



## June 2024 Newsletter

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MAYORS FOR A  
GUARANTEED  
INCOME

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# Mayors for a Guaranteed Income turns 4 today.



MGI was founded in June 2020 [with 11 members](#). The Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED), which was announced in 2017 and implemented in 2019, had proven Mayor Michael Tubbs's assumption that low-income residents would use the money on basic necessities, and independent research showed that full-time employment increased, mental and physical health

improved, and more people were able to save enough money to afford life's unforeseen emergencies. Mayor Melvin Carter of Saint Paul, MGI's Co-Chair, joined Mayor Tubbs and nine other mayors to create MGI and begin advocating for guaranteed income pilots in their cities.

**TIME**

**MLK Had a Dream of  
Guaranteed Income. As Mayors  
of 11 U.S. Cities, We Are  
Bringing That Dream to Life**

*By Michael D. Tubbs, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Melvin Carter, Ras J. Baraka, Aja Brown, Eric Garcetti, Libby Schaaf, Stephen Benjamin, Keisha Lance Bottoms and Victoria R. Woodards*

**June 29, 2020**



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Read the opinion piece in Time Magazine from the founding members of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income [here](#).

In just four years, we've grown to **160 mayors**, with members in almost every state. Building off of that momentum, we launched Counties for a Guaranteed Income (CGI) in February 2023 and we've doubled the number of county elected officials who are part of the movement since then. All together, we've supported **60+ pilots**, delivering **\$300 million** in direct, unconditional relief to everyday Americans.

Even more exciting, researchers are beginning to report on the effectiveness of these programs. Similar to the Stockton results, employment has increased in every city that has been analyzed so far. And there's a myriad of additional benefits—from children in [Cambridge, MA](#) doing better in school, to recipients in [Richmond, VA](#) moving into better housing, to parents in [Saint Paul, MN](#) feeling less anxious and depressed, and more hopeful for the future, thanks to guaranteed income. Visit our [research page](#) to read these and more studies.

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**4 years**



**60 pilots**



**160 mayors**

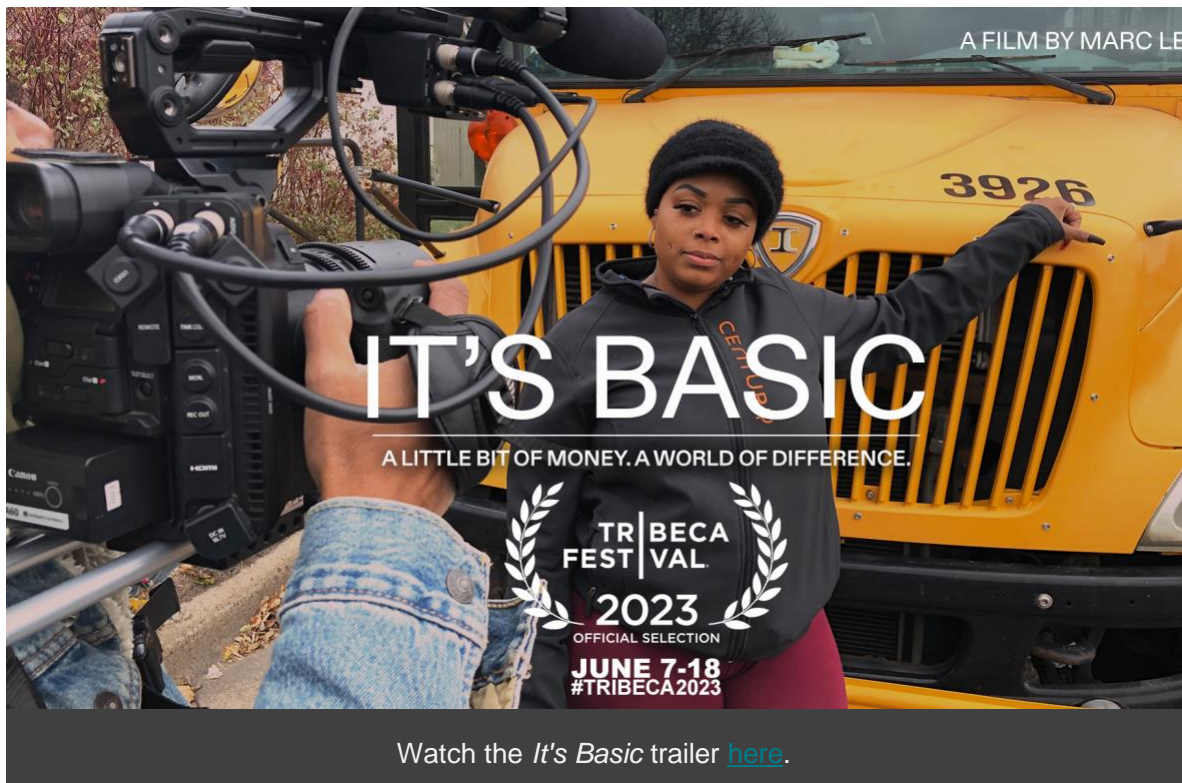


**\$300+ million in direct,  
unconditional relief to  
everyday Americans.**

### Guaranteed Income Works

This month we're also celebrating the one year anniversary of our feature-length documentary, [It's Basic](#), which made its global premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in June 2023. 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.



