

# Guaranteed Income Programs Overview and Update

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
January 17, 2023

# Agenda

- Overview of Guaranteed Income Concept and Pilot Programs
- Guaranteed Income in San Mateo County
  - South San Francisco Guaranteed Income Program
  - Mission Asset Fund Immigrant Families Recovery Program
  - San Mateo County Human Services and Health System Guaranteed Income Proposal
- Questions and Discussion

# Universal versus Guaranteed Income

- **Universal Income Programs** provide an ongoing amount of income to everyone.
- **Guaranteed Income Programs** provide a specific amount of monthly income to a targeted group of recipients over a specific amount of time

“Provide families in need with cash, to use as they see fit, on the grounds that families, not government know how best to meet their own needs.”

Boston Guaranteed Income Pilot Project Concept  
Boston Globe November 2022



# Common Components of GI Pilots

- **Participants**
  - Limited number of low-income residents or households
  - Randomly selected or all members of specific existing group
- **Use and Delivery of Funds**
  - No restrictions on use of funds
  - Pre-paid debit card or monthly direct deposits to participants bank accounts
  - Ongoing payments for a specific number of months
  - Supplement, rather than replace existing safety net services
- **Funding Sources**
  - Foundations, ARPA, combinations of public funds and philanthropy

# Desired Benefits of GI Pilot Programs

- Alleviate the cycle of generational poverty
- Reduce inequality, advance equity
- Reduce income volatility, and food and housing insecurity
- Improve mental and physical health
- Prevent homelessness
- Successful transitions permanent housing
- Improve outcomes for mothers, babies and young children
- Allow former foster youth to remain in their “home” communities



# SEEDS, the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration

- \$500/month via cash card to 125 residents for 24 months
- Funding: \$3M in private donations
- Data from 2019 to 2021
  - About 40% of cash transferred to bank accounts to pay rent, savings
  - Expenditures: 40% food, 18% merchandise, 11% utilities, 9% auto care
- Evaluation Findings
  - Reduced month to month income volatility, reduced anxiety, improved health
  - Increased full-time employment, participants didn't quit their primary job
  - Improved relationships with family and friends, had time and money to make a birthday cake for a family member

# A Sample of Guaranteed Income Pilot Programs

Jurisdiction	Grant	Participants	Results/Status and Funding Source
<b>Boston, MA</b>	\$583 12 months	50 Families from low-income neighborhoods working with a non-profit	Paid off debt, paid for heating, childcare and dental care, reduced stress and improved mental health. \$1M Foundation funding
<b>Tacoma, WA</b>	\$500 12 months	110 employed residents with children, earning 100% to 200% of Federal Poverty Level	Participants reported increased housing and economic stability, improved mental health and well-being, Funded with \$600K grant
<b>Chicago, IL</b>	\$500 12 months	5,000 households with income under 250% of Federal Poverty Level & impacted by COVID	Lottery to select participants in mid-2022. Evaluators: University of Chicago Inclusive Economy Lab. \$30M in ARPA funds
<b>Marin County</b>	\$1,000 24 months	125 Low-income BIPOC women with a child under 18	Program ongoing, assessment by Marin Community Foundation, Total cost \$3M with Marin County contributing \$400,000
<b>Mountain View, CA</b>	\$500 24 months	Families with incomes less than 30% of Area Median Income and child at home	Started December 2022, part of national research project by Center for Guaranteed Income Research at the University of Pennsylvania, \$2M City funding, \$100K SVCF

# San Mateo County

- **South San Francisco Guaranteed Income Program**
  - *Mark Nagales, South San Francisco City Councilmember*
  - *Elida Sobalvarro-Ramirez, YMCA Community Resource Center Director*
- **Mission Asset Fund Immigrant Families Recovery Program**
  - *Srija Srinivasan, Deputy County Health Chief*
- **San Mateo County Health and Human Services Guaranteed Income Proposal**
  - *John Fong, Director of Children and Families Services, Human Services Agency*
  - *Lizelle Lirio de Luna, Director of Family Health Services, County Health*

