Even with support from philanthropy, implementing a full-scale basic income program would require a significant and ongoing new revenue source.

V. Background

Basic income provides cash assistance to qualifying residents. The 2021-2022 King County Adopted Budget, as amended by Ordinance 19307, included a budget proviso calling on the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget develop a report on a potential basic income pilot project in King County. The following report includes a summary of basic income pilot projects underway across the U.S., an overview of the feasibility of implementing a potential pilot project in King County, and guidelines for what a potential pilot project could look like in King County.

Department Overview

The King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB) provides comprehensive planning, management, budgeting, and performance assessment for King County government. PSB's work is guided by best practices in financial stewardship and performance management, which includes enhancing accountability, transparency, and integrating strategic planning, business planning, resource allocation, and continuous improvement into a systematic approach throughout the County.

Context

Basic Income Overview

Basic income provides recurrent cash assistance to individuals who meet an established set of criteria. This report identified three types of basic income, all of which are typically referred to as basic income:

- Non-Universal Guaranteed Supplemental Income: A set cash amount paid regularly directly to individuals or households who meet specific criteria. The payment is not meant to replace wage income, but rather to support an income floor by providing a supplement to the existing social safety net. Recipients can use the money however they choose.
- Non-Universal Guaranteed Basic Income: A set cash amount paid regularly directly to
 individuals or households who meet specific criteria. The payment is meant to provide enough
 money to support a standard of living at or above the poverty line. Recipients can use the
 money however they choose.
- Universal Basic Income (UBI): A set, identical cash amount paid regularly to each resident. UBI is unconditional in that recipients are not required to demonstrate financial need, willingness to work, or meet other conditions. The amount of money is meant to be enough to support a standard of living at or above the poverty line. The payment is provided to individuals, rather than households. Recipients can use the money however they choose.⁴

Since 2018, more than twenty local governments and local organizations across the U.S. have launched basic income pilot programs to provide financial support for their residents. (See Section A for a summary of these programs.)

The recent interest in basic income as a policy tool arose out of frustration with a continuing increase in poverty and income inequality in the United States. Since the 1970s, income growth for middle- and lower-income households has slowed sharply, while incomes at the top have continued to grow.⁵ As of the second quarter of 2021, the top 10 percent of households owned 70 percent of the total wealth in

⁴ For a history of UBI, see: https://basicincome.stanford.edu/about/what-is-ubi/, Oct. 15, 2021.

⁵ Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, "<u>A Guide to Statistics on Historical Trends in Income Inequality</u>." Jan. 13, 2020

the U.S.⁶ This problem is exacerbated for people of color. According to the Roosevelt Institute, in 2016, the typical white household held 10 times the wealth of the typical Black household and eight times the wealth of Latinx households.⁷ Single Black and Latinx women had a median wealth of \$200 and \$100 respectively, compared to \$28,900 for single white men.⁸

The impact of cash transfer programs has been studied for decades, providing evidence that recurrent cash transfers are an effective anti-poverty measure that can begin to address income inequality. At the same time, local governments have found that paying a set amount of cash to residents on an ongoing basis to alleviate poverty and address income inequality is a financial challenge. Of the meta data examined for this report, all basic income pilots launched in the U.S. since 2018 are *non-universal supplemental income* pilots that include at most 2,000 participants. Moreover, all but five are financed entirely through philanthropy, and the remaining five also rely on private donations. 10

King County's Financial Context

King County's sources of funding for potential programs such as a basic income pilot are limited because most County tax revenues are dedicated for specific functions, including levy lid lifts for Parks, Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), Veterans/Seniors/Human Services, Best Starts for Kids; and dedicated sales/use taxes for transit, criminal legal system, and behavioral health. The County's General Fund is the primary source of flexible funding and would be the most likely source of funding for a basic income pilot were the County to self-fund a program from its existing funding streams.

Due to revenue limitations imposed by state law, the General Fund has faced chronic imbalances between revenue and expenditure growth for nearly 20 years. Property taxes levied by Washington State counties, the primary revenue for the General Fund, can increase by only one percent per year, plus revenue from new construction. As a result, the revenues counties receive grow at a much lower rate compared to the cost of maintaining services to residents, which usually grow at an annual rate of three to five percent, creating a structural gap.

