

Basic Income Program**10-22-2024**

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZATION
9/25/2024	Janette Kennedy	
9/27/2024	Megan Lundstrom, Dir, The Resilience Fund	Polaris
10/2/2024	teri Olle, Director	Economic Security Project
10/2/2024	jillian de la Torre, MSW	Healthy Contra Costa Initiative
10/3/2024	James A. Becker, President and CEO	Richmond Connects
10/3/2024	Michelle K. Nakphong, PhD, Assistant Professor	Division of Prevention Science, School of Medicine, University of California San Francisco
10/3/2024	Ellen McDonnell, Public Defender	Office of Public Defender Contra Costa County
10/3/2024	Douglas Holmes	Resident of Danville
10/3/2024	Doug Leich	Mulifaith Action Coalition
10/3/2024	Tumani Drew	Resident of Richmond
10/3/2024	McKayla	
10/3/2024	Wintoer Antone	
10/3/2024	Zimbabwe Davies	TAY Foster Youth Project Manager
10/11/2024	Kevin Scott, Program Director	Just Income by Community Spring
10/12/2024	Julia Quintero, ELEVATE Concord Project Manager	Monument Impact
10/15/2024	Syretta Hill Exec Dir	StepUp Durham
10/15/2024	Supervisor Ellenberg, Santa Clara	Santa Clara Board of Supervisors
10/15/2024	Pam Pierce	resident of CCC
10/16/2024	Sara Naughten, Deputy Director/Ruth Fernández, Ed.D. Executive Director,	First 5 Contra Costa
10/17/2024	Rev. Millie Phillips	Working East Bay
10/17/2024	Kelly Zhao, and I live in Pittsburg	Resident of Pittsburg
10/17/2024	Kanwarpal Dhaliwal	
10/17/2024	Associate Director and Co-Founder	RYSE
10/17/2024	Mohamed Taleb	Rubicon Programs
10/18/2024	Virdiana Martinez for Supervisor Holly J. Mithcell	Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
10/18/2024	Megan Nguyen	East Bay Housing Organizations
10/18/2024	Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS	Economic Security Project
10/18/2024	Brittany Pope, LISW, Daisy Gomez Palacios	Bread for the City Economic Security Team
10/20/2024	Yehudit Lieberman	Resident of Pleasant Hill

From: Janette Kennedy <janettekennedy@loavesfishescc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 9:19 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Cc: Loren Dalbert; rachel
Subject: Support for Guaranteed Income – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

My name is Janette Kennedy and I live in Walnut Creek. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' uplifted needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county.

Data from GI pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being.

Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where **all** Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank you, Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Janette Kennedy



Friday, September 27th, 2024

Clerk of the Board
Contra Costa County

Dear Clerk of the Board,

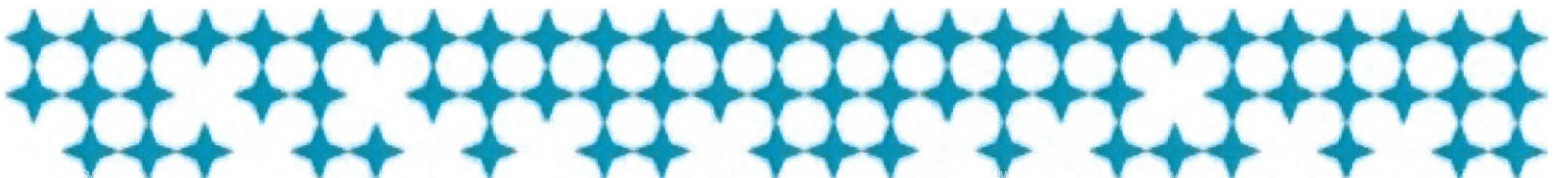
I am writing to express my strong support for community-driven guaranteed income (GI) pilots, drawing from my experience overseeing The Resilience Fund, a direct cash assistance program for survivors of human trafficking across the U.S. Our program provides up to \$500 monthly in unrestricted direct cash payments to participants for up to 18 months. The results thus far have been transformative, and findings suggest GI can both a solution in both preventing *and* responding to human trafficking. Our aim is to reduce chronic economic instability, which burdens both individuals and society, by offering cash without the excessive bureaucracy that often delays effective support.

Why Guaranteed Income?

Guaranteed income provides a complementary solution to existing public benefits by addressing gaps that often leave excluded individuals in cycles of poverty. It's important to note that GI is not intended to replace current systems, but rather to offer a streamlined, supplemental approach. By giving individuals direct, flexible resources, we allow them to take personal responsibility for managing their own financial stability, reducing dependency on reactive support services over time. Public benefits programs still play a crucial role in providing a safety net, and GI helps fill in the spaces where those systems may be too rigid to accommodate individual needs.

Demonstrated Impacts

The Resilience Fund has shown that participants use funds for essential needs such as housing, transportation, and childcare. Rather than undermining work incentives or reducing participation in public programs, the flexibility of GI empowers individuals to make better financial decisions and, in many cases, take proactive steps toward



employment and education. This approach reduces the pressure on other public benefits, as people become more financially stable and less reliant on emergency services. It's important to stress that GI doesn't negate the need for existing programs but enhances the overall system's effectiveness.

Efficient and Fair Program Design

Our program is designed to minimize administrative burdens, which makes it more efficient while still being equitable. Instead of relying on means testing or strict conditions, we use a trust-based system of self-attestation, allowing participants to define their own needs. This method doesn't eliminate the role of public benefits professionals—it simply reduces the administrative burden they face, freeing up their time for more complex, high-need cases. GI provides a support structure that reduces inefficiencies, giving public benefits professionals more room to focus on areas where their expertise is most needed.

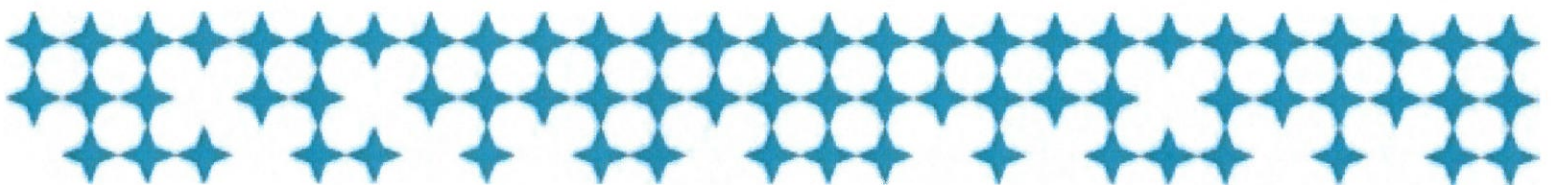
The Case for Public Investment

Investing public dollars into a GI pilot is a responsible strategy that strengthens the overall support system without threatening existing public services. By providing direct income to individuals, we prevent larger crises that would demand higher levels of public intervention later. The outcomes of existing GI pilots show that reducing economic instability also reduces long-term dependency on other services such as emergency health care, housing subsidies, and criminal justice involvement. Rather than eliminating the need for public benefits programs, GI enhances their efficiency and impact, creating a more sustainable ecosystem of support.

Ensuring Sustainability

The Resilience Fund's pilot incorporates a thoughtful off-ramp strategy that gradually reduces payments, ensuring that participants don't face an abrupt end to support. Participants are also connected to benefits counselors who help them maintain financial gains and access other long-term services, including public benefits where appropriate. This ensures that the transition is smooth, and that participants continue to contribute positively to the community while maintaining their financial progress. Rather than undermining the role of public benefits, this approach works in tandem with existing systems to provide a broader safety net.

I am always more than happy to share more insights from The Resilience Fund's findings and work with other community groups with the goal of ensuring community-based programs complement and strengthen existing public services. The evidence is clear:



Guaranteed Income is an effective, responsible, and equitable solution that enhances the overall social safety net while empowering individuals to achieve long-term stability.

Sincerely,

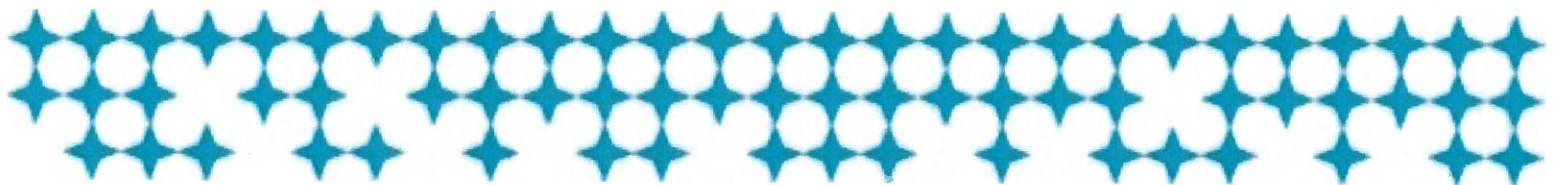
Megan Lundstrom

Director, The Resilience Fund

***Megan Lundstrom** is the Director of the Polaris Resilience Fund, where she leads the development and management of the program, providing direct cash assistance to survivors of human trafficking across the U.S. Megan's work focuses on creating trauma-informed systems that remove barriers for survivors to access resources, regardless of their immigration, banking, or housing status. Her leadership ensures that the program is survivor-centered, evidence-based and equitable, with a deep commitment to transparency.*

Megan is also a Research Consultant for the National Institute of Justice, co-leading a national research project on criminal vacatur and expungement for trafficking survivors. Previously, she co-founded and served as CEO of The Avery Center for Research & Services, where she oversaw operations, fundraising, program development, and strategic planning. She holds a Master's degree in Applied Sociology and a Bachelor's degree in Business Finance from the University of Northern Colorado.

An internationally recognized expert in the anti-trafficking field, Megan has published extensively and presented at high-profile conferences. She has served on multiple advisory boards and working groups, contributing to policy and advocacy efforts to support survivors of trafficking and exploitation.