# South San Francisco Guaranteed Income Pilot Program



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# Partnerships



# Program

\$500 per month

12 months

160 participants

No tax  
implications



# Payments

- The YMCA contracted with Community Financial Resources to provide debit cards to participants
- Monthly payments direct deposited to these accounts
- ❖ Participants without a Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number enrolled in Self Help Credit Union saving accounts with debit cards

# Eligibility

Tier 1: Under 30% AMI, no benefits

Tier 2: Under 30% AMI, w/ benefits

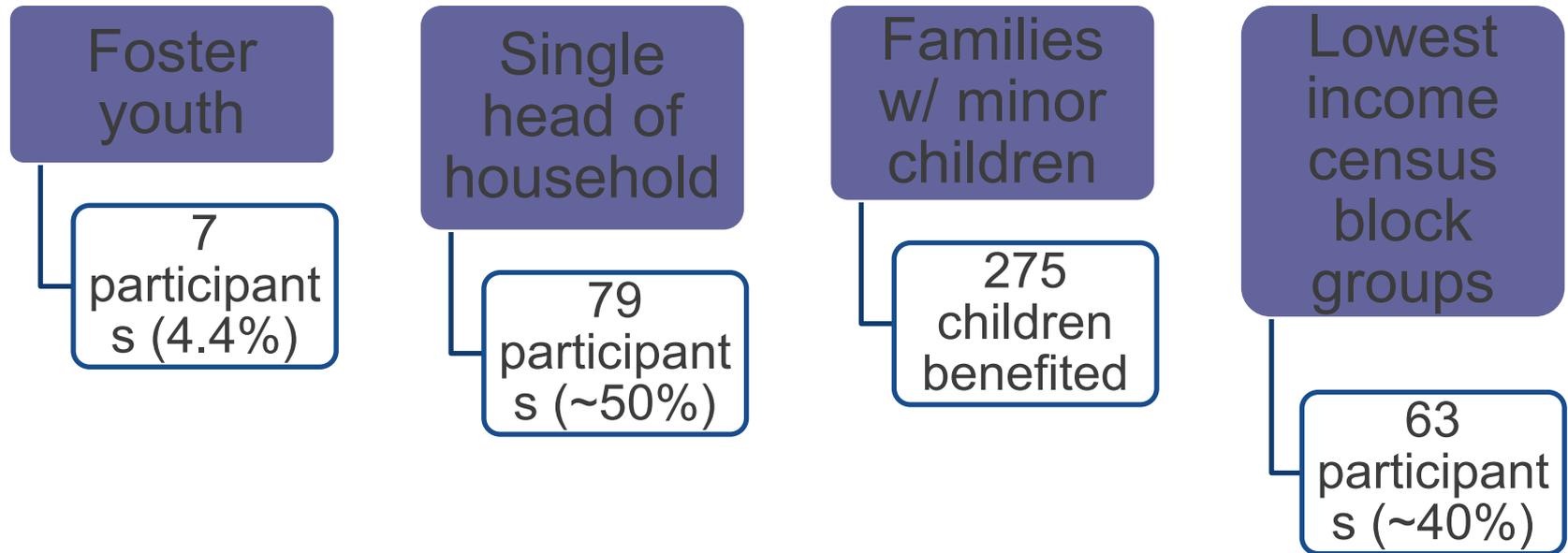
Tier 3: Under 50% AMI, no benefits

Tier 4: Under 50% AMI, w/ benefits



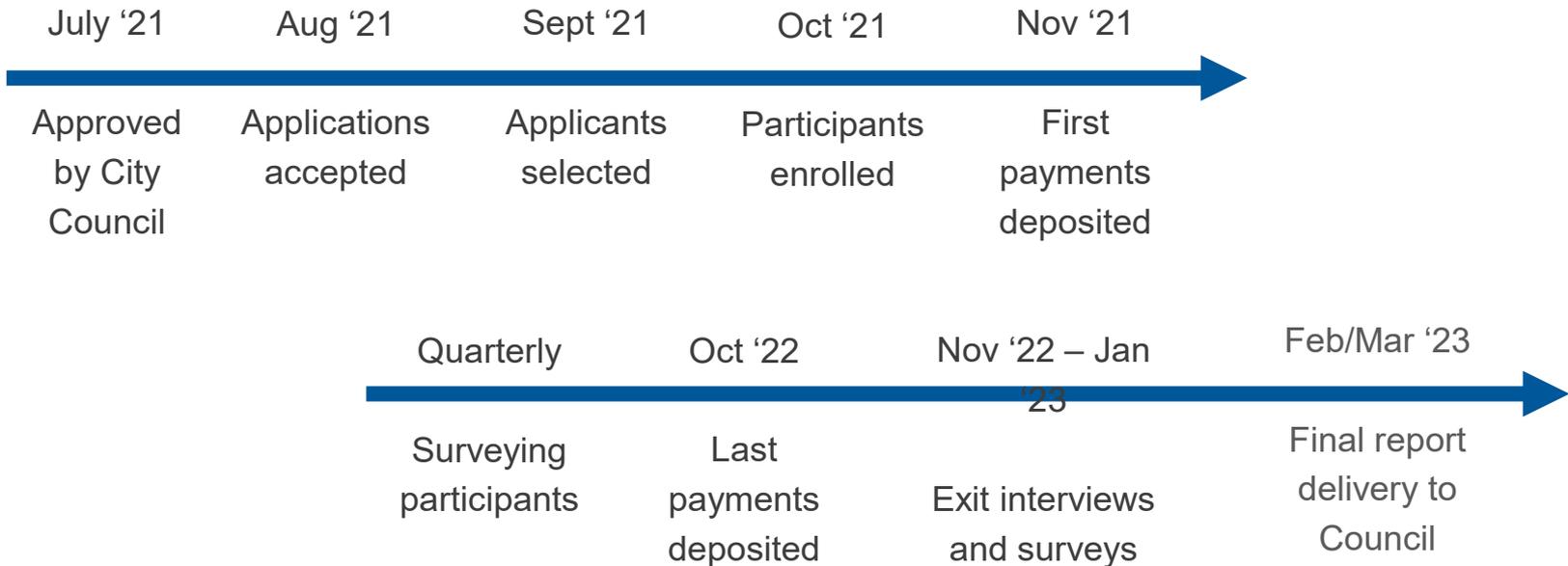
All program participants were from Tiers 1 & 2

# Priority populations served



# Timeline

*Less than 2 years from approval to final report*



# Budget

## Sources

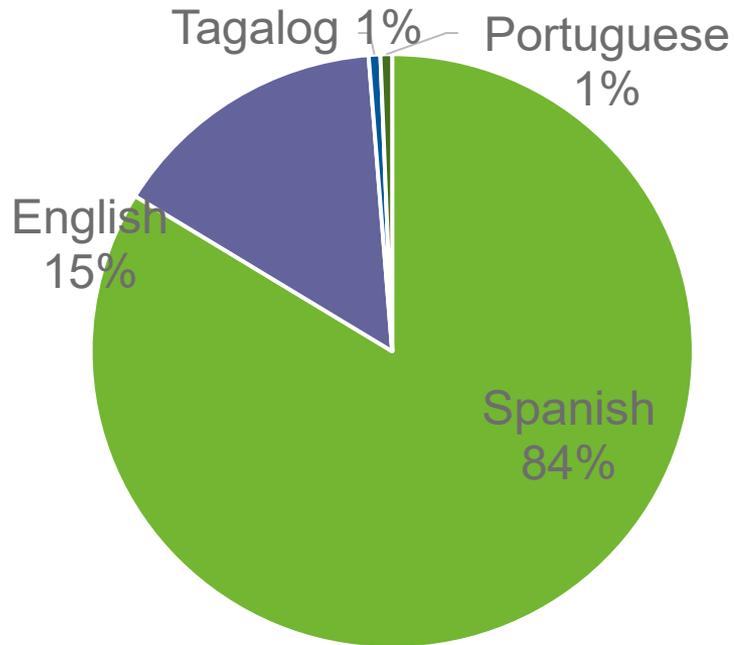
\$1,000,000	City's ARPA Funds
\$100,000	County of San Mateo
\$100,000	SV Community Foundation
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\$1,200,000	Total