The result of this structural gap is an ever-widening deficit between the cost of maintaining the same level of General Fund supported services and the revenue the County receives. In years with a recession, this gap widens further, as revenues remain flat or decrease. As a result, King County is sometimes unable to maintain existing levels of certain services due to increasing costs and flat or declining revenues.

In the 2021-2022 biennium, the General Fund is projected to receive \$1.89 billion in revenue. The County's net General Fund revenue includes only those funds that are truly flexible, and not fee-for-service revenues for specific programs unable to be used in other ways. When fee-for-service revenues

⁶ Statistica Research Department, <u>Distribution of Wealth in the United States 1990-2021</u>. Nov. 2, 2021.

⁷ Roosevelt Institute, "Coinciding with Juneteenth and the presidential debates, a new issue brief explores the role of guaranteed income in combating racial wealth inequalities." June 19, 2019

⁸ Roosevelt Institute, "Coinciding with Juneteenth and the presidential debates, a new issue brief explores the role of guaranteed income in combating racial wealth inequalities." June 19, 2019

⁹ Jain Family Institute. <u>Guaranteed Income in the U.S.: A toolkit of best practices, resources, and existing models of planned and ongoing research in the U.S.</u> May 2021

¹⁰ See Figure 1, Section A.

for specific programs are excluded, the County's General Fund has about \$1.29 billion of flexible revenue for 2021-2022, almost three-quarters of which supports the criminal legal system (courts, prosecution, defense, jail, and public safety).

At the start of the 2021-2022 budget process, the General Fund faced a gap of about \$150 million between projected revenues and the cost of continuing current services and programs. While the August 2021 revenue forecast projected improvement in the General Fund's financial condition for the rest of the biennium, a number of factors that could impact General Fund spending remain. Such factors include labor contracts for most General Fund employees that exceed costs assumed in the 2021-2022 budget and negotiations with the remaining unions whose contracts will expire at the end of 2021.

In addition, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose significant risk to the General Fund, as uncertainty about federal reimbursement and long-term impacts to services and workforce remain. There are likewise several known future General Fund costs that will impact spending, including debt service on bonds issued for projects prioritized by the community and for major maintenance of County buildings. The County is committed to continuing and expanding its pro-equity and anti-racist investments, including criminal legal system reform, alternative public safety models, and supporting the long-term sustainability of community-based organizations, each of which require General Fund support. Other potentially costly new programs, such as body cameras for the Sheriff's Office and addressing the criminal legal system backlog, may require funding.

Most importantly, the fundamental inadequacy of the General Fund's revenue structure—that is, one percent revenue growth—has not been addressed by the State Legislature, resulting in the continuation of the structural gap.

Report Methodology

This report was developed by the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, in consultation with the Executive Office. PSB staff performed a review of historical and currently operating basic income pilot programs in the United States and analyzed the financial feasibility of a potential pilot program in King County.

VI. Report Requirements

Ordinance 19307, Section 7, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, Proviso P3 asked PSB to study the feasibility of and provide recommendations for a potential basic income pilot program in King County.¹²

As documented in section A below, analysis of basic income pilot programs in process in the U.S., as well as potential King County funding options, demonstrates that a basic income pilot in King County is not financially feasible at this time with current revenues. Though it is not currently feasible to move forward with a County-funded pilot, if a program were to be pursued with new or expanded resources, section B of this report outlines key programmatic elements of such a pilot.

¹¹ The King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis projected general fund revenues (sales tax, gambling tax, and property tax) increased \$75.7M from the June 2020 forecast to the August 2021 forecast.

¹² Ordinance 19307, Section 7, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, Proviso P3.

A. Basic income pilot programs across the U.S.

Since 2018, more than 20 basic income pilots have been initiated by local governments or local organizations across the U.S. Several are operating, while others are still in the planning stage. All pilots meet the non-universal guaranteed supplemental income definition: they provide guaranteed cash assistance to a limited group of participants for a limited period of time. In addition to cash payments, currently operating basic income pilots offer financial counseling, financial literacy, job training, and/or social services to participants. Table 1 provides an overview of these programs.