Following the Tribeca debut, we launched the [Guaranteed Income Works](#) National Tour, with our first stop in Long Beach, CA with Congressman Robert Garcia and CGI Co-Chair and Los Angeles County 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 visited more than 30 communities already—visit our [tour site](#) to find yours or reach out to us if you'd like to set up a screening.

### From Pilots to Policy

As more and more people see guaranteed income pilots working, support is building for a federal investment in this kind of direct cash support. A bipartisan majority (62%) of Americans support guaranteed income, according to a [Lake Research Partners](#) poll. California has been a leader in the movement, with 24 pilots and a \$35 million state funding commitment to support local guaranteed income programs. Minnesota also saw legislation introduced this year for a statewide guaranteed income, and Washington legislators proposed a similar monthly cash payment for families.

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**62%**

**A bipartisan majority  
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Disrupting the status quo doesn't come without opposition, and over the past year, our enemies have gotten louder. Nearly identical legislation preempting guaranteed income programs has been introduced in 10 states, and Idaho, Iowa, South Dakota and Arkansas have passed and implemented bans. In Texas, Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the program in Harris County, where the city of Houston is located.



Nearly 2,000 residents of Harris County were waiting to receive their first check when the decision came down from the Supreme Court of Texas, blocking the Uplift Harris program. As we look ahead, we know that the legal and legislative challenges will not stop.

We will not back down. The fight for guaranteed income is about more than just policy and programs, it's about answering a simple and fundamental question: do all of us get to benefit from public policy, or just some of us? Our answer is all of us. We hope you'll join us in the fight ahead.

## Welcome Our New Mayors



The financial stability and prosperity of families is the key to a city's success. As Mayor, I have worked tirelessly to ensure economic sustainability, bringing jobs, new business, and increased investment to Union City. I'm joining Mayors for a Guaranteed Income because cash assistance is an innovative solution that invests in the future of a city and a hand up to its hardworking families.

**Vince Williams**

Mayor of Union City, GA

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I believe Youngstown invented grit. The economic realities that our city and region has faced have left too many families struggling to get by. As elected leaders, we have a duty to work together to find solutions that improve the lives of our communities. I'm proud to join Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and advocate for federal investment in the stability of our families and communities.

**Jamael Tito Brown**

Mayor of Youngstown, OH

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Our greatest asset in Haynesville is the people of our community. I am committed to working hard as Mayor to ensure all of our residents have an equal opportunity to live out their dreams and build a brighter future for their children. I'm proud to join Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, because cash transfer programs are proving to be an effective way to achieve greater financial stability and unlock new opportunities for our families, neighborhoods and communities.

**Roderick Hampton**  
Mayor of Haynesville, LA



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In Erie, we value keeping that 'small town' feeling, even as we shepherd the growth in our region. That means taking care of each other, because the strength of our community is as great as the sum of its members. I'm joining Mayors for a Guaranteed Income because the financial stability that cash assistance creates for families opens up opportunities for a more thriving local community.

**Justin Brooks**  
Mayor of Erie, CO



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**In the News**

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# **BREAKING:**

The United States Conference of Mayors adopts TWO pro-guaranteed income resolutions.

Cash is not red or blue, it's green — and that's why mayors from Virginia, California, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Oregon, New York, Arizona, and Washington were all inspired to sponsor resolutions to expand support for guaranteed income at this year's U.S. Conference of Mayors. Read the resolutions [here](#)



## How St. Paul's guaranteed-income pilot program helped my family



By LEANDRA ESTIS  
June 11, 2024 - 5:30 PM



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Guaranteed income recipient LeAndra Estis shared a powerful op-ed about how recurring cash payments gave her and her family the stability needed to thrive. Read the [full piece here](#).

The San Diego Union-Tribune

## What would you do if the state gave you an extra \$500 a month? 150 San Diegans got a chance to find out

Roxanna Popescu

June 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.



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“Some people have to work multiple jobs to make ends meet or take care of their kids, and if they want to give their kids a better life they’ve got to do a lot of stuff. We don’t have it easy,” Sutton said in December 2022. Read the [full story here](#).

**Los Angeles Times: This L.A. County city is the latest to offer unconditional cash. It aims to provide relief to families**

The city of Pomona is the latest California locality to offer unconditional cash to some residents in hopes of providing much-needed budgetary breathing room to residents still recovering financially from the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the [full story](#).

**Baltimore Sun: Baltimore's \$1,000 monthly cash assistance program helps with income, housing independence, mental health**

“We know that so many of Baltimore’s young families simply need the opportunity to thrive, but often don’t have the resources to help them make it happen,” Mayor Brandon Scott said in a news release. “This interim report shows how powerful the certainty and reassurance that direct assistance can be for families like these.” Read the [full story](#).

**Center Square: Richmond’s guaranteed income pilot program showing signs of success**

A study has yielded mostly positive results on the initial phase of Richmond, Virginia's guaranteed income program... The program targets employed low-income residents who no longer qualify for federal assistance but struggle to make ends meet. Read the [full story](#).

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MGI Newsroom

CGI Newsroom