Economic Security Project
228 Park Avenue S
PMB 32482
New York, NY 10003
teri@economicsecurityproject.org

October 2, 2024

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT— Public funding for guaranteed income in Contra Costa

Dear Contra Costa Board of Supervisors,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Contra Costa County Guaranteed Income Working Group's funding request for guaranteed income pilots on behalf of the Economic Security California (ESCA). ESCA is the California affiliate of Economic Security Project, the national convener of nearly 1,200 organizations dedicated to racial and economic justice through the advancement of guaranteed income.

Guaranteed income is an essential policy tool for directly serving residents and uplifting equity. Poverty is caused by a lack of resources, not a lack of knowledge, expertise, or financial education. Guaranteed income gives people what they need most— a stable source of money to support their daily costs. Data from guaranteed income pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being. Furthermore, there is a bipartisan appetite for innovations like guaranteed income that are being proven via research which has been shared widely.

I am aware of the Contra Costa working group and I am confident that their deep expertise and connections in the guaranteed income community will help stand up a solid program design, implementation, and evaluation. Their proposed priority populations align with strong evidence of positive outcomes in other pilots and are supported by local data substantiating the needs and gaps faced by these residents.

Public investment in guaranteed income is vital to move the field forward and sustain the momentum gained to date. Guaranteed income has evidenced success for diverse populations nationwide. I encourage you to support guaranteed income pilots in Contra Costa with public funds to benefit and boost residents and families throughout the county.

Please feel free to contact me at teri@economicsecurityproject.org for any additional details.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Olle, Director
Economic Security California



Subject: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

We are Healthy Contra Costa, a community-based collective that works to advocate for policy changes to increase health equity and racial justice in our county and community. Our organization fully supports the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' uplifted needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county.

Data from GI pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being.

Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where **all** Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

Our collective has worked closely with community members and organizational partners who have been long-standing champions of this work, and we recognize its deep relevance to our communities. We believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank you Supervisors,

Sincerely,

Healthy Contra Costa

From: Jim Becker <jbecker@richmondcf.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 4:54 PM

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

Cc: Rachel Rosekind <rosekindness@gmail.com>; Sara Gurdian <sara@budgetjusticecc.org>

Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Dear Clerk of the Board,

On behalf of the Richmond Community Foundation (RCF Connects) I am providing this letter to fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County. Thank you.



James A. Becker

Pronouns: He/Him

President and CEO

3260 Blume Drive, Suite #110, Richmond, CA 94806

510-234-1200 ext. 102

building healthy, thriving, equitable communities





October 3, 2024

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Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1025 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Subject: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Dear Contra Costa County Supervisors,

On behalf of the Richmond Community Foundation (RCF Connects) I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' uplifted needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county.

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Our foundation funded a GI pilot in Antioch and the data from the pilot aligns well with the national data. Of the income provided each month

- 37.2% was spent on food and groceries
- 24.4% was spent on merchandise (clothing, toiletries etc.)
- 16.9% was spent on transportation

Guaranteed income also helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where all Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James A. Becker".

James A. Becker
President and CEO

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 10:28 AM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Attachments: LOS_GI_Nakphong03OCT24.pdf

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Nakphong, Michelle <Michelle.Nakphong@ucsf.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 2:02 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Dear Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County,

I am pleased to submit a letter of support regarding guaranteed income for the October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Thank you in advance for including it within the meeting agenda packet and for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Michelle Nakphong, PhD (pronouns: she/her/hers)
Assistant Professor
Division of Prevention Science | University of California, San Francisco
Black Economic Equity Movement (BEEM)
[UCSF Profile | http://prevention.ucsf.edu](http://prevention.ucsf.edu)



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Michelle K. Nakphong, PhD
Assistant Professor
Division of Prevention Science, School of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco
550 16th St. #3160
San Francisco, CA 94158

October 3, 2024

To the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Subject: Research evidence on guaranteed income programs

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

As Contra Costa County is considering guaranteed income interventions, I am pleased to provide scientific evidence on guaranteed income interventions. I am on the faculty UCSF and much of my research has focused on the health impacts of economic interventions and socioeconomic status. Currently, I am an investigator on the Black Economic Equity Movement (BEEM) Project, a guaranteed income clinical trial among low-income Black young adults (aged 18-24) in San Francisco and Oakland, CA funded by the National Institutes of Health (ClinicalTrials.gov ID NCT05609188). We are investigating the effects of guaranteed income (\$500/mo for 12 months) on mental health outcomes, access to health care, and investments in the future (i.e., education, vocational training). We are using a randomized waitlist control design to evaluate effects: half of the participant receive guaranteed income in the first year and the remaining half receive guaranteed income in the second year. This design will allow us to evaluate the impact of receiving income compared to not receiving income (Year 1) as well as whether effects are sustained once guaranteed income is no longer being received (Year 2). This study began in 2022 and we are in the midst of collecting data for the study. We expect to share findings near the end of 2024 and would be happy to share them with the Board.

Guaranteed income interventions are proliferating around the country and the rapidly growing scientific evidence base demonstrates that providing no-strings-attached cash can be a powerful and efficient tool for individuals and communities to counter financial shocks, meet basic needs, and foster social inclusion among marginalized groups. The existing piece-meal social safety net can be slow, notoriously difficult to navigate, and fraught with many barriers to receiving resources. Individuals and households who receive guaranteed income can fill in the gaps to meet basic needs like housing, food, transportation, and children's needs—spending on basic needs is perhaps the most robust evidence to-date. Importantly, the impact of being able to meet basic needs should not be understated; it can be deeply meaningful. In my research, I interviewed one formerly unhoused participant who was able to use guaranteed income to prevent homelessness at a particularly vulnerable time; her credit union closed causing her to not be able to receive her paycheck and she was trying to piece together assistance for rent. She said, "So I was falling behind on rent, I was falling behind on bills, I couldn't eat...a lot of the organizations that help are there, it's really unreliable with their resources. Sometimes they have things, sometimes they don't...and that was around that time when you guys called about BEEM...and I had an extra 500 to kind of keep me afloat...the more I talk about about my journey to being

housed and just becoming one into adulthood and getting my autonomy slowly back, it's very—I don't know. It's like synchronistic or like in a movie or something like that, but a lot of disastrous things will happen and then magically come in."

This alludes to the importance of guaranteed income, not only to individuals, but to families and communities. At the Guaranteed Income NOW conference in Detroit in June 2024, a recipient reflected about the difference she saw in her kids, "A child that grows up with everything they need is a different child than one who doesn't." This is underscored by results from the Great Smoky Mountains Study which found that youth in households who received income supplementation were less likely to have psychiatric disorders and abuse or be dependent on alcohol or cannabis *in adulthood* than youth who did not receive income. In addition, guaranteed income can influence how recipients see themselves within society, helping them feel that their presence and contributions are valued, especially when they are engaged in low-wage work. For instance, evidence from Finland show that guaranteed income increases people's trust in others and in social institutions. And data from guaranteed income projects in the U.S. also show that people use guaranteed income for the good of others; we consistently find that individuals and households consistently use guaranteed income to support others, which can help strengthen social ties and communities.

Findings are mixed about questions surrounding some of the fears about guaranteed income disincentivizing work. The Denver Basic Income Project for people experiencing homelessness found that those who received more guaranteed income were more likely to be employed full-time compared to those who received a smaller token amount. However, Open Research recently published findings from their guaranteed income trial over three years which found a modest decline in work (1.3 fewer hours/week) but increases in entrepreneurship and active job searching, suggesting that guaranteed income may have afforded people the ability to take career risks and pursue new ventures. The BIG:LEAP guaranteed income program in Los Angeles found that recipients found better jobs and were also able to enact other big changes in their lives, including escaping domestic violence.

The movement towards guaranteed income is also expanding at multiple levels including re-envisioning how to apply public funding and deliver social services. Flint, Michigan has applied Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to support a citywide prenatal and infant guaranteed income program. California is currently implementing a state-wide pilot through the California Department of Social Services. Government entities are also exploring how they can infuse guaranteed income principles and values into existing social services. For example, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is encouraging local housing authorities to experiment with giving cash to renters acknowledging that existing voucher systems are fraught with years-long waitlists and voucher discrimination.

Lastly, one thing is clear, guaranteed income is a cross-cutting intervention and can be regarded as a pathway to equity. Studies on tax credits (e.g., Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit) have shown that getting cash back into the pockets of low-income households reduces income inequality. Communities across the board—historically disadvantaged communities, disabled communities, formerly incarcerated communities, low-income families—see guaranteed income as a solution that can work for them and uplifts their autonomy and self-determination.

There is much more that needs to be learned about guaranteed income and how it works within our social safety net today and for different populations. This an exciting time to be a part of understanding if and how guaranteed income works. My research also includes other studies evaluating the impact of guaranteed income, including evaluating housing outcomes (funded by the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative), and two proposed studies (pending funding): 1) understanding differences in guaranteed income impact by neighborhood contexts and 2) testing the impact of guaranteed income on HIV outcomes among formerly incarcerated individuals living with HIV. Once results are available, we would be happy to share findings with the Board. Also, if Contra Costa County starts a guaranteed income program, this will also contribute to our knowledge of how guaranteed income works among Contra Costa's target populations, how it interacts with the local context, and its impact on desired outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me for questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Nakphong', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michelle K. Nakphong, PhD



PUBLIC DEFENDER Contra Costa County

Ellen McDonnell
Public Defender

Brandon Banks
Chief Assistant Public Defender

Assistant Public Defenders

Ilean Baltodano

Rebecca Brackman

Michelle Dawson

Evan Kuluk

Jonathan Laba

Michael Lepie

Brooks Osborne

Joni Spears

Jermel Thomas

October 1, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors, Contra Costa County
SUBJECT: Support for Guaranteed Income Reentry Pilot Program

Dear Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County,

I write as someone who has worked closely with the indigent and vulnerable in Contra Costa County for over 23 years and who shares your commitment to ensuring equity in our local community. I would like to express my strong support for funding a guaranteed basic income pilot program for individuals reentering the community after being incarcerated.

