

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES



Contra Costa Thrives

Guaranteed Basic Income Program Update

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June 11, 2026

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Presentation Order



1. Abbreviations
2. Prior Board Actions
3. Program Overview
4. Referral & Enrollment

5. Payments
6. Preliminary Baseline Survey
7. Contributors



Abbreviations

EHSD- Employment and Human Services Department

GBI- Guaranteed Basic Income

HDAP- Housing and Disability Advocacy Program

SDI- State Disability Insurance

SSI- Supplemental Security Income

THP+- Transitional Housing Program Plus

UI- Unemployment Insurance

WIC- Women Infant Children

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Prior Board Actions

Prior Board Actions

August 22, 2023

- Board workshop on Guaranteed Income (GI) pilots
- Directed EHSD to seek income waivers for public assistance

April 22, 2024

- During budget hearing, Measure X CAB recommended a GI pilot
- Board directed EHSD to provide a plan for a \$5M GI pilot

October 22, 2024

- Board allocated \$1M in AB109 funds and \$3.25M in MX funds for a GI program for 1) Youth transitioning out of foster care, 2) Unhoused and unstably housed, 3) Families with young children experiencing financial hardship, 4) Low-income seniors, 5) Re-entry population

July 8, 2025

- EHSD presented the program design, which was subsequently approved by the Board.



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Program Overview

Program Overview

Purpose

- Provide unconditional cash payments to reduce financial volatility and support basic needs.
- Support individuals through major life transitions with financial stability
- Strengthen housing stability for older adults
- Leverage existing County case management programs to improve engagement and reduce barriers for enrolled participants

Target Populations

- Foster youth ages 18–21 receiving Independent Living Skills Program support
- CalWORKs families with children under six whose parent is in Welfare-to-Work or Cal-Learn
- Individuals returning to the community after incarceration and on probation
- Low-income, housing-insecure older adults receiving Adult Protective Services

Program Overview

Program Enrollment Targets

- 138 participants funded by AB 109
 - Treatment group: 46
 - Control group: 92

Payment Design

- Each participant receives \$18,000 with choice of 3 plans:
 - 18-month steady payments + taper
 - Lump sum + monthly payments + taper
 - 12-month schedule, structured to protect housing subsidies
- Payments issued on 15th of each month via prepaid debit card

Eligibility Criteria

General Eligibility Criteria

1. Active participant in one of the following County-sponsored programs:
 - a. Independent Living Skills
 - b. Welfare-to-Work or Cal-Learn
 - c. Probation
 - d. Adult Protective Services
2. Cannot be enrolled in another Guaranteed Income pilot
3. Must not have participated in a prior Guaranteed Income pilot
4. Has legal control of their finances

Specific Eligibility Criteria

- Engaged Probation clients
- Released within last 6 months
- Ages 18+
- Ohio Risk Assessment System results
- In good standing with probation

