

# Providence Guaranteed Income Initiative

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# What is Guaranteed Income?

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# Guaranteed Income is...

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- A monthly, recurring cash payment given directly to individuals. It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work or education requirements.
- Not universal, and is generally targeted to address the deep wealth and income inequality in our society.
- Intended to supplement, not replace, the existing social safety net.



# Providence Pilot Program

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# Administering Agencies



amos  
HOUSE

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DORCAS INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND



# Pilot Basics

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\$500/  
month      110      12  
households      months



# Income Eligibility

200% of the Federal Poverty Level

Size of household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
200% of FPL	\$25,760	\$34,840	\$43,920	\$53,000	\$62,080	\$71,160	\$80,240	\$89,320



# Application Process

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- Applications will be open from August 15-21
- Any one who lives in Providence with income below 200% of the FPL is eligible to apply.
- Lottery will give special weight to:
  - Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color
  - Families with Children
- No questions about immigration status
- No documentation required. Relying on self-verification.

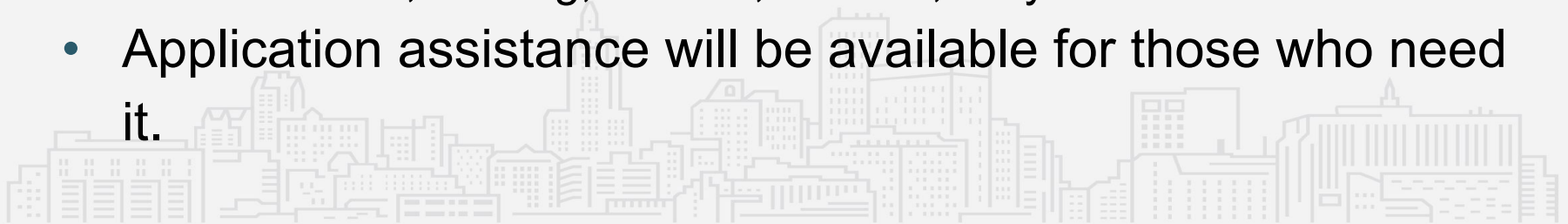




# Application Process (cont'd)



- Application survey will be available online, in paper, and by phone.
- Paper applications will be available at Application Assistance Sites and City Hall.
- Applications will be available in multiple languages
  - Spanish, Portugese, Mandarin, Khmer, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Swahili, Laotian, Kinyarwanda
- Application assistance will be available for those who need it.



# Application Assistance



- Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR)
- Amos House
- Center for Southeast Asians
- Dorcas International
- Genesis Center
- Higher Ground International
- Providence Community Library
- Reentry Campus Program
- RI Coalition to End Homelessness
- Sista Fire
- West End Community Center

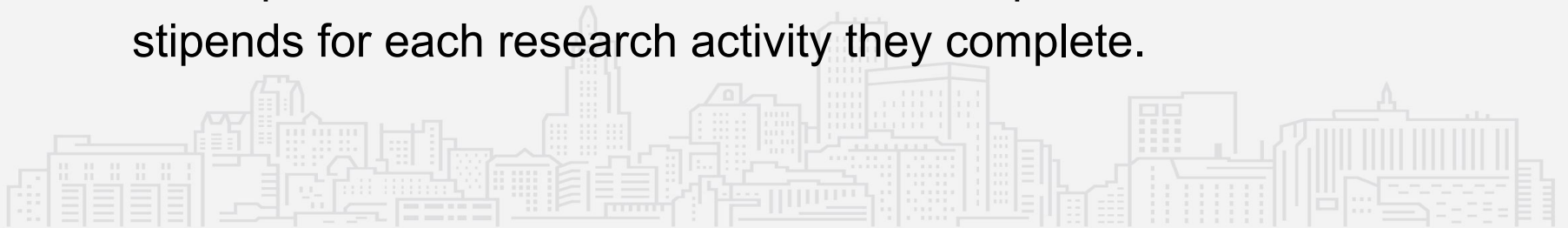


# Research

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Our pilot will be evaluated by the Center for Guaranteed Income Research (CGIR) at University of Pennsylvania.

- There will be a control group.
- Applicants will first be randomly selected to participate, then be randomly sorted into control or intervention group.
- Participants in Control and Treatment Group will both receive small stipends for each research activity they complete.