When community members are ordered to serve time in custody, whether it be for a matter of days or for several years, the criminal system is destabilizing to them as it removes them from their family, employment, housing and other societal connections in our community.

Upon release, as these individuals face an increasingly uphill battle to reestablish those connections, the destabilization can have dramatic long-term effects including rearrest and reincarceration. The financial costs for rearresting and reincarcerating these individuals are dramatically higher than the costs to restabilize them. In fact, the costs for restabilization can have a net financial gain when these individuals are able to contribute to our community's economy and taxpayer base. Stabilizing individuals in our local community saves money.

This policy would have a direct, positive impact and reverse many of the negative consequences for individuals the criminal system has incarcerated. It takes a village to care for our **entire** community. It's imperative that the County's safety net provide each previously incarcerated individual with a reentry strategy that directly restabilizes them and helps reestablish fractured connections to our community. In the short and long term, this will increase public safety and reduce recidivism.

I am proud to be a leader in a County that understands the impacts of incarceration on our fellow community members. As the County's Public Defender, I have seen the compounding difficulties of exiting the jail without resources to get one's life on track once back in the community. I support guaranteed basic income for previously incarcerated individuals and other evolving efforts to reverse the impacts of decades of mass and over-incarceration. This is a great step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Ellen McDonnell
Public Defender

From: rachel <rachel@writeyouare.net>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Joy is righteous struggle and revolutionary act.

WORDS ARE MATTER. MAKE THEM MATTER.



Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS

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From: Douglas Holmes
Date: Thu, Oct 3, 2024 at 2:29 PM
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
To: <ClerkofTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: rachel <rachel@writeyouare.net>, Doug Leich <doug@leich.com>

My name is Douglas Holmes, and I live in Danville, CA. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County. Many of us in Contra Costa have the privilege, for one reason or another, of making life choices for ourselves every day, but there are also many who are limited instead to the choices other people and other agencies make for them or who are forced by limited resources to a life bound by triage -- shall I pay the utility bills, or buy food, or pay the rent, or buy my meds. A guaranteed income grant allows them to make choices for themselves. A pilot program now is a good way for Contra Costa County to experiment with guaranteed income and to learn how and where it works to improve lives here among us.

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mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county.

Data from GI pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being.

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I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank you, Contra Costa Supervisors

--

Doug Holmes

"Hope is like a path in the countryside. Originally, there is nothing -- but as people walk this way again and again, a path appears."

Chinese writer Lu Xun, more than a century ago.

June McHuen

From: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Joy is righteous struggle and revolutionary act.

WORDS ARE MATTER. MAKE THEM MATTER.



Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Doug Leich <leichd@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 3, 2024 at 5:03 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
To: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>

Hi Rachel,

I saw your request to cc you on GI-support letters to the Supervisors, but failed to do it. So I'm forwarding to you what I sent this morning.

~~~~~

Doug Leich  
[leichd@gmail.com](mailto:leichd@gmail.com)  
[Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition](#)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Doug Leich** <[leichd@gmail.com](mailto:leichd@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Oct 3, 2024 at 10:37 AM

Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

To: Clerk of the Board <[ClerkofTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us](mailto:ClerkofTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us)>

My name is Doug Leich, and I am a resident of Danville (for 48 years), a member of Danville Congregational Church and of the Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' uplifted needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county.

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Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where **all** Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

In the recent Collaborative Advocacy and Power Partnership program here in Contra Costa County, we studied the needs of former foster youth and concluded that GI would be a powerful influence on their developing life trajectories. So I hope that transition-age youth, and former foster youth in particular, will be included in a Contra Costa GI pilot.

I also support the recommendation currently being considered to allocate \$1M of AB 109 reserve funds to a GI pilot to support formerly-incarcerated people returning to their communities.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed income pilot programs in our county.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Doug Leich

~~~~~

Doug Leich

leichd@gmail.com

From: rachel
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Joy is righteous struggle and revolutionary act.

WORDS ARE MATTER. MAKE THEM MATTER.



Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS

***Editorial Services | Strategic Consulting & Communications | Education & Coaching
Admissions Essays Assistance | Homeschool Enrichment
www.writeyouare.net***

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tumani Drew <tumani@writeyouare.net>
Date: Mon, Oct 7, 2024 at 5:29 PM
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program
To: <ohn.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>, <supervisorandersen@bos.cccounty.us>, <Diane.Burgis@bos.cccounty.us>, <SupervisorCarlson@bos.cccounty.us>, <district5@bos.cccounty.us>
Cc: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>

Hello Supervisors,

My name is Tumani Drew, and I was born and raised in Richmond in Contra Costa County. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in communities that have historically felt the impact of being underserved and flooded with crime.

A Guaranteed Income pilot program will tremendously help 14-24 youth who are facing foster care, formerly incarcerated, homelessness, and parenthood without a support system.

This population tends to be forgotten because it is assumed they have someone to care for them. However, most youth in impoverished communities tend to have to make ends meet on their own.

This program will help them get out of the streets and focus on positive relationships, access to education, and employment. A GI program will support ending violence in our community because they will have the means to engage in the community without committing criminal activities.

Thank you Supervisors,

Sincerely,
Tumani Drew

--

Peace be with you,

Tumani Drew
pronouns: she/they
Site Director
Contra Costa County Site



[Young Women's Freedom Center](#)

C:510-807-9442

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June McHuen

From: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 10:22 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Joy is righteous struggle and revolutionary act.

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Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS

*Editorial Services | Strategic Consulting & Communications | Education & Coaching
Admissions Essays Assistance | Homeschool Enrichment
www.writeyouare.net*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tumani Drew <tumani@youngwomenfree.org>
Date: Mon, Oct 7, 2024 at 5:27 PM
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program
To: <ohn.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>, <supervisorandersen@bos.cccounty.us>, <Diane.Burgis@bos.cccounty.us>, <SupervisorCarlson@bos.cccounty.us>, <district5@bos.cccounty.us>
Cc: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>

Hello Supervisors,

My name is McKayla, and I live in San Pablo/Richmond. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

As an individual that was born and raised some of my life in Oakland Ca, as a young girl and still at the moment I watch family members and people I knew personally fall into bad situations because they didn't have the right resources. Specifically money, they had to do horrible things to survive and get money not only for themselves but for their families.

People shouldn't have to rob or give their bodies up to make money because they don't have access to the right resources either because of the place they live or were born into, even mistakes that they regret because they were young and dumb.

I don't want to see more people fall into a life they don't deserve because of simply what the system set for them. I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank you Supervisors,

Sincerely, Mckayla P

Peace be with you,

Tumani Drew
pronouns: she/they
Site Director
Contra Costa County Site



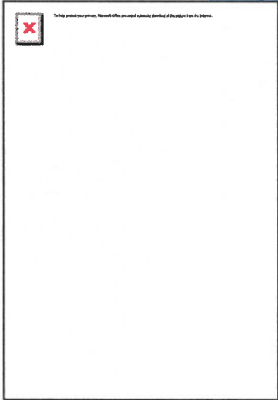
[Young Women's Freedom Center](#)

C:510-807-9442

Follow us on social media!



Check out our [magazine!](#)



June McHuen

From: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 10:23 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Fwd: WA Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Joy is righteous struggle and revolutionary act.

WORDS ARE MATTER. MAKE THEM MATTER.



Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS

*Editorial Services | Strategic Consulting & Communications | Education & Coaching
Admissions Essays Assistance | Homeschool Enrichment
www.writeyouare.net*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tumani Drew <tumani@youngwomenfree.org>
Date: Mon, Oct 7, 2024 at 5:05 PM
Subject: WA Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program
To: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>, <John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>, <supervisorandersen@bos.cccounty.us>, <Diane.Burgis@bos.cccounty.us>, <SupervisorCarlson@bos.cccounty.us>, <district5@bos.cccounty.us>

Hello Supervisors,

My name is Winter Antone, and I live in San Francisco currently at an emergency hotel program, but I am from Richmond, CA. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Guaranteed income can prevent people in the community from not having access to necessary basic needs. People deserve to have the same resources and opportunities as everyone else.

I'm 18 years old and have been in poverty my whole life and homeless since the beginning of this year. I have struggled not only with necessities such as food, water, clothes, and shelter but also with finding a job, affordable housing, and other opportunities that would help elevate me and get me out of the situation I'm currently in.

Guaranteed income can help people be prepared for unexpected situations that they don't expect to happen or don't have enough money to create an emergency fund.

I believe it is essential for Contra Costa County to give money to people in the community who need help in different aspects of life.

Thank you Supervisors,
Sincerely, Winter Antone

--
Peace be with you,

Tumani Drew
pronouns: she/they
Site Director
Contra Costa County Site

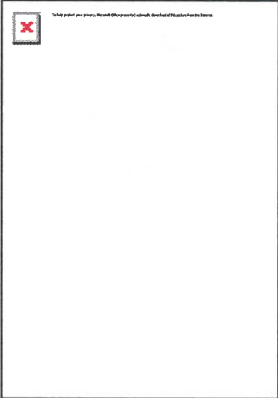


[Young Women's Freedom Center](#)
C:510-807-9442

Follow us on social media!



Check out our [magazine!](#)



My name is Zimbabwe Davies, and I work in Contra Costa County. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' uplifted needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county.

Data from GI pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being.

Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where **all** Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong. Since working with TAY Foster Youth, I have noticed the positive impact that Guaranteed Income has had on the youth I support. The young people emotional well-being is positive, their outlook on life is more optimistic and this is due to the GI payments alleviating their stress, and allowing them to focus on their career pathways, having a peace of mind, and being open to receiving the support from service providers.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank You Board of Supervisors

Sincerely, Zimbabwe Davies

Comment Studio-TAY Foster Youth Project Manager

From: Kevin Scott <kscott@csgnv.org>

Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 8:09 AM

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

Cc: Rachel Rosekind <

Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Please find below my Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa for the October 22nd Board of Supervisors Meeting. I have attached it as a PDF and also provided the text in the body of this email.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,
Kevin Scott

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I strongly support the funding request for a guaranteed income pilot for the reentry population in Contra Costa County. As the Director of the guaranteed income program Just Income by Community Spring in Gainesville, FL, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative effects of guaranteed income on formerly incarcerated individuals and their communities.