## Uses

\$960,000	Payments to participants
\$45,000	Incentives to take surveys
\$145,000	Administration
\$50,000	Payment processor
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\$1,200,000	Total

# A snapshot of those served

## Participant-identified first language



## Average monthly income before GIPP

\$1,816

**\$400 in savings for an emergency?**

94% answered "No"

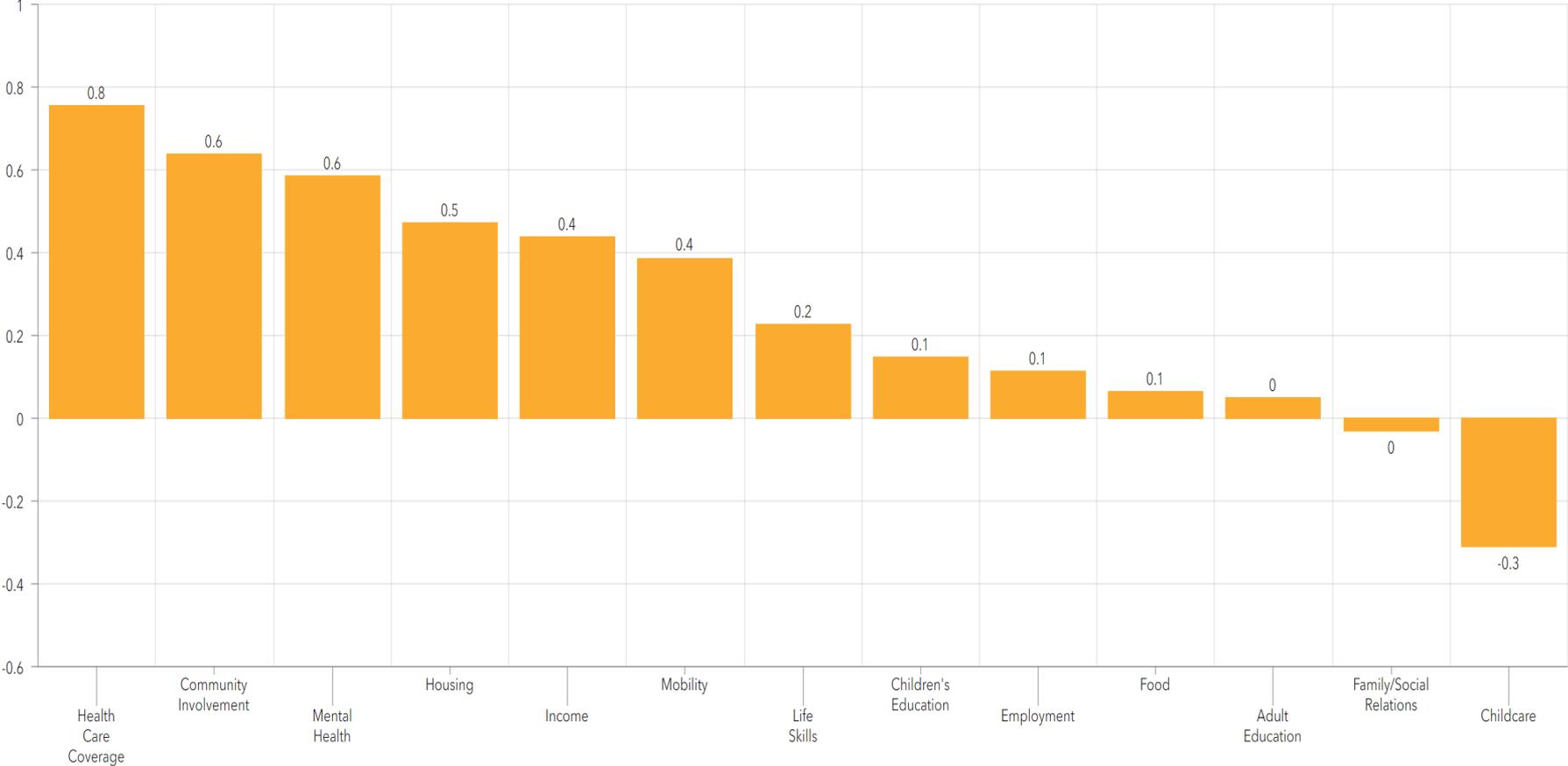
# What were the funds used for?