# Timeline

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- Kicking off 5 weeks of intensive outreach and publicity efforts.
  - Will be hosting community meetings with partners throughout city.
- Applications will be available August 15-21
- 8-10 weeks for onboarding and benefits counseling
- First payments will go out Mid-October or Mid-November.



# Other Benefits

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## Guaranteed Income **will not** impact:

- RI Works
- Child Care Assistance
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- SSDI
- Tax credits (EITC, CTC)
- Emergency Rental Assistance
- LIHEAP
- Unemployment Insurance



# Other Benefits

Guaranteed income **MAY** impact:

- SNAP
- WIC
- Housing subsidies or vouchers
- General Public Assistance
- SSI

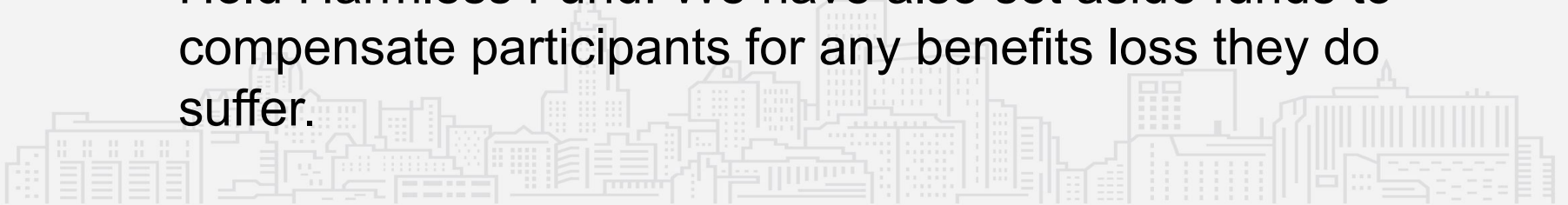


# Other Benefits

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2 other strategies for navigating potential benefits loss:

- **Benefits counseling:** Every selected participant will have the opportunity to meet with a benefits counselor to go over how this income will impact their specific benefits
- **Hold Harmless Fund:** We have also set aside funds to compensate participants for any benefits loss they do suffer.



# Payments

## Applicants will have two options for receiving payments:

- 1) Applicants will be able to set up direct deposits to their bank account using the STEADY App
- 2) Applicants will also be able to receive payments on a reloadable debit card





# Frequently Asked Questions

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# Q: How will we pay for this Pilot?

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# A: Private Philanthropy



Our funders include:

- Jack Dorsey's Start Small Initiative
- Rhode Island Foundation
- United Way of Rhode Island
- ONE Neighborhood Builders

**NO** public municipal funds are being used for this pilot.



# Q: Who designed this pilot?

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# A: Work Group



## Internal Staff From:

- Policy Office
- Healthy Communities Office
- Office of Economic Opportunity
- Department of Communications
- Department of Innovation
- Office of Community Relations



## External Members from:

- State Department of Human Services
- United Way of RI
- Economic Progress Institute
- RI Kids Count
- Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE)
- Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance (AMOR)
- Providence Youth Student Movement
- Rhode Island Foundation
- African American Ambassadors Group
- One Neighborhood Builders
- Providence Housing Authority
- RI Coalition to End Homelessness
- Amos House (administering agency)
- Dorcas International (administering agency)



# Q: Why should I apply when I might be selected for the control group?

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# A:

- The Control Group is VITAL for our ability to understand how Guaranteed Income impacts recipients over time.
  - For example, in Stockton, researchers were able to compare the change in full-time employment among recipients to change in full-time employment amongst members of the control group. That allows us to see that recipients experienced a much larger increase in full time employment.
  - This research will help us build the argument for the expansion of guaranteed income pilots into permanent programs at the city, state, and federal levels.
- Members of the control group will receive stipends for every research activity they complete.
- Being in the Control Group does not limit your access to any other programs or benefits. There's no downside!





# Will participants' information be protected?

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**A:** Yes - participants' information will be kept confidential. Even the City won't have access to recipients' information.

Participants will be able to opt-in to share their story with the media **if they want to.**



# Thank you!

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- PVDGI.com for info and to sign up for alerts
- Follow: @mayorsforagi and @Jorge\_Elorza to stay up to date
- Email questions to [hkahn@providenceri.gov](mailto:hkahn@providenceri.gov) or [pspann@amoshouse.com](mailto:pspann@amoshouse.com)