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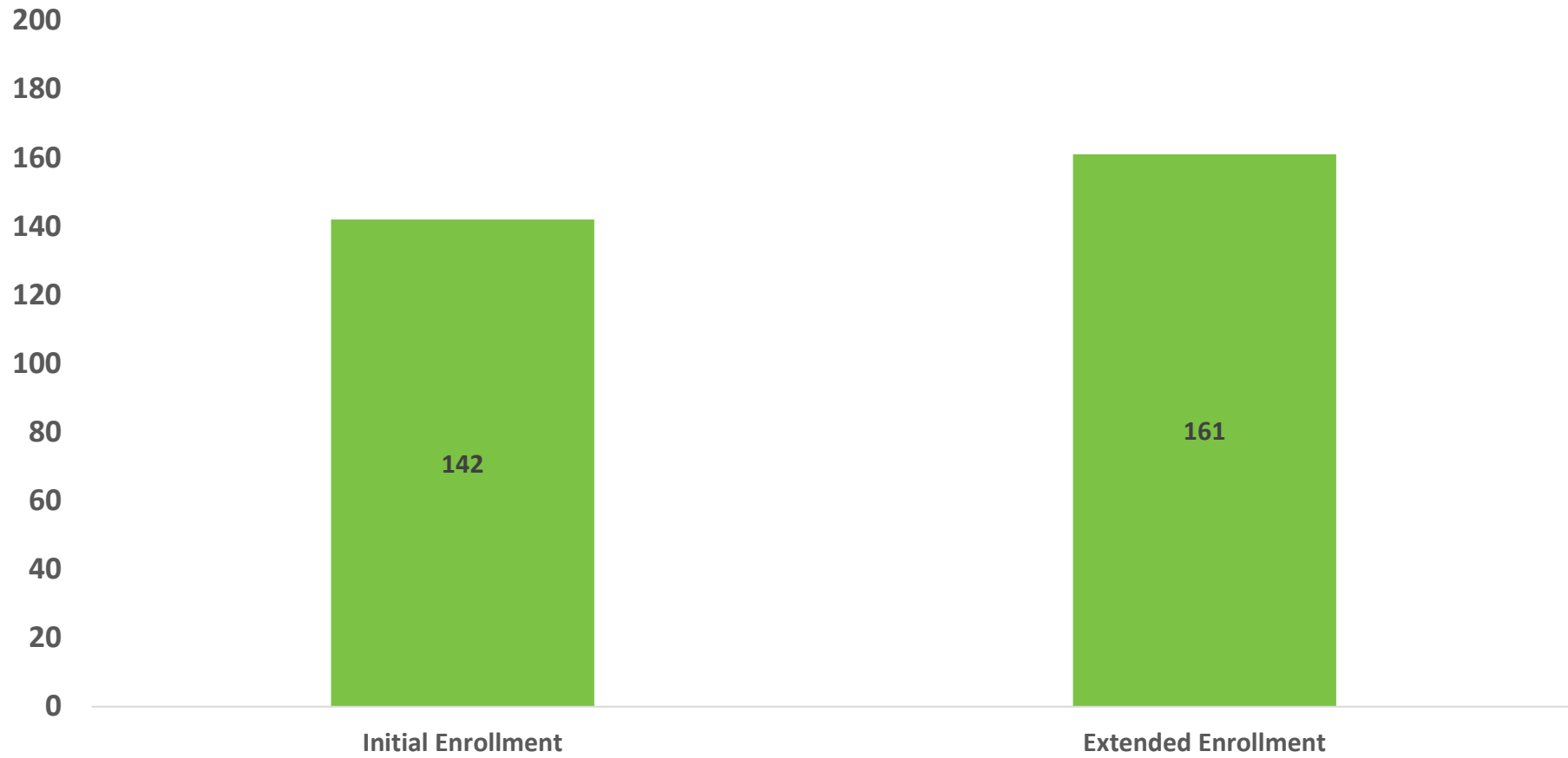
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Referral & Enrollment

Referral Process

1. **Deputy Probation Officer & Manager** identified all eligible candidates
2. **Submitted** all eligible candidates to **Manager** for review and approval
3. **Manager** referred all eligible candidates to **EHSD GI Program Manager and program support staff**
4. **Probation & EHSD GI Manager and program support staff** provided program details and available orientation options to all eligible candidates

Referrals



Extended Enrollment Period

- Attendance at orientation sessions was lower than expected.
- Without additional recruitment, we risked having smaller sample sizes for certain populations.
- Smaller cohorts reduce statistical power and make it harder to detect program effects in the evaluation.
- A second enrollment period ensured we could meet target numbers for treatment and control groups across all populations.

