



Madison Forward Fund

A guaranteed income research program to support Madison families



**MAYORS FOR A
GUARANTEED
INCOME**



**Institute for
Research on
Poverty**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



A **guaranteed income** is a monthly cash payment given directly to families. It is unconditional, unrestricted, and no work requirements.

A guaranteed income is meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net and be a tool for racial and gender equity.

Rooted in the belief that the people in poverty are best positioned to make informed financial decisions that efficiently address their household's needs.



“I’m more of a happier person, I can finally focus on me, enjoy my son, enjoy my family, and just not have to worry about the next thing.”

– CASSANDRA GONZALEZ,
photographed with her son, Xavier
Stockton, California



“I have seen a tremendous change. I’ve seen a tremendous change in my attitude. I’ve seen a tremendous change in my self-esteem. I’ve seen a tremendous change in my family members.”

– ERANIA SMITH
Jackson, Mississippi

Years of research show that when given unrestricted payments, recipients are able to pull themselves out of poverty and create economic stability for themselves and their families.

Direct financial supports have been found to improve health, educational, and child welfare outcomes.

Select Sources

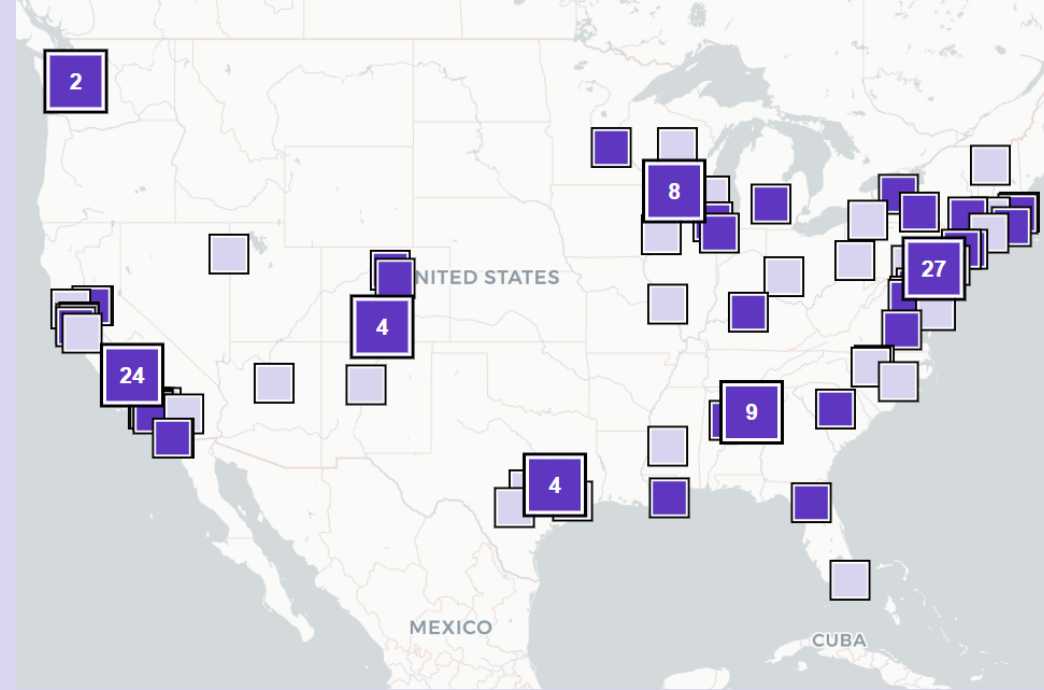
- [Impact of Cash Transfers: Economic Security Project](#)
- [SEED Preliminary Results](#)
- [Alaska Permanent Fund](#)



“With the SEED money, there’s no need for the hustle. I have the time to actually sit there and actually take opportunities for myself.”

– TOMAS VARGAS, JR.
Stockton, California

**Mayors for a
Guaranteed Income is
a network of mayors
advocating for a
guaranteed income to
ensure that all
Americans have an
income floor.**



Economic insecurity isn't a new challenge or a partisan issue. Wealth and income inequality, which have long plagued our country, continue to grow. Rooted in Dr. King's legacy, mayors across the country are coming together to advocate for a guaranteed income—direct, recurring cash payments—that lifts all of our communities, building a resilient, just America. Everyone deserves an income floor through a guaranteed income.



