



# UPDATE Report

January 29, 2024

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In 2023, the City of Rochester began a year-long pilot program that provides a Guaranteed Basic Income, or GBI, to selected Rochester residents who live at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. The program is founded upon the belief that people in poverty are best positioned to make informed financial decisions that address their households' needs.

The guaranteed income pilot was designed to provide monthly payments of \$500 to 351 individuals for 12 months, for a total of \$6,000 per participant. The payments are unconditional, which means there are no strings attached, no work requirements, and no restrictions on how the money can be used.

The program is funded by \$2.2 million from the City's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. In addition, one private donor committed \$6,000 through a Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF) fund to support one participant for a full year.

Applications were accepted for one week, starting Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m. through Thursday, June 29 at 11:59 p.m.

### Eligibility requirements:

- Only one individual per household was eligible to participate
- Household income must be at or below 185% FPL
- Recipients must be of legal adult age (18 years old) or emancipated
- Recipients must be City of Rochester residents (with city residency for at least one year)
- Recipients must reside in qualifying census tracts (QCT)

## APPLICATION OUTCOMES

### Applications

The City received a total of **16,123 applications** during the week-long application window

Of those applications, **397 were duplicates** and **4,028 were from applicants outside a qualified census tract (QCT) or who stated a household income too high to qualify.**

In all, the City received 11,698 qualified applications

### Applicant Breakdown:

Female	74.8%
Male	24.5%
Black	73.2%
White	11.9%
Latino	18.6%
Other Race	14.9%
Interested in meeting with a financial counselor	53.2%

## DATES & DEADLINES

Targeted milestones for the program were set before launch and have been met as the program has proceeded:

Application Window	June 22, 10 a.m. – June 29, 11:59 p.m.			
	1 <sup>st</sup> cohort timing	1 <sup>st</sup> cohort status	2 <sup>nd</sup> cohort timing	2 <sup>nd</sup> cohort status
<b>Randomization by LEO</b>	July 3 – 7	Complete	Sept. 5-8	Complete
<b>Notifications by City</b>	July 10-14	Complete	Sept. 11-15	Complete
<b>Enrollment/onboarding by BCFF</b>	July 17 - Aug. 18	Complete 175, incl. 28 alternates	Sept. 18 - Nov. 20	Complete 176, incl. 31 alternates
<b>Cash disbursements begin</b>	Oct. 15	Complete 173 by ACH deposit, 2 by check	Dec. 1	Complete 174 by ACH deposit, 2 by check
<b>Cash disbursement end date</b>	Sept. 15, 2024	In progress	Nov. 1, 2024	In progress

## FINANCIAL COUNSELING

On the application form, the City asked if applicants were interested in counseling from the City's Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE). More than 6,100 GBI applicants confirmed interest.

As a result, OFE conducted a series of six workshops, to which GBI applicants and the public were invited. Workshop topics included: Savings 101, Credit 101, and Debt Management 101. Workshops were offered in English and Spanish.

More than 160 people registered for the workshops, which were scheduled in September, October, and November 2023.

## PARTICIPANT AGGREGATED DATA

Total participants: 351

- 1<sup>st</sup> cohort – 174 / 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort – 176
- 1 selected applicant from the 1<sup>st</sup> cohort moved outside of the country after 3 payments

### Participant Break Down:

<b>Gender/Race</b>	<b>% of selected participants</b>
Female	74.3%
Male	25.1%
Other/non-Binary	0.6%
Black	70.4%
Latino	20.0%
Other Race	17.1%
White	12.5%
<b>Age</b>	<b>% of selected participants</b>
Ages 18-29	19.9%
Ages 30-39	39.9%
Ages 40-49	17.1%
Ages 50-64	16.8%
Age 65+	0.063%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>% of selected participants</b>
Has a bank account	64.7%
Utilized waiver for SNAP, TANF and HEAP	50.9%
<b>Top Zip Codes</b>	<b>% of selected participants</b>
14621	25.6%
14605	13.4%
14611	12.8%
14609	12.3%
14608	8.5%
<b>Marital/Parental Status</b>	<b>% of selected participants</b>
Parent	39.6%
Never married	82.0%
Married	5.5%
Divorced	12.5%
<b>Employment</b>	<b>% of selected participants</b>
Employed	63.8%
Unemployed	36.2%
<b>Education</b>	<b>% of selected participants</b>
Less than a high school diploma	16.5%
High school diploma	48.4%
Some college	22.5%
Associate degree or higher	9.4%
Enrolled in educational/training program	8.5%