Table 1: Basic Income Pilot Programs in the U.S. since 2018

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) ¹³	Stockton, CA	\$500/month for 2 years	 Stockton resident From neighborhood with median household income ≤ \$46,033 At least 18 years old Responded to invitation letter sent to randomly chosen eligible households 	125 individuals randomly selected from invitees who completed consent form	Budget: \$3M Funding Source: Economic Security Project (\$1M), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (\$694k evaluation), philanthropy Collaborators: City of Stockton, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income
Guaranteed Income for Caregivers ¹⁴	Los Angeles, CA	\$1,000/month for 1 year	 Female-identifying paid care giver or health professional At least 18 years old Part- or full-time worker Resident of Los Angeles City Council District 13 for at least 6 months No plans to move for 12 months 	12 individuals randomly selected from applicants	Budget: Not available (N/A) Funding Source: Donations to National Council for Jewish Women Collaborators: N/A

¹³ https://www.stocktondemonstration.org

¹⁴ https://www.ncjwla.org/gip

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
			 Household income 50%-80% of Los Angeles County Area Median Income 		
Compton Pledge ¹⁵	Compton, CA	 \$300-\$600/ month for 2 years Higher payments for parents with > 1 child Frequency of payment varies 	Compton resident Low-income No exclusion of formerly incarcerated or undocumented residents	800 individuals randomly chosen from residential addresses	Budget: \$9.2M Funding Source: Fund for Guaranteed Income (F4GI) Collaborators: City of Compton, Compton Community Development Corporation, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, Jain Family Institute
Oakland Resilient Families ¹⁶	Oakland, CA	\$500/month for 18 months	 BIPOC families Yearly income < 50% Area Median Income At least 1 child < 18 years East Oakland resident (phase 1)/Oakland resident (phase 2) 	 300 families (phase 1) 300 families (phase 2) randomly selected from applicants 	Budget: \$6.75M Funding Source: Philanthropy Collaborators: City of Oakland, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, UpTogether, Oakland Thrives, Center for Guaranteed Income Research

https://comptonpledge.orghttps://oaklandresilientfamilies.org

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
San Francisco Guaranteed Income Pilot for Artists (SF- GIPA) ¹⁷	San Francisco, CA	\$1,000/month for 18 months	 At least 18 years old Resident of San Francisco eligible zip codes Artist or art-focused educator whose "artistic practice is rooted in a historically marginalized community" Facing loss of income due to COVID-19 Household income < "qualifying income limit" 	 130 artists (group 1) 50 artists (group 2) randomly selected from applicants 	Budget: N/A Funding Source: City of San Francisco's Arts Commission Arts Impact Endowment Fund, #startsmall (\$3.46M) Collaborators: City of San Francisco, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Office of Racial Equity at SF Human Rights Commission, Arts Impact Endowment, University of Florida Center for Arts and Medicine (evaluation)
Abundant Birth Project ¹⁸	San Francisco, CA	\$1,000/month during pregnancy & up to 6 months after birth	 Black or Pacific Islander Pregnant in 1st or 2nd trimester Household income <\$100K/year San Francisco resident 	150 pregnant people randomly selected every 2 weeks from applicants	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Hellman Foundation, #startsmall (\$1.1M), Genentech (\$200k), SF Dept of Public Health (\$200k), UCSF California Preterm Birth Initiative, Kellogg Foundation, San Francisco Health Plan, Tipping

https://ybca.org/guaranteed-income-pilot
 https://www.expectingjustice.org/abundant-birth-project

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
Santa Clara County Basic Income Pilot for Transitioning Foster Youth ¹⁹	Santa Clara County, CA	\$1,000/month for 18 months	 Born between 01/01/1996 and 04/29/1996 Santa Clara County resident Santa Clara County dependency case between age 16- 21 years Consent to intake process 	72 foster youth (oldest on list)	Point, Economic Security Project, Walter and Elise Haas, San Francisco Foundation, Friedman Family Foundation, March of Dimes (evaluation), CA Preterm Birth Initiative (evaluation) Collaborators: City of San Francisco, Expecting Justice, Hellman Collaborative Change Initiative, UCSF, UC Berkeley Budget: N/A Funding Source: Santa Clara County General Fund (\$1.4 million), philanthropy, MyPath, Excite Credit Union Collaborators: Santa Clara County, Gerald Huff Fund for Humanity, MyPath, Excite Credit Union