Why Guaranteed Income is Essential

In a society where punitive policies systematically deny individuals with criminal records access to vital resources, the cycle of poverty and re-incarceration is perpetuated. This unjust cycle traps individuals in a relentless struggle, where financial instability leads to desperation and ultimately to imprisonment. We can break this cycle. Investing in guaranteed income is not just a program—it's a revolutionary step toward restoring dignity, fostering independence, and creating equitable opportunities for our most vulnerable citizens.

Proven Strengths of Guaranteed Income

Just Income has proven to be a lifeline for formerly incarcerated individuals in Alachua County, providing 12 months of guaranteed income for people recently released from incarceration. This targeted support addresses immediate financial needs, enabling participants to regain control of their lives. To date, we have supported 137 people with over a million dollars in direct cash assistance. Our results speak volumes:

- **Empowered Lives:** Participants have reported increased financial stability, which significantly reduces reliance on survival tactics that lead to re-incarceration. Our program has achieved a remarkable 43% reduction in money-related re-incarceration rates. This is not just a statistic; it's a testament to the transformative power of guaranteed income.
- **Employment Success:** The financial security provided by Just Income empowers individuals to seek employment that aligns with their skills and ambitions. Participants are breaking free from exploitative labor conditions and moving towards stable, fulfilling jobs. For example, Anthony utilized Just Income to stabilize his finances and pursue a commercial driver's license. He stated, "The program allowed me to be free from my burdens," emphasizing how guaranteed income enabled him to focus on his aspirations rather than his struggles.
- **Strengthened Families:** By alleviating financial burdens, guaranteed income enhances family dynamics and fosters a sense of belonging and purpose. Vee, a participant who stabilized her life through Just Income, shared, "Hope goes a long way for people accustomed to hopelessness."

This program allows participants to transition from financial dependents to active contributors within their families and communities, significantly improving their relationships.

- **Mental Health Improvements:** The mental health benefits are profound. Participants experience reduced stress and anxiety, allowing them to focus on future planning and personal growth. The mental space created by financial stability is invaluable for rebuilding lives after incarceration.

The Community Impact

Investing in guaranteed income for formerly incarcerated individuals is not merely a moral imperative; it is a smart economic strategy that benefits the entire community. When individuals can meet their basic needs, they contribute to the local economy, have increased food security, reduce reliance on social services, and enhance public safety. A thriving community is built on the empowerment of its most vulnerable members.

A Call to Action

I urge you to seize this opportunity to invest in the future of Contra Costa County. By establishing a guaranteed income program for formerly incarcerated individuals, you will provide essential support to those who need it most while championing a transformative approach that breaks the chains of poverty and re-incarceration.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I stand ready to support this initiative in any way necessary to make it a reality.

Sincerely,

Kevin Scott
Program Director
Just Income by Community Spring
kscott@csgnv.org | 352.818.0109

Kevin Scott (he/him)
Program Director
[Just Income](#) by [Community Spring](#)
352.818.0109



Just Income by Community Spring
justincome.org | csgnv.org
352-339-9393

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I strongly support the funding request for a guaranteed income pilot for the reentry population in Contra Costa County. As the Director of the guaranteed income program Just Income by Community Spring in Gainesville, FL, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative effects of guaranteed income on formerly incarcerated individuals and their communities.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I stand ready to support this initiative in any way necessary to make it a reality.

Sincerely,



Kevin Scott
Program Director
Just Income by Community Spring
kscott@csgnv.org | 352.818.0109

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 12:26 PM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Attachments: MI_LetterofSupport_10.2024.pdf

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Julia Quintero <Julia@monumentimpact.org>
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2024 12:14 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: Judith Ortiz <Judith@monumentimpact.org>; Tony Bravo <tony@monumentimpact.org>; rosekindness <rosekindness@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Hello,

Please see attached Monument Impact's letter of support for the October 22 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thank you!

Best,

Julia Quintero

ELEVATE Concord Project Manager
MONUMENT IMPACT

(925) 400-7617

www.monumentimpact.org

Community Events

ILLEGALLY BROWN

An original production on immigration.

Join us Oct. 12 for Opening Night!

Reserve your free ticket at bit.ly/illegallybrownplay



Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

Monument Impact is writing to support the allocation of \$5.75 million dollars for a Guaranteed Income pilot program to serve individuals in Contra Costa County. This service will provide a long-term strategy for financial stability and offer much-needed support to our most marginalized and vulnerable populations that often face significant challenges and instability.

Guaranteed income programs significantly contribute to a person's ability to maintain a stable life. Unrestricted cash assistance can help find or keep stable housing and employment, address unexpected transportation costs, invest in education, and keep food on the table. We believe everyone should access these necessities without the stress of living paycheck-to-paycheck. In addition, guaranteed income programs address gaps in the existing social safety net and can address deeply rooted racial and economic inequities in Contra Costa County.

Since November 2023, ELEVATE Concord, Monument Impact's Family Economic Equity Pilot, has provided unrestricted cash assistance to 120 low-income, single-parent families. Families are receiving \$500 a month for a year and, in addition, received a one-time gift of \$2,500. As of July 2024, the program has been extended until December 2024 with scaled-down payments. Many have used this cash assistance to pay their rent, buy groceries, fix their cars, buy medication, and keep up with other daily expenses. Beyond basic necessities, parents have expressed a sense of relief – data captured from our first quarter showed that participants who responded to our survey experienced a 50% decrease in anxiety and a 31% decrease in stress since the beginning of the program. The cash assistance they are receiving has allowed them to spend more time with their children and participate in community events. Some have switched to higher-paying jobs or have gone back to school. Through this program, we also support participants with wrap-around services, like access to our mental health and emerging business programs, technology training courses, and leadership development opportunities. The impact of ELEVATE Concord is clear – guaranteed income improves families' quality of life.

Investing community dollars into a Guaranteed Income pilot program is an innovative and tried-and-true approach that can undoubtedly help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. We strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to allocate \$5.75 million in Measure X funds to create a countywide guaranteed income pilot program that will empower and uplift our community by offering concentrated support and consistency to constituents who need it most.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Judith Ortiz
Monument Impact

June McHuen

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 11:46 AM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Attachments: SUD AB 109 GI lttr of support.pdf

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Syretta Hill <syretta@stepupdurham.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 11:40 AM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Please see attached

--
Syretta Hill | she/her/hers
Executive Director
StepUp Durham
112 Broadway Street, Suite B
Durham, NC 27701

(919) 813-0207



2024-2025 Board of Directors

Kate Brant
Alea Crump
Gregory Edwards
Ariel Germain
Catherine Goodman
Nancy Grigg
Jim Kinney
Shajuana McMillian

Dominique Grimes-Medlin
Denise Motley
Beth Payne
Kristine Sullivan
Pearl Teiko
Simone Thomas
Thomas Wicker
Rashad Wilson

October 15, 2024

Community Corrections Partnership,

Step-Up Durham enthusiastically supports Dr. Rachel Rosekind's request for \$1M from the AB 109 reserves to fund a guaranteed income pilot for formerly incarcerated individuals in Contra Costa County.

From 2022-2023, StepUp Durham served as the program administrator for the City of Durham's first guaranteed income pilot, providing 109 formerly incarcerated individuals with \$600/month for one year. Seeded with \$500,000 from the former CEO of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, StepUp Durham raised over \$200,000 from additional private donors to provide monthly disbursements. The University of Pennsylvania serves as our researcher and will publish outcomes of this pilot this Fall. What we know thus far is that only two individuals of the 109 were convicted of charges during the pilot, and those charges were incurred before the pilot began. (For North Carolina, the recidivism rate is 40% - 40% of individuals coming out of incarceration return within the first three years.) Our 1.8% recidivism rate says to us that when individuals have the resources they need to thrive, the impact on recidivism is significant. We have heard that, in addition to providing for participants basic needs, our pilot, called Excel, allowed individuals to invest in themselves. One individual, Tydricka, was able to invest in a nonprofit she launched for young women with the goal of having them make different decisions from the ones she had made that led her to incarceration. Tyler, another of the 109, invested in his continuing education. Every story we heard were individuals who, for the first time in a long time, felt like they were able to move beyond their past and focus on their future.

The mission of StepUp Durham is to empower job seekers in the Durham community who face challenges to employment. We do this by providing them opportunity and access to essential resources and holistic support to enhance lives and build sustainable employment, thereby fostering personal and community growth. Understanding that employment is the first step to stability, StepUp Durham offers resources to find and sustain employment, as well as personalized employment counseling, job referrals, and post-employment support. Our programs are designed specifically for individuals experiencing challenges to finding employment. This past fiscal year, over 40% were justice-involved, 20% were in recovery, and 51% had housing instability. Since launching in 2015, StepUp Durham has served over 1,000 individuals through our various programs.

StepUp Durham believes that when the most marginalized of our communities thrive, everyone thrives. We believe the \$1M from the AB 109 reserves to fund a guaranteed income pilot for formerly incarcerated individuals in Contra Costa County will impact the health and wellness of the entire community.

Regards,

Syretta Hill
Executive Director

112, Broadway Street, Suite B Durham, NC 27701 919-813-0207 www.stepupdurham.org

StepUp Durham is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, tax identification #47-4578727, and contributions are tax-deductible.

SUSAN ELLENBERG
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT FOUR
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, EAST WING
70 WEST HEDDING STREET, 10th FLOOR
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110
TEL: (408) 299-5040
supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org • www.supervisorellenberg.com



October 11, 2024
Contra Costa County
Board of Supervisors
1025 Escobar St.,
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Esteemed Board of Supervisors:

As the President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 4, and a founding member of the national coalition of Counties for a Guaranteed Income, I am writing to strongly encourage you to approve funding for a guaranteed income pilot program in Contra Costa County.

