

Mayors for a Guaranteed Income Project in Santa Fe

Overview:

- Thanks to MGI, 100 parents of young children who are also pursuing their education at our local community college will get \$400/month for guaranteed income for one year. We are working to grow that amount to \$500 and to extend the project to two years.
- We have an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young parents, mostly of color, who are dedicated to improving their circumstances through education.
- This population is vulnerable to dropping out of post-secondary education for financial reasons.
- This is a way for young families from Santa Fe to stay in Santa Fe, pursue education and careers, and raise future generations of Santa Feans here.

The data:

- 75% of young families of color in Santa Fe are living under 200% of the federal poverty line (making less than about \$50,000 for a family of 4)
- Poverty leads to a number of adverse effects including housing insecurity, lack of safe child care, lack of health care, and ultimately in reduction in length of life
- This is a cycle, with the poverty of one generation having a direct impact on the next. This our opportunity to break the cycle.
- In 2018, graduates with an associate's degree made about \$6000 more per year than students with a high school degree. They also had better health outcomes and decreased criminal involvement ¹

Who will benefit from this pilot project?

- Students with children who have been enrolled in at least one class previous to Fall 2021 at Santa Fe Community College and are working towards a certificate or a degree
- They are age 30 or under at the time of application
- Earn 200% of federal poverty level or less (making less than about \$50,000 for a family of 4)
- First payments will be received August 2021

These are direct cash payments:

- Assist with school costs, transportation, housing, childcare, food, and other necessities
- Allow students to concentrate on their studies, reduce stress and other related health impacts
- The Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration pilot or SEED located in Stockton, CA gave a guaranteed income to 125 households \$500 a month for 24 months.
- In the First year of evaluation Key findings in the SEED Stockton study showed #1 – reduced income volatility, #2—enabled recipients to find full time employment, #3 increased health outcomes (both mental and physical), and #4 –created greater opportunities for self determination

How we will know if we succeeded:

- The pilot will be evaluated through a team at University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice, Center for Guaranteed Income Research

¹ Diana Strumbos, Donna Linderman, & Carson C. Hicks. (2018). Postsecondary Pathways Out of Poverty: City University of New York Accelerated Study in Associate Programs and the Case for National Policy. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 4(3), 100-117. doi:10.7758/rsf.2018.4.3.06

- Our hope is to measure increased rates of completion of certificate program or associate's degree and other indicators of health, fiscal security, and safety.
- We seek to grow guaranteed income for other community members in need, people who make our city unique and whom we want to thrive here.