Mandatory Orientation

Orientation Session Details to Date

- 13 total orientation sessions completed countywide
- 6 sessions in-person, 7 sessions virtual
- Locations included: Antioch, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, Bay Point
- 1 in-person Spanish-Language orientation
- Provided a link for self-guided orientation
- Multiple individual orientations provided for:
 - Older adults
 - Participants who speak languages other than English

Orientation Components

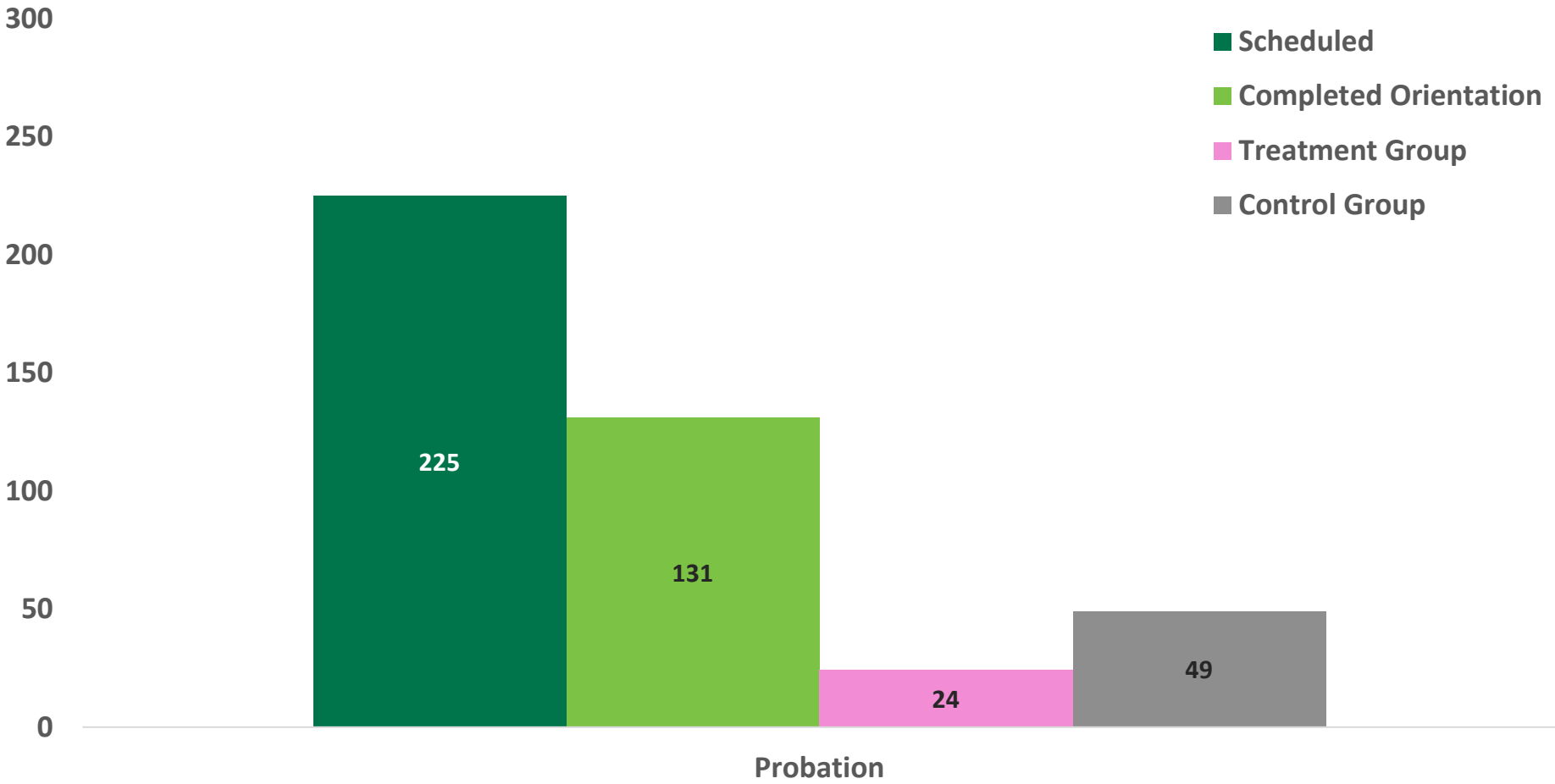
- **Benefits Counseling** – explains potential GBI impacts to benefits programs including but not limited to: CalFresh, SSI, WIC, HDAP, SDI, UI, THP+*, housing subsidies
- **Financial Education** – provides tools to manage income and supports goal-aligned financial decisions
- **UC Davis Research Team** – provides information on the purpose and importance of the research
- **Program Staff** – provides instructions on how to participate and available supports