To date, Santa Clara County has invested \$13 million to fund four pilot programs that by 2025 will have successfully served almost 900 participants. We are partnering in several more pilot programs and will continue to seek opportunities to expand both the funding sources and the number of people who could benefit from these programs. Through these programs we are serving former foster youth, young moms, high school seniors experiencing homelessness, and other targeted populations. Within the last year, my colleagues also voted unanimously to support a guaranteed income program for people exiting incarceration, in part because our sheriff and a local police chief said implementation of these innovative programs would increase public safety.

Lack of basic support makes maintaining the conditions of probation or parole (drug testing, treatment programs, paying fines, traveling to mandatory classrooms or programs) extremely difficult. Too often, people end up back in jail and restarting the cycle of incarceration though they have not caused additional harm. This cycle is costly to the individual, their families, and the public, and does nothing to improve our overall safety.

A guaranteed basic income plays a significant role in stabilizing individuals who depend on the county safety net and in countering the myth that poverty is a moral failing of individuals rather than the result of systemic failures.

This idea isn't new, and it isn't radical. There are numerous examples of guaranteed basic income pilots across the country that have demonstrated positive and sustained impact on pilot participants and, by extension, on their communities. Thanks for your attention and I sincerely hope you to approve funding for guaranteed income in Contra Costa County.

With warm regard,

Susan Ellenberg, District 4
President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

June McHuen

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 8:17 AM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: In support of guaranteed income pilot program

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: lapamela pierce <
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:23 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: Loren Dalbert
Subject: In support of guaranteed income pilot program

name is Pam Pierce, and I live in Contra Costa County. I fully support the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County. Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' uplifted needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county. Data from GI pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being. Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where all Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong. I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank You
Supervisors Sincerely,
Pam Pierce

June McHuen

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 4:28 PM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income re Oct 22 Board Meeting
Attachments: Letter to BOS re GI Oct 2024 signed.pdf

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Sandra Naughton <snaughton@first5coco.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 3:18 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: Emlyn Struthers <Emlyn.Struthers@cao.cccounty.us>; Roxanne Carrillo Garza <rcgarza@richmondcf.org>; Ruth Fernandez <rfernandez@first5coco.org>
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income re Oct 22 Board Meeting

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please see the attached public comment letter in support of using Measure X funding to support guaranteed income pilots in our county, which we understand will be discussed at the Oct 22 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thank you,
Sandra

Sandra Naughton (she/hers)
Deputy Director
(415) 871-8977 (Mobile)
(925) 771-7300 (Office)



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October 16, 2024

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
1025 Escobar Street, First Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Public Comment in Support for Allocating Measure X Funds to Guaranteed Income Pilots

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of First 5 Contra Costa, I urge you to support piloting guaranteed income strategies in our county using Measure X funding.

First 5 Contra Costa served on the Guaranteed Income Working Group composed of county departments, advocates, and service providers that aimed to learn more about guaranteed income approaches and responsiveness of residents in our county. What we learned from that process underscored what we already knew from the data we collect from families with young children – many families are struggling to make ends meet in our high-cost county and do not have what they feel they need to support their children. In 2020, 9% of families with children under the age of 6 in our county lived in deep poverty, defined as 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (or with an annual income of \$13,875 for a family of four), while the Self Sufficiency Standard for our county indicated that a family that size would need an income of \$106,000 to make ends meet.

Guaranteed income programs have proven to be effective in addressing income inequality through streamlined and equity-drive approaches. Several First 5 agencies across California have partnered with county departments, service providers, cities, and philanthropy to implement guaranteed income programs focused on families with young children. We are pleased that these programs, such as the [Sonoma County Pathway to Income Equity](#) which provides \$500 a month to 305 families for 24 months, are finding that participating families are making progress towards economic stability and their ability to meet everyday needs.

We are excited that the current proposed pilot for our county includes families with children under age 6. Research shows that investing during a child's first 5 years of life is one of the most cost-effective strategies for fostering a healthy community for everyone – not just the children and families receiving supports.



Dedicating resources to support children ages 0 to 5 not only makes sense in terms of where to invest public dollars and how to have the biggest impact on children and families' lives, but also delivers on what voters were promised when they passed Measure X. The ballot language listed early childhood services as one of the areas Measure X funding was intended to support. Yet to date only 3.5% of Measure X funds have been dedicated to early childhood services.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest families with young children to fund guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Fernández".

Ruth Fernández, Ed.D.
Executive Director, First 5 Contra Costa

Cc:

Members and Staff of Measure X Community Advisory Board

Members and Staff of Measure X Community Fiscal Oversight Committee

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 7:40 AM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Millie Phillips <millie@workingeastbay.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 3:47 PM
To: Diane Burgis <Diane.Burgis@bos.cccounty.us>; Ken Carlson <Ken.Carlson@bos.cccounty.us>; John Gioia <John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>; Federal Glover <Federal.Glover@bos.cccounty.us>; Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>; rosekindness@gmail.com; Candace Andersen <Candace.Andersen@bos.cccounty.us>
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

My name is Rev. Millie Phillips. I am a senior, mother, and grandmother and a part-time minister. I also work full-time in Concord as an interfaith organizer. I fully support the county allocating Measure X funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county. *As a minister and interfaith organizer, I have seen these conditions often in faith networks and elsewhere and, many years ago when I was a young woman and a single mom, I experienced them myself.*

Data from guaranteed income pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being. *I know my family would have benefited from access to such a program back when my children were young. Most likely, I would have used it to get therapy for my older*

son, who experienced significant trauma as a child. Today, I have a job I love and no intention of retiring soon, but I worry for my fellow seniors who cannot afford to retire. Even I would have to leave the Bay Area if I wasn't employed.

Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where **all** Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank you Supervisors,

Sincerely, Millie

Rev. Millie Phillips

(She/Her)

Faith-Rooted Organizer FAME Concord

[Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy \(FAME\) an initiative of EBASE](#)

1820 Galindo St., Concord CA 94520

Cell: 415 272-4152

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 7:40 AM
To: _____
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

€
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Kelly <_____
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 5:13 PM
To: Federal Glover <Federal.Glover@bos.cccounty.us>; Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: rosekindness@gmail.com
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Submission: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Dear Supervisor Federal Glover,

My name is Kelly Zhao, and I live in Pittsburg. I fully support the county allocating Measure X funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

As someone that has attended schools in Pittsburg throughout my life and continues to live and work in the region, I want to express my utmost support for continuing the guaranteed income program in Contra Costa County. **I am passionate about improving housing security and stability in my community of Pittsburg/Bay Point and believe that the guaranteed income pilot program is an extremely valuable resource that ensures that every member of my community is able to have a dignified opportunity to support themselves and their families.** My parents have been homeowners in Pittsburg for the last 20 years and we believe that when everyone in our community thrives, that is the true measure of success in our city and county.

Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' needs and current circumstances. Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county.

Data from guaranteed income pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside

from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being.

Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where **all** Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank you Supervisor Glover for your time.

Sincerely,
Kelly Zhao

June McHuen

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 7:40 AM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Attachments: Letter of Support Guaranteed Income.pdf

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Kanwarpal Dhaliwal <kanwarpal@rysecenter.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 7:26 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: rachel <rosekindness@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Hello,

RYSE's Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa is attached.

Thank you,

KANWARPAL DHALI WAL

she/her

Co-Founder and Associate Director

kanwarpal@rysecenter.org

direct line: (510) 579-1922

New Entrance & Mailing Address

RYSE

3939 Bissell Ave

Richmond, CA 94805

main line: (510) 374-3401

member line during closures: (510) 255-1940

rysecenter.org





October 16, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa

Greetings Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

In 2019, the American Medical Association cited poverty as the 4th leading cause of death in the United States (JAMA, 2019). Since then, the authors of this formative study have identified the COVID pandemic as an "aggravating event" increasing the association between poverty and mortality, and with an increase in the number of deaths due to poverty (Brady, et al, 2023).

This is why RYSE is grateful and appreciative that the Board of Supervisors is holding the October 22nd Forum to learn about Guaranteed Income, and considering how the County can sustain and deepen such investments as pathways towards increased health, safety, and security for all of our communities.

RYSE is also grateful and appreciative of all the labor and love that went into ***Ensuring Opportunity's Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa: Primer and Roadmap to Strengthen Our County's Safety Net***. RYSE fully supports the recommendations set forth in the Report.

As mentioned, the COVID pandemic and Racial Reckoning took place a year after the formative study was published, and have only shone a brighter light on the embedded structures of inequity and injustice that bind our systems and institutions together - through deeply held judgment, stigma, and discrimination (de facto and de jure) of too many of our struggling and surviving community and kin.

As well, the Pandemic and Racial Reckonings also made more visible our interdependence, interconnectedness, and ability to take care of each other by collectivizing resources for community care. As EO's Report outlines, the impacts and benefits of GI resources (of collectivized resources) on participants' health, safety, security, sense of belonging and connectedness, and aspiration for the future reflect and reveal the clarity of trusting and following the lead of participants in how they prioritize, choose, and invest in their and their families' well-being with tangible, consistent resources.

RYSE has seen and felt these impacts with young people we serve through our Youth Emergency Fund, which launched shortly after the COVID Shelter in Place began, as well as in our current GI pilot: Direct Cash Transfers for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Prevention. We are also seeing and feeling the need for deepened and extended resources, committed resources that will move us from pilots to programs to embedded policies and investments. The worry and anxiety of when a GI pilot ends is too real, as is the growing crisis of youth homelessness, housing insecurity, cost of living, increased isolation, distress. The lack of



real-time, sufficient supportive resources and spaces that young people need and deserve are creating conditions in which exploitation, violence, and risk to health are the costs and jobs of survival.