¹⁹ https://fundforhumanity.org/county-of-santa-clara-starts-first-in-nation-universal-basic-income-program-for-young-adults-transitioning-out-of-foster-care

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
MOMentum: Marin Community Foundation Universal Basic Income Demonstration 20	Marin County, CA	\$1,000/month for 24 months	 Woman of color Raising at least 1 child 0-17 years old Income below self-sufficiency standard for Marin County as calculated by Insight Center for Economic Development, Oakland Resident of one of four areas in Marin County 	125 mothers randomly selected from recipients of direct cash from Marin Community Foundation Family Independence Initiative	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Marin County (\$400K), Marin Community Foundation (\$3M) Collaborators: Marin Community Foundation, County of Marin, community nonprofit organizations, Social Policy Research Associates, UpTogether
San Diego for Every Child Guaranteed Income Project ²¹	San Diego, CA	\$500/month for 24 months	 Low-income families of color At least 1 child < 12 years old Resident of one of four zip codes 	150 randomly selected from applicants	Budget: \$2.9M fundraising goal Funding Source: Jewish Family Service of San Diego, philanthropy Collaborators: San Diego for Every Child, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, Center on Policy Initiatives, First 5 San Diego, Parent Institute for Quality Education, The YMCA Childcare Resource Service of San

https://www.marincf.org/buck-family-fund-grants/economic-opportunity/momentum
 https://www.sandiegoforeverychild.org/guaranteed-income

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
					Diego County, and many more
Guaranteed Income Validation Effort (GIVE) ²²	Gary, IN	\$500/month for 1 year possible 6- month extension	 Gary resident At least 18 years old Income ≤ \$35,000 	100 individuals randomly selected from applicants	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (\$500k), philanthropy
					Collaborators: City of Gary Mayor's Office, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, Aimwell Marketplace Ministries, Force for Good Community Development Corporation, Teachers Credit Union, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (evaluation), Teachers Credit Union
4.0 x Rooted School's Youth Cash Transfer Pilot ²³	New Orleans, LA	\$50/week for 1 year	 Rising senior at Rooted School Applied for pilot 	10 individuals randomly selected from 20 applicants	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Charles Koch Foundation, Walton Family Foundations, philanthropy Collaborators: 4.0 Schools

https://givegary.org
 https://www.4pt0.org/youth-cash-transfer-pilot

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
Cambridge Recurring Income for Success + Empowerment (Cambridge RISE) ²⁴	Cambridge, MA	\$500/month for 18 months	Cambridge resident Household income < 80% of Area Median Income Single caregiver of at least 1 child < 18 years old	130 individuals randomly selected from applicants	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Harvard University, MIT, Cambridge Community Foundation, Boston Foundation, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, philanthropy Collaborators: City of Cambridge, consortium of nonprofit partners, including Cambridge Community Foundation, Family Independence Initiative, Cambridge Economic Community Committee, Cambridge Housing Authority, Just- A-Start, Up Together, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (evaluation)

²⁴ https://www.cambridgerise.org

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
Chelsea Eats ²⁵	Chelsea, MA	Food debit card program: \$200 - \$400/month for 6 months	 Household income ≤ 30% of Area Median Income Preference given to: families with children disabled residents veterans seniors 65+ ineligible for other forms of government assistance Recruitment from food pantry users 	2,074 households randomly selected from applicants	Budget: \$700k/month Funding Source: City of Chelsea (CARES Act), Shah Family Foundation, Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Community Health Improvement, United Way of Massachusetts Bay & the Merrimack Valley, philanthropy Collaborators: City of Chelsea, Shah Family Foundation, Harvard University (evaluation)
Family Health Project ²⁶	Lynn, MA	\$400/month for 36 months	New mother Referred by federally qualified community health center	15 individuals	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Philanthropy Collaborators: Family Health Project (501(c)3 organization), Lynn Community Health Center, social services firm, corporate debit card company