**Refer to abbreviations slide.*

Implementation

1. Participants attend orientation
 - a. Complete baseline survey for evaluation
 - b. Sign program consent form
 - c. Select payment plan
2. UC Davis conducts random selection
3. Treatment and control group participants notified
4. Payments began February 2026
5. Treatment group receive by mail:
 - a. MasterCard debit card & card activation instructions
 - b. Payment Schedule
 - c. Payment Options Handout
 - d. Benefits Verification Notice
6. Incentive mailed once UC Davis confirms completion of survey
7. Receive regular (~monthly) support from case worker and optional financial support
8. Participants have direct access to EHSD Program Manager & staff for questions and support

Enrollment to Date



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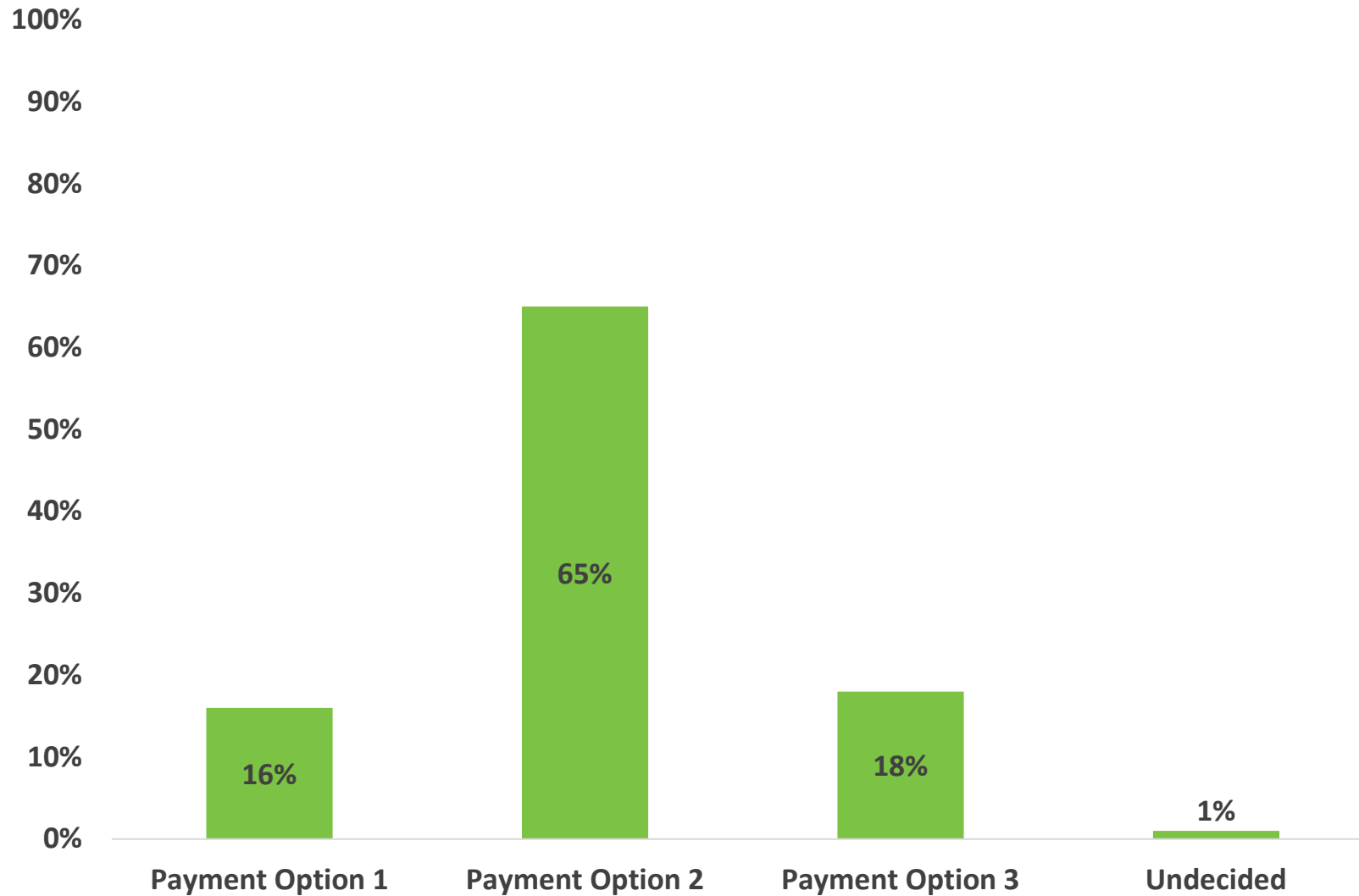
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Payments