Guaranteed Income lessens the risks and impacts of harm and distress, of poverty. The risks of not investing are much greater than the amount recommended by EO's Report. By centering the priorities and needs of our most structurally vulnerable communities, through direct and unrestricted financial resources, we can support safety, belonging, and stability for all of us. *And in fuller perspective, the funds provided through GI projects remain far less than the benefits and financial breaks that wealthy and owning-class families, communities, and generations receive, often without ever having to apply, prove worth, or be measured.*

RYSE hopes for and calls on the Board of Supervisors to lessen the harms, to save lives and livelihood, for those the systems have made vulnerable by fully enacting the recommendations and resources set forth in EO's Report.

Thank you again for hosting this critical forum. If you have any questions about RYSE's work or our support of EO's Report, please feel free to reach out to me at kanwarpal@rysecenter.org.

In community,

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal

Associate Director and Co-Founder

June McHuen

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 8:18 AM
To: June McHuen
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa - October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting
Attachments: BOS_Rubicon Program Guaranteed Income Support Letter.pdf

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Mohamed Taleb <MohamedT@rubiconprograms.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 4:00 PM
To: Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: rosekindness@gmail.com; Idalbert@richmondcf.org
Subject: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa - October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Mohamed Taleb and I am the Policy, Advocacy and Community Outreach Coordinator at Rubicon Programs. I am attaching Rubicon Programs' letter of support for using part of AB 109 funds for a Guaranteed Income program for our justice impacted community members.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Mohamed Taleb

Mohamed Taleb

Policy, Advocacy and Community Outreach Coordinator

Pronouns: He/Him



e: mohamedt@rubiconprograms.org

p: (510) 412-1727



Join our [mailing list](#)

Rubicon's [anti-racism stance](#) affirms our identity as an anti-racism organization, and outlines our approach to dismantling racism first from within, and then in the communities we serve.



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2500 Bissell Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804 | (510) 235-1516 | (800) 735-2929 TT

10/17/2024

RE: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa – October 22 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Rubicon Programs supports the Community Advisory Board's recommendation to use AB 109 reserves to allocate \$2 million in funds for a guaranteed income pilot program for Contra Costa's justice-impacted community members. This will be an important pilot program that will move Contra Costa justice-impacted residents from the conditions of poverty to financial stability.

Rubicon Program's mission is to transform East Bay communities by equipping people to break the cycle of poverty. Much of our work is focused on helping formerly incarcerated people successfully reenter the community and find stable, meaningful employment. In the last program year alone, Rubicon's anti-poverty work impacted the lives of 2,728 participants across the organization, including 1,494 new individuals. Our participants are assigned a trained impact coach who will provide one-on-one coaching for up to three years. The impact coach will join the participants as they attend a two-week comprehensive workshop series, which addresses four issue areas: assets, income, wellness and connections as well as legal services, structural causes of poverty and digital literacy. For assets, we have financial coaches who teach financial literacy, consumer rights and train participants to grow their savings, repair credit, build a budget and invest. For income, we have employment coaches who will help participants reentering society find immediate employment to meet their short-term needs based on their current skills and experience. Then our career coaches will work with them to chart a long-term career plan to attain more pay, training and job certifications. For wellness, our wellness coaches provide culturally responsive counseling, services and referrals to address the participant's emotional and physical health needs. For connections, we help participants establish relationships and community networks to build a career, raise a family and advocate for themselves through support groups like men's and women's group or family workshops, leadership training, restorative practices and community advocacy. Our legal services team work to provide legal advice, minor representation around record sealing, expungement and child support and employment discrimination issues. We try to encompass our participants with as much support and resources as possible as they work to transform themselves.

Our Returning Home Career Grant program was our pilot project to accomplish our mission of ending poverty in the East Bay. Rubicon Programs was the lead agency in the Better Careers

Design Group (BCDG) that launched this guaranteed income program that provided 20 participants with \$1500 per month for 18 months and mentorship in Alameda County. With the help of Alameda County Workforce Development, Probation Department, Growth Sector, Third Sector and the James Irvine Foundation, we decided to have a higher monthly payment amount than other pilot programs in the state so that it can have a greater impact on participant's lives. Our program was limited to referrals from community-based organizations (CBOs) doing pre-release and post-release services to justice-impacted adults and they nominated participants for whom this opportunity would alleviate barriers to employment and career mobility. One part of designing this pilot program was gathering input from different stakeholders. We had 56 stakeholder interviews - ten employers, ten CBOs service providers and 36 justice impacted job seekers and a common theme that arose was a deep desire for autonomy and agency. As the program was implemented, we had interviews, surveys and feedback sessions from the participants, their family and friends and quarterly check ins with CBO service providers. The results from our program were tremendous. Participants were able to build careers, pursue personal goals and improve their overall quality of life by removing financial stressors, have more social connections and center their wellness. The impact for our program participants was endless: some were able to get married, have more family outings, didn't need to get another job to make ends meet, received job promotions or pursued new careers, got better housing or purchased new cars and some participants used this opportunity to pursue a college degree. Our services continue to be available to any of our pilot program participants who would or have participated in our two-week workshop to ensure that they have the tools and resources needed to attain financial stability.

Rubicon Programs believes that these structured guaranteed income programs are an effective and impactful avenue to combat poverty in the East Bay. It is why we support the Community Advisory Board's recommendation to use AB 109 reserves to fund a \$2 million guaranteed income pilot program for Contra Costa's justice impacted community members. Please contact carolek@rubiconprograms.org if you have any questions.

From: Clerk of the Board
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 2:52 PM
To:
Subject: FW: Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income Program in Contra Costa County
Attachments: FINAL_Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income in Contra Costa County 10.18.24.pdf

Stacey M. Boyd
Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Board
1025 Escobar St., 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
(925)655-2002 (Desk)
(925)655-2000 (Office)

From: Martinez, Viridiana <VMartinez@bos.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 2:30 PM
To: Candace Andersen <Candace.Andersen@bos.cccounty.us>; Diane Burgis <Diane.Burgis@bos.cccounty.us>; Ken Carlson <Ken.Carlson@bos.cccounty.us>; John Gioia <John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>; Federal Glover <Federal.Glover@bos.cccounty.us>; Clerk of the Board <ClerkOfTheBoard@cob.cccounty.us>
Cc: Caroline Torosis <CTorosis@bos.lacounty.gov>; Angius, Carolyn <CAngius@bos.lacounty.gov>; Meza, Kristina <KMeza@ceo.lacounty.gov>; rosekindness@gmail.com
Subject: Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income Program in Contra Costa County

Good afternoon,

I hope all is well.

On behalf of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, please find the letter attached in support of the Guaranteed Income Program in Contra Costa County. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Senior Deputy of Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity, Caroline Torosis, at ctorosis@bos.lacounty.gov or (213) 974-2222. Thank you all in advance!

All the best,
Viridiana Martinez | vmartinez@bos.lacounty.gov
Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
O: (213) 974-2222 | F: (213) 680-3283



HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR • 2ND DISTRICT





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Ste. 866, Los Angeles, California 90012
Phone: 213-974-2222 | Fax: 213-680-3283

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

October 18, 2024

The Honorable Federal D. Glover
Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, Fifth Supervisorial District
1025 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Letter of Support for Guaranteed Income Program in Contra Costa County

Dear Chair Glover:

I strongly endorse Contra Costa County's deliberation on allocating funds to establish a Guaranteed Income Program at the forthcoming Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for October 22, 2024. As the Los Angeles County (County) Supervisor of the Second Supervisorial District, I would like to note my colleagues and I have implemented similar initiatives within our County - most notably through Breathe: Los Angeles County's Guaranteed Income Program (Breathe). We have witnessed firsthand the significant impact that direct cash payments can have in assisting our most vulnerable community members.

To illustrate, Breathe allocates \$1,000 per month to 1,000 County residents for a duration of three years. Through collective partnership, we were fortunate enough to expand the program to 200 former foster youth last year. In August 2024, the County's Board of Supervisors approved my motion to expand the program once again to more than 2,000 former foster youth in care between the ages of 18 and 21. Former foster youth, in particular, often face a pivotal moment in their lives as they transition out of the foster care system, lacking the social and financial safety nets that their peers typically benefit from. Offering direct, unconditional cash assistance empowers our foster youth to access educational opportunities, achieve stable housing, and develop a sense of financial security during this pivotal period of their lives.

Additionally, Breathe is undertaking a robust research and evaluation process conducted by the Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) at the University of Pennsylvania. CGIR is collecting one of the largest bodies of evidence that demonstrate the power guaranteed income projects have towards achieving economic well-being and mobility, housing security, increased health and mental health, increased education and job

Chair Federal D. Glover
October 18, 2024
Page 2

outcomes, and an increase in financial acuity. Each of these outcomes underscore the effectiveness direct cash payments offer as an intervention for individuals and families experiencing poverty. As a result, guaranteed income programs like Breathe are a valuable investment in community well-being and resilience.

Most importantly, a guaranteed income program in Contra Costa County offers transformative opportunities to residents, helping them achieve stability and a sense of hope for their future. Your leadership could pave the way for systemic change and uplift many in your community while informing local policy and practice change. As the testimonies of our constituents show, guaranteed income programs provide stability, promote equity, and serve as a powerful tool in our collective efforts to eradicate poverty.

Please join the thousands of communities who have seized this opportunity to implement guaranteed income. If there are any questions about my support, please contact my Senior Deputy for Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity, Caroline Torosis, at ctorosis@bos.lacounty.gov or (213) 974-2222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'M'.

Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

cc: Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

(CT:sw)



East Bay Housing Organizations

October 18, 2024

Supervisor Candace Andersen
Supervisor Diane Burgis
Supervisor Ken Carlson
Supervisor John Gioia
Supervisor Federal Glover

Re: Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Dear Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO), I write to share our strong support for the County allocating \$5 million from Measure X funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

EBHO is a non-profit, member-driven organization with over 400 organizational and individual members. For 40 years, we have worked to preserve, protect, and create affordable housing opportunities for low-income communities in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties by educating, advocating, organizing, and building coalitions.