Item	Q1	Q4
Food	82.00%	86.67%
Rent	87.30%	70.00%
Clothing	21.3%	36.67%
Utilities	57.3%	27.50%
Transportation	8.0%	19.17%

- With these funds, participants were able to (in Q4)...
  - Buy essential items (84.17%)
  - Spend more time with family (32.50%)
  - Help loved ones financially (13.33%)

# Measures of self-sufficiency

Average Net Change in Score



# What we heard

Felt like my family was able to breath

Loved getting to spend more time with my family

Was able to take night classes and started a new job

Grateful to have been a part of it while we could

I felt peace of mind knowing there was something I could count on

# Final report coming soon!

Staff will deliver a final report, including an analysis of all data collected, to the South San Francisco Council in the coming months.

And next steps...

# Immigrant Families Recovery Program



# Immigrant Families Recovery Program

Building a better way forward – and better future – for immigrant families left out of federal support, reaching 3,000 families across the country

- **Guaranteed income** -- \$400/ month for either 12 or 24 months
- **Financial services** -- financial coaching, financial education, group workshops, community conversations + broader suite of MAF tools
- **Learning** – engaging with families to learn how they are building financially secure lives -- and sharing those insights to inform service offerings and the broader field



Mission Asset Fund

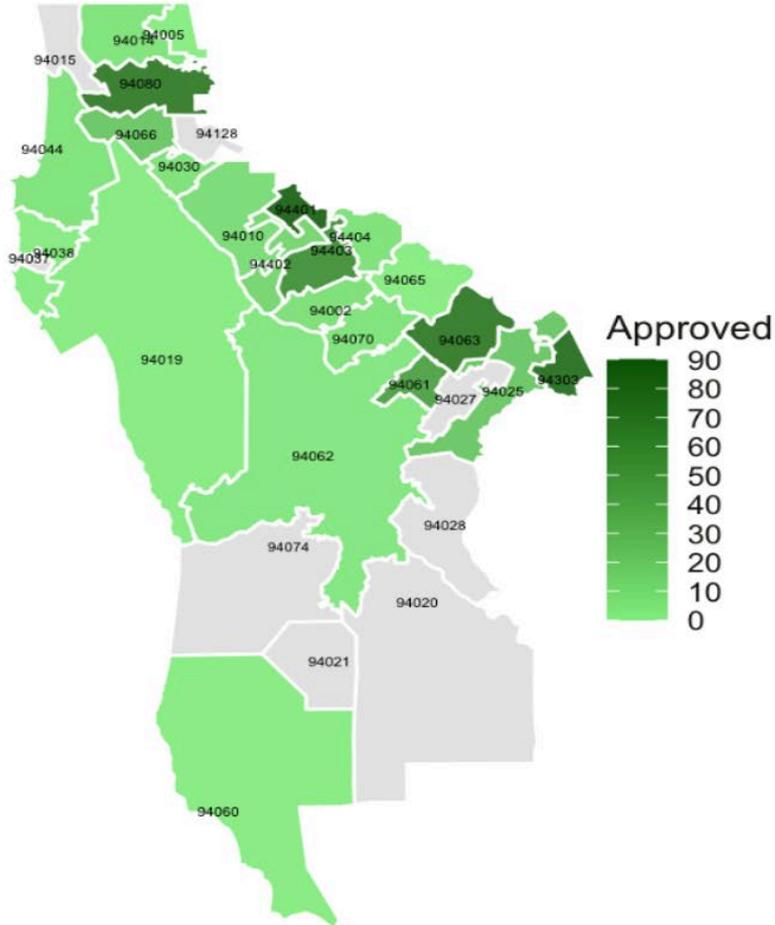
# Immigrant Families Recovery Program

- **Evaluation question: What is it going to take to help families recover faster?**
- **Randomized controlled trial:**
  - **3,000 in “treatment” group**
  - **1,700 in control group**
  - Partnering with researchers from Princeton University
- Early learnings from SM County families suggest statistically significant increased confidence in key areas of financial wellness



Mission Asset Fund

# Immigrant Families Recovery Program - San Mateo County



**578 Enrolled Families**

**\$1,402,000**  
disbursed to  
families as of  
12/31/2022

**\$2,697,200**  
committed for  
disbursal by  
12/31/2024



Mission Asset Fund

# **San Mateo County Health System and Human Services Agency Guaranteed Income Proposal**



# California Department of Social Services

## *Guaranteed Income Pilot*

### Background:

Fiscal Year 2021-22 California State Budget allocated \$35M for the first investment into a statewide Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot Program to be administered by the California Department of Social Services. Grants have been awarded to **seven** pilot projects in California. Unfortunately, the San Mateo County GI Pilot was not selected.