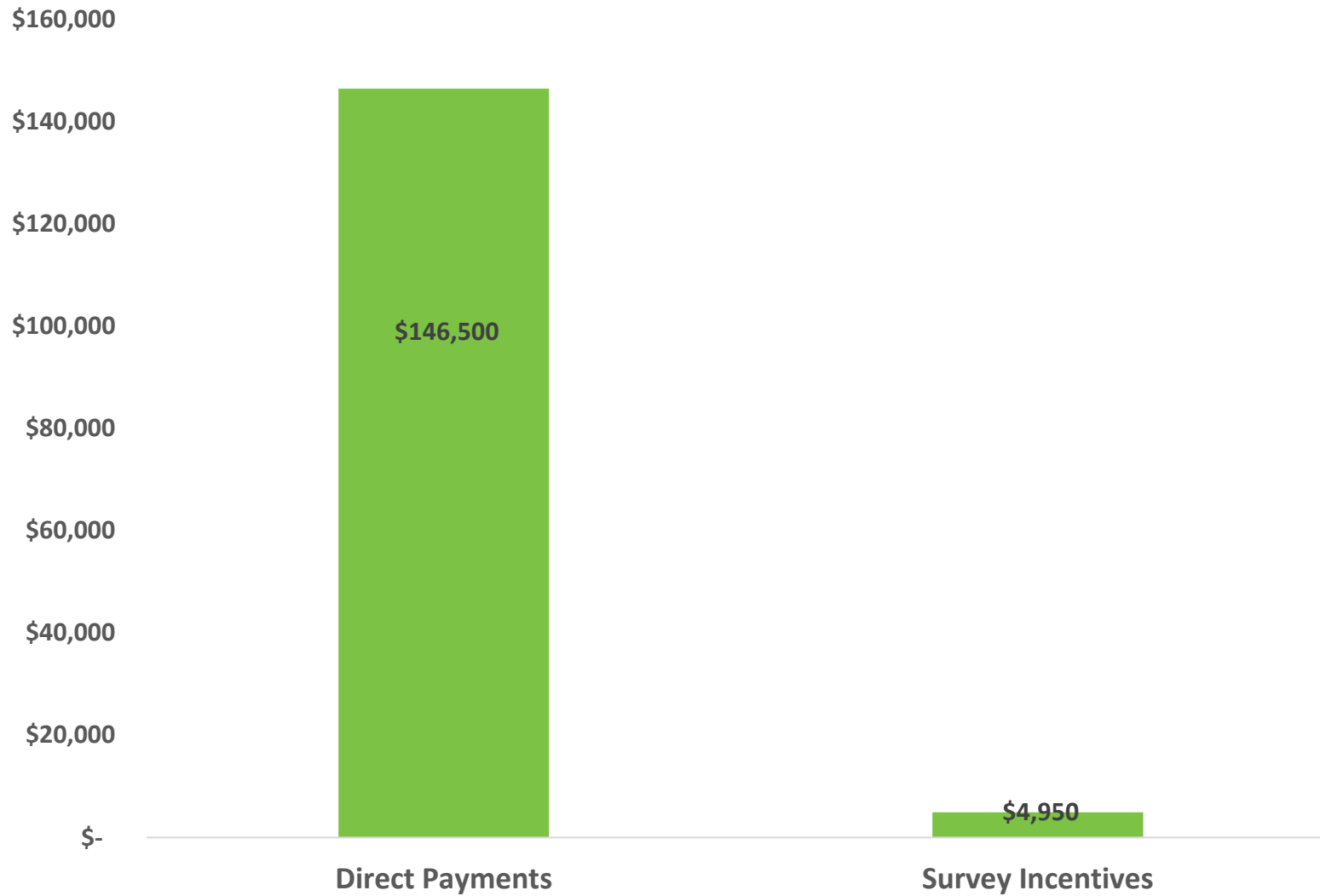
Payment Options

	Months								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Option 1	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250
	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$950	\$750	\$550	\$350	\$250	\$150
Option 2	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$750	\$750	\$500	\$500	\$250	\$250
Option 3	\$750	\$750	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Payment Option Selection