Guaranteed income is an equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused public health strategy that responds to the urgency of residents' needs and circumstances. Guaranteed income programs are a strategy to respond to acute problems such as housing cost burdens, which are most severe for extremely low (ELI)- and very low-income (VLI) households. 72% of ELI households and 46% of VLI households in Contra Costa County pay more than half their income on housing costs, compared to 1% of moderate-income households.¹ Additionally, guaranteed income serves as an intervention towards the well-documented racial wealth gap, which sustains disproportionate harms and negative outcomes toward people of color, particularly for Black and Latino communities.

Data from guaranteed income pilots nationwide that serve diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, as well as concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments build community members up by connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being.

¹ California Housing Partnership Corporation (2024). [Contra Costa County Affordable Housing Needs Report](#), p. 2/



East Bay Housing Organizations

Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for supporting stability and a future where all Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

We respectfully urge the Supervisors to meaningfully invest in our most vulnerable residents and families and honor the recommendation from the Measure X Community Advisory Board. This recommendation is the result of extensive work and engagement with community members, guaranteed income practitioners, and other stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Megan Nguyen
Policy Manager
East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO)

Responses to Supervisors' Concerns re Guaranteed Income
October 22, 2024

Q: How do we justify serving a limited amount of residents who could benefit from this pilot program? Relatedly, how do we choose which population(s) to focus on?

A: Guaranteed income (GI) is part of a movement we are trying to scale and elevate, building upon successes with specific populations to broaden to new participants. As we are seeing people use GI as a bridge toward increased financial resiliency and economic mobility (and so much more!), we can scale these successes to reach incrementally more people. Cities and counties, like Austin, Cambridge, Los Angeles, and elsewhere, are actively looking for other funding streams that can be channeled to support direct cash programs for additional populations. But we begin with targeted investments in populations that are most proximate to harms, burdens, and barriers and most poised to benefit from a direct, timebound infusion of cash at critical thresholds. Many of our residents are struggling to get by, lacking sufficient and flexible financial resources to sustain themselves and their families, and are thereby being forced to hierarchize basic needs and navigate scarcity. This problem warrants a targeted response. Guaranteed income is a promising policy pathway for local governments to directly support and invest equitably in their residents so they can tap into more resources and opportunities.

While this goal of universal thriving is ambitious, and cannot be fully achieved through a small-scale pilot, designing specific implementation strategies in its service moves us closer to universal realization. These commitments also embed an infrastructure of care and recognition of shared humanity into public policymaking and funding decisions, paving the way for transformative changes that fortify our county's collective well-being and affirm its diversity.

We have recommended four priority populations in Contra Costa. Not only do these populations merit public investment, they are also closely tied to positive outcomes gained through guaranteed income pilots nationwide. Housing-insecure and unhoused pilot participants are moving indoors, finding stable housing, and being connected with additional

services and resources. People returning to the community after incarceration are gaining employment and economic stability that prevents recidivism and reunifying with their families. Former foster youth are using guaranteed income as a bridge to return to school, open banking accounts, and attain greater independence and stability. Finally, economically marginalized families are reducing debt, building savings, and becoming better positioned to be the parents they want to be, conferring dual-generation benefits.

Guaranteed income centers equity and redress. It requires that we look closely at where our resource and opportunity gaps are and act boldly and swiftly to fill them in, by all means necessary. This is achieved through investing directly in our residents—in their hopes and dreams and in their hope and well-being.

Regarding inclusivity and net prosperity, it's worth noting that the inauguration of our country's public welfare system was intentionally exclusionary. These programs, and other entitlements that followed, laid the groundwork for many of today's ongoing resource and opportunity disparities. For example, the 1944 Servicemen's Readjustment Act, more commonly referred to as the GI Bill, was intended to distribute benefits in homeownership, education, and unemployment. But its local implementation was undeniably inequitable, resulting in disproportionate benefit to white veterans, the legacy of which is evident in the gap between family wealth of white and Black veterans (32 times, according to Meschede et al., 2022). These foundations generated decades and lifetimes of disparate asset-building and mobility opportunities. Similarly, Social Security is a benefits program that millions of undocumented immigrants pay into every year but cannot derive any direct benefit from. Our safety net programs are already self-selecting and exclusionary.

The mortgage deduction, while not a traditional safety net program, essentially functions as one by building and fortifying generational wealth and providing economic stability for millions of Americans who are disproportionately white (Holtzblatt et al., 2024). Notably, the net benefits to white Americans derived from public dollars are not limited to the mortgage

deduction but extend to a host of other critical wealth- and asset-building mechanisms, namely capital gains and dividends, deduction for pass-through income, charitable deduction, home mortgage interest deduction, and deduction for employer-provided health insurance, all of which were recently found by the Treasury Department's Office of Tax Analysis to disproportionately benefit whites (Cronin, et al., 2023). In these examples, the receipt of public dollars is predicated upon eligibility that is inherently exclusionary and overwhelmingly defined by incidence of birth, zip code, and skin color. And, critically, we do not ask recipients of those public dollars how they are spending them. Guaranteed income is a direct response to legacies and ongoing systems of exclusion and a net widening that promotes inclusivity, equity, and leveling up.

Q: What happens when the money runs out? How is GI anything more than a short-term solution?

A: First, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) has a five-year lifetime limit, so the benefits cliff is built into our legacy social safety net. This “hard stop” is accompanied by built-in systemic disincentives for recipients to earn more income and/or acquire savings and assets due to eligibility thresholds, potential abrupt termination of benefits, and net loss of income as a result. Second, GI is not a cliff; it is a bridge that meets people where they are and empowers/supports them to move to where they want to go. People with differing needs, ambitions, and circumstances in communities across the country are using guaranteed income as a springboard to opportunity and mobility. They are harnessing the investment to set personal goals; connect to additional services, including social safety net programs and other public resources; and build agency, self-sufficiency, and brighter futures.

The evidence overwhelmingly shows how a short-term investment is having a transformative impact on people’s lives that leads to sustained benefits and positive outcomes for themselves and their families. For example, GI participants are:

- Returning to college to earn their degrees
- Gaining new skills and credentials through training and certificate programs
- Spending more time with their children
- Finding jobs that are meaningful to them and allow more flexibility to care for family members
- Paying down predatory debt and building up savings
- Building relationships with neighbors and giving back to their communities

This is not a cliff effect; it is a bridge effect. Guaranteed income is truly building pathways out of poverty and on-ramps to opportunity. Moreover, instead of fostering dependency, it is generating hope, resiliency, and agency.

Additionally, aftercare support, which entails connecting participants with continued services and resources like employment assistance, educational opportunities, and/or long-term housing programs such as rapid re-housing or permanent supportive housing, ensures participants are able to sustain progress and gains made during the pilot. Research shows that participants are considering how to best use the additional income during the period they receive it in order to set themselves up for future success and that providing unconditional cash at a critical time is a way to meet people where they are with maximum flexibility and agency, bolstering goal-setting and enabling new chances and choices.

Finally, guaranteed income is not a panacea: it is not a singular solution to any social ill or individual circumstance. Rather, it is a potent strategy and pointed tool within a larger vision of societal welfare that centers equity, prevention, and security. Its systems-level focus shifts the locus of attention and intervention from an individual's actions to systemic obstacles and impacts. It is both unreasonable and undesirable to expect guaranteed income, or any financial support program for that matter, to (re)solve numerous structural and systemic barriers and personal limitations that many of face in their quest to lead healthy, stable lives and care for their families. This recognition is the crux of reimagining the safety net, i.e., building more robust, reliable, flexible, and holistic systems of care and accountability that promote opportunity, mobility, and well-being for all.

Q: How do we leverage funding to serve the most people?

A: This question is inadequately framed. While it is true that, for example, a \$100 public benefits renewal stipend would be provided to far more residents than a monthly payment of \$1,000 for 18 months, we are striving for qualitative impact not quantitative equivalence. In fact, we are requesting that the County make a transformative investment via guaranteed income, where the emphasis is on creating the conditions for resilience, stability, mobility, and, just as critically, agency, flexibility, and dignity. Thus, the most potent and accurate question is: *How do we leverage funding to serve people in the most meaningful way possible?* We believe that a GI pilot that lasts 18 months and provides residents with up to \$1,000 a month is the answer, as evidenced by the sustained, generational impacts exhibited by pilots and other cash transfer programs running to date.

Additionally, supervisors have asked whether a GI program sufficiently leverages state and federal funds and existing programs. Initiating a county-funded pilot in Contra Costa is a proactive investment for future leveraging of new funding sources and initiatives that are being spawned by the state- and nationwide campaign to reform, modernize, and reimagine our social safety net. By joining the dozens of other cities and counties in California that have launched pilots, Contra Costa builds the case for additional state investment, the start of which has already been codified in Assembly Bill 2263, and, more expansively, for a federally-funded guaranteed income. This is a progressive vision—one that acknowledges deep system harms and the necessity of reform and meaningfully accounts for the economic realities and structural barriers that impede individuals' and families' stability, mobility, health, and well-being. In other words, Contra Costa's investment **today** sets the stage for leveraging opportunities (both financial and programmatic) **tomorrow**.

Lastly, the program's evaluation has deep potential to contribute to improving the lives of residents who are not selected to participate in this pilot. Evaluation findings should present avenues where policy and programmatic changes could institutionalize some of the strongest benefits to residents and improve our existing public benefits programs. Thus, while the

Responses to commonly-asked supervisor questions re guaranteed income
Rachel Rosekind, PhD

number of residents who will be directly impacted by this pilot is relatively small compared to the number of those who would be eligible for it, its evaluation will have significant and sustained influence on future program design, policy decisions, and fiscal allocations, both locally and at the state and federal levels.

Q: What should be the role of supportive services?