https://www.chelseama.gov/ChelseaEatshttps://www.fhi.jfg.com/about

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
People's Prosperity Guaranteed Income Pilot ²⁷	Saint Paul, MN	\$500/month for up to 18 months \$10 in CollegeBound Saint Paul savings account	 Parent/guardian of CollegeBound Saint Paul beneficiary Contact information at time of enrollment in one of four zip codes (racially diverse, lowest wealth) COVID-19-related adverse financial impact At or below 80% federal poverty level Newborn child in 2020 	150 families randomly selected from families who meet eligibility criteria	Budget: \$1.53M Funding Source: City of Saint Paul (CARES Act), Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, philanthropy Collaborators: City of Saint Paul, Office of Financial Empowerment, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income
Magnolia Mother's Trust ²⁸	Jackson, MS	\$1,000/month for 1 year	 Jackson resident Extremely low- income family (average \$11,030/year) Black, female head of household Living in federally subsidized housing 	20 (cohort 1) 110 (cohort 2) 100 (cohort 3) random selection	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Economic Security Project, philanthropy Collaborators: Springboard to Opportunities, Economic Security Project
Paterson Guaranteed Income Pilot Program ²⁹	Paterson, NJ	\$400/month for 1 year	 Paterson resident At least 18 years old Earnings < NJ living wage (\$30,000 per individual; \$88,000 per household) 	110 individuals randomly selected from applicants	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey (\$500k), local developer (\$50k), philanthropy Collaborators: City of Paterson, Mayors for a

https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/financial-empowerment/peoples-prosperity-guaranteed-income-pilot
 https://springboardto.org/magnolia-mothers-trust
 https://www.patersonnj.gov/department/division.php?structureid=148

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
Project	Histor	\$500/month	Household income	100 households	Guaranteed Income, Mobility Capital Finance (debit cards), CUMAC, United Way of Passaic County, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (evaluation)
Project Resilience: Universal Basic Income Pilot ³⁰	Ulster County, NY	\$500/month for 1 year	 Household income 80% of County median income County resident 	100 households randomly selected from applicants, geographically distributed	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Project Resilience, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, philanthropy Collaborators: Project Resilience, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Ulster Savings Bank, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (evaluation)
The Bridge Project ³¹	New York, NY	\$250 or \$500 bi-weekly for first 1,000 days of child's life	 Female-identifying and: Pregnant or baby 1 year old Low income Black or immigrant 	100 individuals	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Monarch Foundation

https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/project-resilience
 https://bridgeproject.org/our-work

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
			- Resident of 1 of 3 communities		Collaborators: Monarch Foundation, Children's Aid, Harlem Children's Zone, Nido de Esperanza, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research, Community Financial Resources, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Leap Fund
HudsonUP ³²	Hudson, NY	\$500/month for 5 years	 Hudson resident Less than 18 years old Household income < Hudson median annual income (\$39,346) 	25 individuals (cohort 1) 50 individuals (cohort 2) race/gender weighted lottery among applicants	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Spark of Hudson, Humanity Forward Foundation, Eutopia Foundation Collaborators: Spark of Hudson, Humanity Forward, Community Advisory Board, Mayor of Hudson, Jain Family Institute

³² https://www.hudsonup.org

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
Assured Cash Experiment (ACE) of Pittsburgh ³³	Pittsburgh, PA	\$500/month for 24 months	• 100 participants: - City of Pittsburgh resident - At least 18 years old - Female - Black - Earning < 50% of Area Median Income - Participants of Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Centers 100 participants: - City of Pittsburgh resident selected randomly from five disadvantaged zip codes	200	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, American Rescue Plan (\$2.5M) Collaborators: City of Pittsburgh, OnePGH Fund (a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving life of all Pittsburghers)
The Columbia Life Improvement Monetary Boost (CLIMB) ³⁴	Columbia, SC	\$500/month for 1 year	 Columbia, SC resident Black father > 18 years old Currently or previously enrolled in Midlands Fatherhood Coalition 	100 fathers randomly selected from applicants	Budget: \$750k Funding Source: Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, philanthropy Collaborators: Central Carolina Community Foundation, Dream Team Consulting Firm, SC Thrive, MoCaFi, Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed

https://tryingtogether.org/assured-cash-experiment
 https://www.midlandsgives.org/climb

