

From: Benisa Berry <

Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 9:00 AM

To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>; Supervisor John_Gioia

<John_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor Candace Andersen

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Subject: Agenda Item D1 . EHSD Presentation Public Comment

Subject: Urging Inclusive Criteria for Guaranteed Income Pilot to Support Seniors and other Vulnerable Residents

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

My name is Benisa Berry, and I am writing to you on behalf of the East Contra Costa Community Leaders Network. I am a resident of [City or District].

I am reaching out to express my strong support for the Guaranteed Income Pilot Programs and to request that eligibility criteria be made more inclusive. Many residents across our county, particularly seniors living in poverty, face daily hardships due to rising living costs. These challenges include maintaining housing, affording food, transportation, and utilities—issues that are especially urgent for our aging neighbors.

Currently, the proposed program's focus on individuals enrolled in county programs risks excluding many who are in critical need but not enrolled. Cities like Stockton, Oakland, and San Francisco have successfully implemented criteria that target low-income and racially marginalized communities, broadening access and promoting equity. As noted in the Guaranteed Income Report findings, inclusive programs yield the highest impact.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Board to:

- Expand eligibility to include residents outside of existing county programs.
- Utilize economic and racial equity frameworks in establishing criteria.
- Engage community organizations and residents—especially seniors and those with lived experience—in shaping the program.

By doing so, we can ensure that this vital support reaches all those who need it most, particularly our vulnerable seniors. Thank you for your dedication to building a more equitable and compassionate community.

Sincerely,

Benisa Berry

East Contra Costa Community Leaders Network (CLN)