Payment Issuance

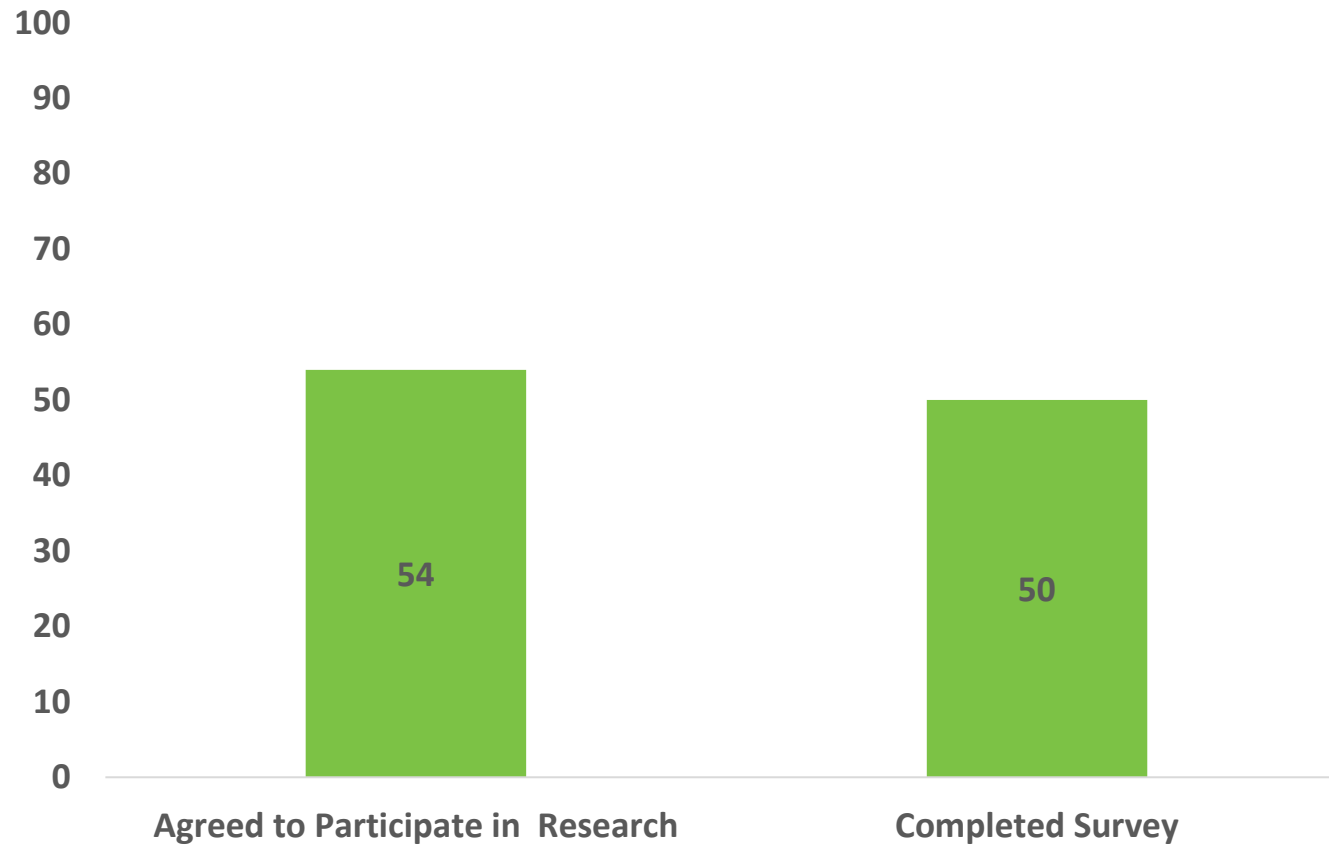


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Preliminary Baseline Survey

Participant Completion Overview



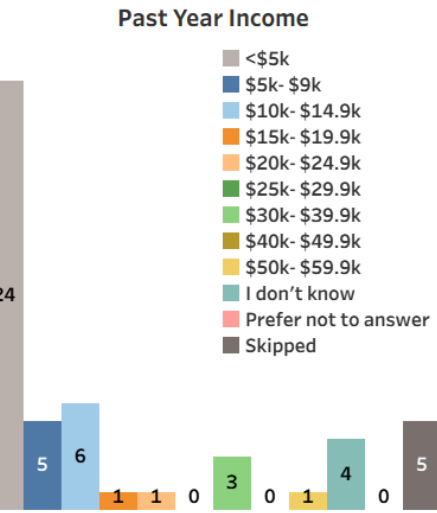
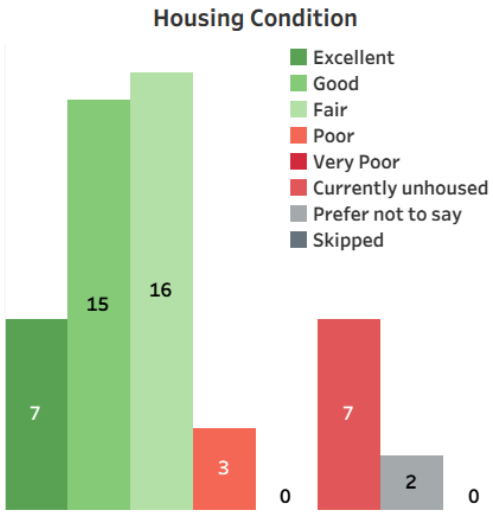