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
					Income Research (evaluation)
Richmond Resilience Initiative (RRI) ³⁵	Richmond, VA	\$500/month for 2 years	 Employed head of household Client of the Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB) Has child(ren) Income > eligibility for benefit assistance, but do not make living wage 	55 families randomly selected from eligible OCWB clients	Budget: \$740K Funding Source: Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (\$500K), Robins Foundation (\$120K), CARES Act (\$120K) Collaborators: City of Richmond, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, Family Independence Initiative, Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta & Richmond, Virginia Excels, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income Research (evaluation)
Growing Resilience in Tacoma (GRIT) ³⁶	Tacoma, WA	\$500/month for 1 year	 Tacoma residents in zip codes 98404, 98405, 98409 Household income 100-200% of FPL Single parent or guardian household with children < 18 years old or children 	100 families randomly selected from applications	Budget: N/A Funding Source: Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, United Way of Pierce County, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Sound

³⁵ https://www.rva.gov/human-services-press-releases-and-announcements-mayors-office/news/stoneyadministration-launch

36 https://www.uwpc.org/guaranteed-income-initiative-growing-resilience-tacoma-grit

Pilot Name	Location	Payment, Duration	Eligibility Criteria	Number of Participants	Budget, Funding Source, Collaborators
			with disabilities up to age 21		Outreach, Tacoma Urban League, Tacoma Housing Authority
					Collaborators: City of Tacoma, United Way of Pierce County, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, U. of Pennsylvania Center for Guaranteed Income
					Research (evaluation)
Baby's First Years ³⁷	New York City, Greater New Orleans, Twin Cities, Omaha Metro area	For first 40 months of child's life: - \$20/month (n=600) - \$333/month (n=400)	 Recruitment during hospital stay after giving birth at one of 12 hospitals Income < Federal Poverty Line 	1,000 mothers & newborns	Budget: N/A Funding Source: National Institutes of Health, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bezos Family Foundation, Andrew and Julie Klingenstein Fund, philanthropy Collaborators: Columbia University, Duke University, NYU, UC Irvine, U. of Maryland, U. of Michigan, U. of Michigan, U. of Nebraska, U. of New Orleans, U. of Wisconsin — Madison

³⁷ https://www.babysfirstyears.com

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Key Characteristics of Pilots

The basic income pilots outlined above exhibit many similar characteristics, as summarized below.

Table 2: Key Characteristics of Basic Income Pilot Programs

Structure	The basic income pilots examined for this report are collaborations between a combination of local governments or local organizations, philanthropy, community organizations, and national networks. ³⁸
Funding	Nearly all basic income pilots examined for this report are financed by philanthropy and/or institutional grants. A few pilots use federal American Rescue Plan or Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars to supplement private funding. The County of Santa Clara California is funding its pilot largely with \$1.4 million in General Fund dollars. ³⁹
Eligibility Requirements	 The basic income pilots examined for this report require participants to have income below a set threshold or to reside in a neighborhood with median income below a set threshold. Additional eligibility criteria prioritize specific populations. Criteria include: Age requirements (for example, 25-30 years old, senior citizens) Centering racial equity by focusing on Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) residents Households with child(ren), pregnant or new/single parents, foster children, or disabled residents Living in a specific zip code, census tract, or in federally subsidized housing Certain professions, such as artists, paid caregivers/health professionals, or veterans.
Payment Amount	The cash payment amounts range from \$200 to \$1,000 per month, based on the number of pilot participants and available funding. Governments tend to work with a third-party financial organization to distribute payments.
Size	The number of participants ranges from 12 to 2,074, with most around 100-150 participants. Participants are typically selected at random from a pool of applicants. Some pilots invited individuals to participate. ⁴⁰
Duration	The pilots last from six months to five years, with the majority in the one- to two-year range.
Budget	Basic income pilots with a significant research component generally require initial funding of approximately \$5-10 million, with about 20% of funds going to research and administrative costs. ⁴¹

³⁸ An example of a national network is <u>Mayors for a Guaranteed Income</u>, which was established in 2019 as a collaboration of Mayors advocating for a guaranteed income.

³⁹ County of Santa Clara Extends Basic Income Program Young Adults Transitioning Out of Foster Care

⁴⁰ <u>Basic Income in Cities</u>, National League of Cities

⁴¹ Jain Family Institute. <u>Guaranteed Income in the U.S.: A toolkit of best practices, resources, and existing models of planned and ongoing research in the U.S., May 2021</u>

B. Feasibility of a King County Basic Income Pilot Program

The Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB) does not recommend pursuing a basic income pilot at this time because full-scale implementation is not financially feasible with current revenues. If King County were to pursue a basic income pilot serving 100 families at \$1,000 per month for three years, it would require \$3.6 million solely for direct payments. Planning, implementing, and evaluating the program would require at least \$720,000 in further funding. ⁴² As identified below, each of the 25 pilots analyzed for this report were funded by foundations or other private donations, including 20 that were funded entirely through philanthropy. Further, there are number of pilots underway nationally, including in the City of Tacoma, that the County could learn from for the development of a full-scale program with new revenues.