A: Thoughtfully-designed pilots wrap opportunities for services and support around participants. In other words, “no strings” does not mean “no services.” Notably, GI recipients are *far more likely* to sign up for helpful resources when they are optional, meaning that *they* have the agency and dignity to choose what they need to help themselves and their families thrive. This finding provides compelling evidence that individual choice and agency matter and that people avail themselves of opportunities when aligned with their needs, goals, and capacities, an important learning for systems and their service provision.

Not only are supportive resources and referrals a best practice to enhance participants’ self-sufficiency and connectedness, it also provides additional stability mechanisms that can help advance their goals long after the pilot ends. Moreover, many pilots offer proactive post-pilot support, connecting participants with continued services and resources, such as employment assistance, educational opportunities, and long-term housing programs and other benefits, to ensure they sustain the progress and gains made during the pilot. Our goal is to position Contra Costa’s pilot participants to achieve lasting stability long after pilots conclude.

In addition, it is undeniable that people who stretch every dollar already know far better than most how to manage money; what they have often not had a chance to do is budget and save. GI is allowing participants and their children to make more pro-active and prudent financial decisions and investments for the first time.

Q: Why do we object to requiring GI pilot participants to be enrolled in one of the County's safety net programs?

A: We know from the data that many people who receive guaranteed income are enrolled in some form of benefits. But confirmed best practices in implementing GI programs tells us that their enrollment should not be a mandatory requirement. This conflicts directly with the bold and simple foundation of GI: give people cash, no strings attached. This is different than your legacy safety net programs, and this is evidence-based. Direct cash is reducing poverty and increasing financial resilience without the red tape, stigma, behavioral restrictions, and unreasonably low income limits that hinder government assistance programs. We are also mindful of these programs' built-in exclusions, which are conditioned on family status, immigration status, justice involvement, and, as previously mentioned, income limits that do not square with contemporary costs of living and basic needs realities.

While there are some pilots that use a pool of benefits recipients as the target population, they are far more rare. More often, percentages of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) that may align with certain public benefits thresholds are used as a cutoff for eligible applicants, or as part of a tiered approach to including different income levels into a single pilot. GI is part of a new era of creating policy pathways and support systems that are more responsive, realistic, and holistic and advance equity, justice, and collective well-being. GI programs elevate dignity, flexibility, agency, and trust. Minimal eligibility requirements or flexible verification of eligibility that request low time and administrative burden on the recipient to qualify are a key best practice. Further, whereas social safety net programs require that recipients meet continual eligibility requirements, GI programs require that participants meet *upfront* eligibility criteria after which they are eligible for the duration of the program. If we design the Contra Costa pilots as eighteen months, how are we accounting for a potential gap between eligibility for public benefits and GI, given that public benefits renewals do not follow an 18-month timeframe? Is it just at the start of the pilot that participants must be enrolled in public benefits, or must they stay throughout the duration? Again, procedurally and administratively, this will add to EHSD's administrative budget and workload.

Lastly, beyond administrative and programmatic barriers and exclusions, the low enrollment in public benefits programs showcased by Contra Costa's Employment and Human Services Department is stark evidence of our residents' grave concerns with the system itself. Contrast that with the volume of eligible applicants who apply for guaranteed income pilot opportunities around the country, and it is clear that some of our current social safety net programs do not align with the needs, experiences, and goals of the populations they purport to serve. It is time to listen to community voice and to build public programs with public dollars that truly reflect the will and wisdom of the public they intend to serve.

Friday, October 18, 2024

Regarding: FY 2024-2025 Policy & Budget Recommendations \$15M Excess AB109 Funds

Dear members of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors,

Bread for the City's Economic Security Team is writing this letter in support of the use of AB 109 excess funds for a guaranteed income pilot in Contra Costa County. [Bread for the City](#)¹ is a DC nonprofit whose mission for 50 years has been to help DC residents living with low income develop their power to determine the future of their own communities.

Our work with direct cash-giving accelerated in spring 2020. As Washington, DC shut down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bread and three other partner nonprofits (BBAR, Martha's Table, and the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative) created a cash transfer program, THRIVE East of the River, for families who had experienced COVID-related job loss. When it was implemented, THRIVE was the largest privately-funded guaranteed income pilot ever created in the country and provided \$5,500 to over 600 households alongside other optional assistance like financial counseling, groceries, referrals, and assistance enrolling in benefits. An [Urban Institute report](#)² of the pilot revealed expected results - people used the money to pay for housing and food.

Since 2017, over 150 guaranteed income pilots have been implemented nationwide, including CashRx, our own pilot. What we continue to see, and can attest to from personal experience, is that the results from THRIVE East of the River are not unique. Participants of guaranteed income pilots are first and foremost securing food and housing. Beyond that, however, we are learning that cash-transfers are allowing families to truly thrive and dream.

One research finding that we find particularly compelling comes from a pilot run by our neighbors in Arlington, VA: "[Arlington's Guarantee participants were significantly more likely than comparison group households to have set long-term goals](#)³ (84% participants, 53% comparison, 99% confidence)." The study also found that participants from both the treatment and control groups were equally likely to reach their long-term goals, teaching us that when people simply have the capacity to set goals, they will find a way to reach them.

At a CashRx check-in ten months into the pilot, we learned from one of our participants how the cash infusion has helped her control her diabetes. When the program started, our participant informed us of the measures she was currently taking for her condition - daily exercise and a diet that she maintained as much as possible, but her A1c hovered around 11. Over the course of the CashRx pilot, our participant's A1c lowered to 7.5, a remarkable improvement, which she attributes to the cash infusion. CashRx not only lowered her stress levels and improved her

mental health overall, having a positive impact on her A1c, but she was now able to purchase the fresh and healthy foods that she knew would improve her diabetes, foods that she previously did not have access to. This client's experience is one of many stories that showcase the positive impact that unrestricted cash can have on the unique experiences of individuals.

Our understanding is that the Board of Supervisors holds some concerns about participants' well-being after the conclusion of guaranteed income pilots, but the existing literature provides encouraging insights. The Arlington County pilot report found that at the end of the pilot, participants were more likely than the control group to have a higher household income (excluding pilot cash transfers) and higher paying jobs as well as increased employment. The report also explains that, because of the guaranteed incomes, families were better able to avoid increasing their debt when facing financial emergencies.

One of our CashRx participants had shared about her car troubles during her intake session. The car was too dangerous to drive, but she needed it for work. She was using public transportation in the meantime, but the lack of flexibility was forcing her to work less, impacting her income. After a few months of receiving CashRx transfers, the participant was able to pay to fix her car which she says she doesn't feel she would have been able to do otherwise.

It is stories like these that highlight the immeasurable impact that guaranteed income pilots have on the individuals and families that participate. Pilots like CashRx and the proposed Contra Costa pilot, while providing financial support that families desperately need, strengthen the evidence base for guaranteed income policies. In following the project outcomes of numerous guaranteed income projects implemented over the last several years, it is clear that direct cash giving works. Participants and their families are able to reach a basic income floor, experiencing reduced food and housing insecurity and increased mental and physical well being which in turn has a positive impact on communities as a whole. Recipients of guaranteed income programs, as the experts of their own lives, use program funds to meet their basic needs and as a basis for economic mobility and prosperity. The creation of each new pilot brings the hope of economic opportunity for those who need it most and fosters a path forward for more effective and transformative economic policy.

We, and our national partners in this work, understand where the narratives regarding guaranteed income come from and we urge PPC members and the Board of Supervisors to challenge them. Listen to the research findings, explore the why behind these harmful narratives, and join us in the understanding that they are based in fiction not fact. We also respectfully ask that Contra Costa's local decision makers and elected officials approach their responsibility with an empathic lens that takes into account what circumstances make their own situations the same and different from those whose lives their decision will impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter. Your consideration of these matters and solutions is very much appreciated.

Bread for the City, Economic Security Team
Brittany Pope, LISW, *Economic Security Supervisor*
Daisy Gomez Palacios, *Economic Security Fellow*

1. Bread for the City. (2024). <https://breadforthecity.org/>
2. Bogle, M. et al. "An Evaluation of THRIVE East of the River." The Urban Institute. February 2022.
<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/An%20Evaluation%20of%20THRIVE%20East%20of%20the%20River.pdf>
3. "Arlington's Guarantee Pilot Evaluation." Arlington Community Foundation, Arlington County Department of Human Services. February 2024.
[https://www.arlcf.org/arlingtons-guarantee-pilot-evaluation
#report](https://www.arlcf.org/arlingtons-guarantee-pilot-evaluation/#report)

June McHuen

From: Yehudit Lieberman <
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2024 11:48 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Yehudit Lieberman and I live in Pleasant Hill. I'm writing to express my full support for the county allocating funds to support Guaranteed Income Pilots in Contra Costa County.

Pilot projects have amply demonstrated the positive effects of guaranteed income programs. Guaranteed income is equity-based, data-driven, and prevention-focused. It responds to the immediacy and urgency of residents' uplifted needs and current circumstances.

Declining social mobility, widening income inequality, and rising living costs are impoverishing individuals, straining families, and fragmenting communities throughout our county. Data from GI pilots nationwide that support diverse populations show uniformly positive impacts on housing, financial security, education, health, belonging, and self-worth, and concrete achievements such as paying off debt, boosting savings, and securing better jobs. Aside from providing for basic needs, these regular, unconditional payments are building people up in other ways—connecting them to services; advancing their education; and attending to their social and emotional well-being.

Guaranteed income helps people manage unplanned emergencies, moments of crisis, and destabilizing life transitions. It is a vital tool for building brighter futures where all Contra Costa County residents can thrive and belong.

I believe it is urgent and timely for Contra Costa County to invest in our neediest residents and families to fund additional guaranteed pilot programs in our county.

Thank you, Supervisors,

Sincerely,

Yehudit Lieberman

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"Loving yourself is a political act. We are taught not to love ourselves, and from that place we are easily manipulated...I want you to love yourself so much that this love changes the world."

-Rita Shimmin