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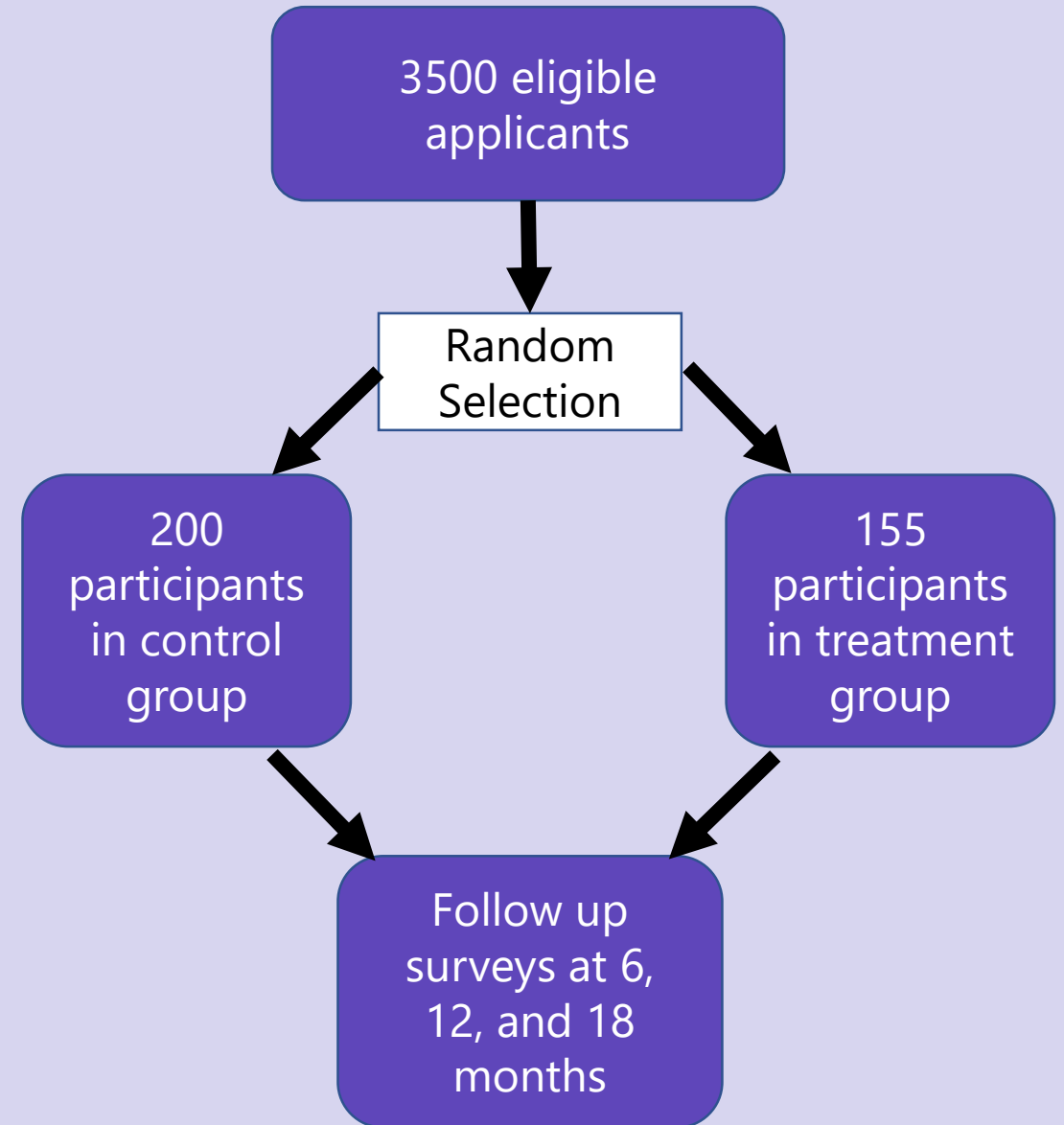
Guaranteed Income in Madison: The Madison Forward Fund

The Madison Forward Fund is a year-long guaranteed income **experimental program** for Madison residents. The guaranteed income is a monthly, cash payment of **\$500 given directly to 155 households for 12 months**. It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work requirements. This also means there are no restrictions on how the money can be spent.

- Invest in local residents, providing them with the unconditional financial support needed to empower them to make the best choices for their family's growth and stability
- Contribute data on these programs' effectiveness, helping to provide proof of concept for a national program
- Support evidence-based social policy in Madison and beyond

ELIGIBILITY

- Live in the City of Madison
- 18 years or older
- Has at least one child (age 17 or under) that lives with applicant
- Household income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Line



MFF FUNDING SOURCES

Mayors for a Guaranteed Income

Roots & Wings Foundation

UW Health

CUNA Mutual Foundation

Madison Gas & Electric Foundation

TASC Family Foundation

American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation

Alliant Energy Foundation

PRL Keystone Foundation

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

No City tax dollars are being used to support the Madison Forward Fund.



MadisonForwardFund.wisc.edu

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