With regard to a full-scale implementation, the latest estimate of the number of households below the federal poverty line in King County is 70,562 from the Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey. Providing the \$12,000 annual benefit to these households would have a direct cost to King County of about \$847 million annually. Notably, this amount is more than the entirety of County's General Fund revenue. In addition, administration of such a full-scale effort would also involve significant administrative costs. Even with support from philanthropy, implementing a full-scale basic income program would require a significant and ongoing new revenue source.

If a program were to be pursued with new or expanded resources, the following guidelines outline what a potential pilot project could look like in King County:

Table 3: Guidelines for a Potential King County Basic Income Pilot

Program Component	Description
Structure & Funding	A pilot program serving unincorporated area residents where King County is the local government would require funding partners as well as operating partner organization(s) to administer the program, as King County currently does not have the funding or infrastructure to support a basic income pilot. Each of the 25 pilots analyzed for this report were funded by foundations or other private donations, including 20 that were funded entirely through philanthropy.
	 Partners in King County could include: Foundations or other philanthropic partners to support the program financially. A task force of community stakeholders to help identify community needs to be addressed by a pilot and to collaborate on pilot vision, design, and implementation. Community-based organizations (CBOs) to help identify potential participants. A financial partner to distribute funds.

⁴² The <u>Jain Family Institute</u> estimates that research and administrative costs account for 20% of the cost of basic income pilot programs with a research component.

Program Component	Description
	A research partner to evaluate the program.
	To avoid any potential for bias in selecting participants, King County should also consider working with an outside organization to choose program participants and administer the program.
Eligibility Requirements	It will be important to establish eligibility criteria that ensure the program is focusing on the identified goals of reducing income inequality and centering on racial equity. Such eligibility requirements could include: • Serving families below a certain income threshold, such as 60 percent of area median income or 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which would ensure that the program serves those most in need. • Centering families with characteristics that make it especially difficult to succeed in the existing economic system, such as people with disabilities or former participants in the child welfare system. • Focusing on residents of the unincorporated area where King County serves as the local government.
Payment Amount	Provide a benefit of \$1,000 a month to support participants' financial stability and provide them with enough money to withstand unexpected expenses. In addition to cash transfers, King County could consider providing voluntary financial coaching, job placement assistance, and/or social services, as the combination of cash transfers and services can be more effective than providing cash alone.
Size	Basic income pilots are scalable, and the size of the program would be dependent on available funding. Most pilot programs examined for this report serve 100 to 150 participants.
Duration	Providing a benefit for three years would allow for financial stability so that families could engage in longer-term planning and make commitments such as training or education.
Budget	Based on the guidelines outlined above, a pilot program providing 100 people with \$1,000 a month for three years would cost at least \$4.32 million in total (\$3.6 million for monthly cash payments, \$720,000 for administrative and evaluation costs). Offering social services, financial counseling, financial literacy, job training or other services would incur additional cost.
Additional Considerations	 Depending on eligibility requirements, participants may experience partial or total loss of existing benefits (e.g., health insurance, housing, food assistance) while they receive a basic income. In that case, the pilot should: Provide accessible information to enable eligible families to make an informed decision about pilot participation. Consider creating a monetary fund to ensure participants are not worse off financially during the pilot and/or work with state officials to exclude basic income payments from other eligibility calculations. Offer support with re-enrolling in existing benefits after the pilot concludes.

VII. Conclusion

As called for by the Proviso, this report provides a feasibility analysis of a basic income pilot in King County. Cost data examined by PSB finds that the costs of bringing a program to full scale is not feasible for King County. As identified above, each of the 25 pilots analyzed for this report were funded by foundations or other private donations, including 20 that were funded entirely through philanthropy.

Although a basic income program is not financially feasible at this time, King County remains committed to enacting policies and programs that are pro-equity and co-created with communities, with a particular focus on serving those most in need.

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