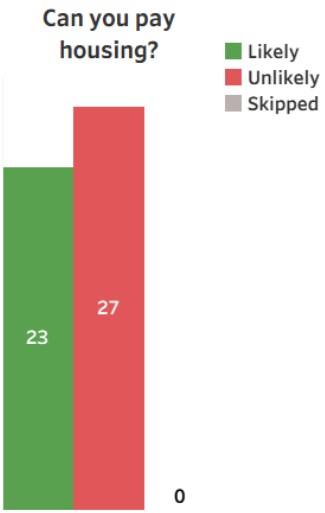
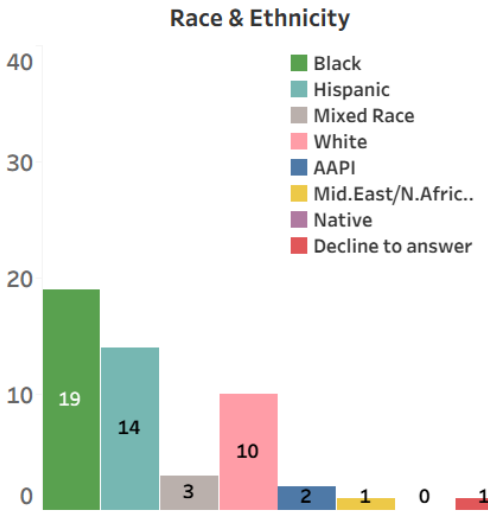
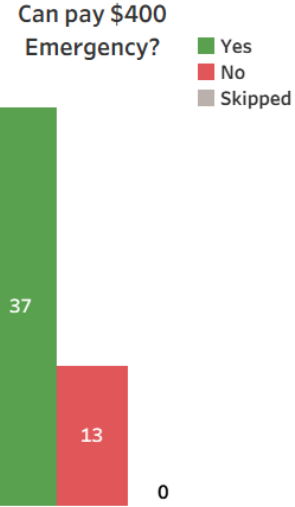
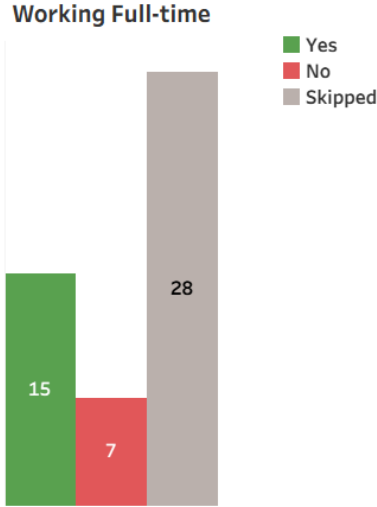
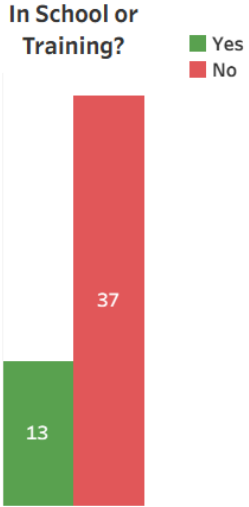
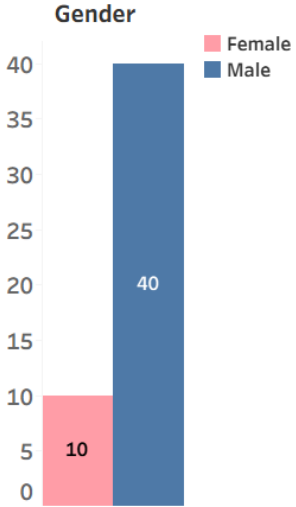
Age of Participants