### Program Considerations:

- ❑ Advance system-wide learnings about the impact of GI on individual and family self-sufficiency and wellness outcomes.
- ❑ Understand how GI interacts with other safety-net benefit programs, including but not limited to Medi-Cal, CalFresh, CalWORKs, and childcare subsidies.
- ❑ Create opportunities for local flexibility in design and implementation of pilots.
- ❑ Center equity and community voice in design, administration, and evaluation of programs.
- ❑ Wherever possible, reduce barriers to access and prioritize low-burden methods for eligibility verification and payment.

# San Mateo County Human Services Agency and County Health Proposal:

- **Total Project Budget:** \$7.5M
- **Grant:** \$1000 for 18 months
- **Target Populations:** Former Foster Youth and Pregnant Individuals
- **Estimated Number of Participants:** 300+ Individuals
- **Desired Outcomes:** Higher education rates, greater financial stability, and a decrease in homelessness, poor birth outcomes, mental health challenges, and unemployment.



## Target Population #1: *Former Foster Youth*

- ❑ Inherent Self-Sufficiency Gap
  - Given the high cost of living in San Mateo County, there is an **inherent self-sufficiency gap** experienced by some residents<sup>1</sup>.
- ❑ Unemployment
  - *The Midwest Evaluation* found that **54%** of young people who aged out of foster **care were not employed at age 26 compared to 20% of their peers** in the general population.
- ❑ Homelessness
  - A recent California Study found that among the foster youth who participated, over **24%** of respondents indicated **they had experienced homelessness during that time** and **36%** of respondents said **that they had “couch-surfed”**<sup>2</sup>.

## Target Population #2: *Pregnant Individuals*



- ❑ Poor Birth and Child Outcomes
  - Financial hardship can lead to **higher rates of depression and stress**<sup>3</sup>, subsequently leading to **poor birth and child outcomes**<sup>4</sup>.
- ❑ High Healthcare Costs
  - Poor birth and child outcomes potentially **increase the healthcare costs for family and children**<sup>5</sup>.
- ❑ Higher Rate of Encountering Child Abuse
  - Studies show that children from households with fewer resources are **three times** as likely to be **substantiated for abuse** and **seven times** more likely to be **substantiated for neglect** than other children<sup>6</sup>.

“Guaranteed income created a floor that allowed me to persist through difficult times.”

Stockton SEEDS Program Participant



# Board Questions & Discussion