Age	Foster Youth	Welfare-to-Work	Probation	Older Adult
Mean	20	25	35	72
Median	19	25	34	72
Maximum	22	27	59	86

What We Asked

- **Demographics & household composition** (language, education, who lives with them)
- **Employment & barriers to work** (work hours, childcare, health, job search challenges)
- **Financial stability** (ability to cover a \$400 emergency, bill payment, income range)
- **Housing stability & conditions** (moves, homelessness, housing payments, living conditions)

Probation



Survey Observations

- Most respondents are male
- Largest groups identify as Black and Hispanic
- Education and training participation is low
- Full-time employment is uncommon
- Financial insecurity is a major factor
- Emergency preparedness is low
- Housing conditions vary
- Past-year income is heavily concentrated in the lowest ranges

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Contributors

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County Team *for program implementation*

- Project Management: Aisha Teal
- Transitioning Youth: Don Graves, Priya Moorkoth-Phelps, Beth Bottorff
- Young Families: Cassandra Amador, Robyn Currie
- Re-Entry: Michael Venegas, Patrice Guillory
- Older Adults: Marcy Hara, Erica Hsia, Debbie Toth
- GI: Maura Connell
- Finance: Anita Luu, Adrian Araza, Mark Guadagnini

- Coordination: Jennie Ann Mendoza, Belinda Jackson-Thomas, Dawn Lightfoot
- Staff Development: Antonio Vasquez, Jay David, Lorena Martinez Castillo

UC Davis *for research and evaluation*

- Ahna Ballonoff Suleiman, MPH PhD
- Rose Kagawa, MPH PhD
- Colette Smirniotis, PhD MS
- Hannah Laqueur, MA PhD
- Marianne Bitler, PhD

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Thank you to those that assisted with the development and implementation of the program!

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