

# GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



## What is the United Way's Sacramento Guaranteed Income Program?

It is a guaranteed income program operated by United Way California Capital Region (UWCCR) since June 2021. The first phase of the Program offered no strings attached, \$300 monthly investments in 100 Sacramento County households and will conclude in May 2023. In August 2021, the Mayor recommended an additional \$750,000 of ARP funding to the program. These funds will be used to extend the model to 80 new households with a funding cadence of \$500/month for 12 months. Furthermore, an evaluation conducted by California State University, Sacramento will enhance understanding of the outcomes and experiences of participants while in the program.

## Why is this program necessary?

United Way's Guaranteed Income Program seeks to offer an additional source of reliable income to supplement households in our region as we recover economically from the COVID-19 pandemic, alleviating financial scarcity for the participants. The reliability of these payments is key to general economic freedom and self-determination for participants. The program seeks to not only provide this immediate and direct assistance, but also to provide the tools and resources to assist participants in stabilizing their economic situation. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to strive for their personal economic goals such as being able to afford an emergency expense, homeownership, higher-paying and more stable employment, increased civic/community engagement and reduced stress within their household.

## How do I apply?

The application can be found on the [program webpage](#) starting March 15, 2023. Any eligible individual can submit an electronic application via this link. Applications will be accepted until 11:59pm on April 14, 2023. Applications are only available electronically but will have several language options. We are working with our network of community partner agencies to assist if additional language or technical assistance is needed for application submissions. You can also email us at [uwgi@uwCCR.org](mailto:uwgi@uwCCR.org) if you have additional questions or need further assistance with the application.

## Who is eligible?

Eligible participants must qualify in two areas:

### 1. Income:

Eligible households will earn an income below the following limits for household size and composition:

- 1 Adult: \$28,205
- 1 adult, 1 child: \$49,945
- 1 adult, 2 children: \$65,880
- 1 adult, 3 children: \$79,500
- 2 adults: \$43,201

- 2 adults, 1 child: \$64,273
- 2 adults, 2 children: \$79,500
- Household of 5: \$93,120
- Household of 6: \$106,740
- Household of 7: \$120,360
- Household of 8: \$133,980
- For households with more than 8 people, add \$14,160 for each additional person.

2. Residence:

Eligible participants must have a residential address within the [City of Sacramento](#). [This link](#) can be used by applicants to confirm residential eligibility before applying. Those who are randomly selected will have their addresses checked by the SGI Manager or another UWCCR staff member.

All types of immigration statuses are welcome to apply.

**What is the monthly stipend?**

\$500/month for 12 months (1 year). The first payment will be issued July 1, 2023.

**How will you choose who receives the guaranteed income?**

80 eligible applicants will be randomly selected. We will use a random number generator to determine which applicants will be selected and then review their application for eligibility. We will also conduct one-on-one meetings with selected applicants to review any potential impact that receiving Program funds might have on their current public benefits. If a selected application is ineligible or withdraws their application, we will select additional applications via the same randomized process and review those until 80 eligible applications have been selected.

**How will I know if I have been selected?**

Selected applicants will be contacted via email and phone by staff.

**Where did the money come from?**

As a result of the Federal government's response to the pandemic, Congress passed and the President signed into law on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA"). The ARPA builds upon previously enacted aid measures such as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). In August 2021, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg recommended that \$750,000 of ARPA funding to be awarded to United Way California Capital Region to expand the Sacramento Guaranteed Income Program. These funds will be used to launch a new cohort of 80 households who will receive \$500/month for 12 months.

**Do I need to pay it back?**

No, you do not have to pay the money back.

**Will it affect me receiving other benefits like CalFresh and CalWORKs?**

These funds may change your total household income threshold and your eligibility for other benefits. United Way is working with the relevant public agencies to reduce if not eliminate this

impact through pursuing an exemption or waivers for recipients of the guaranteed income project. However, it is every applicants' responsibility to take this into consideration and make the best decision for their family if selected for the program. It is highly recommended that each individual household additionally check and confirm with their Case Worker at the agency administering their current benefits (for example, Department of Human Assistance for those on CalWORKs or receiving SNAP) to address their individual situation. Your eligibility will NOT be affected by simply applying. If you apply and are selected, a UW staff member will do a one-on-one meeting with you to discuss the possible impact that participating in the Guaranteed Income Program may have on the current public benefits you receive. If it looks like you will be negatively impacted, we will encourage you to withdraw your application to keep your current benefits.

### **Is the program being evaluated?**

We are working with California State University, Sacramento to administer surveys in which we will evaluate the benefits the program provides for participants. The same survey will be administered three times. The first time is mandatory and part of the application. The second and third times (received after the final payment is received and again 6 months later) are highly encouraged but voluntary. A \$25 gift card will be sent each time for completing the second and third surveys. Your input through these surveys will provide invaluable feedback to help us better understand the impact of the Program and could be important to the future expansion of guaranteed income. Those not selected to receive funds will be asked if they want to participate in the survey. The first 80 who confirm that they wish to participate in the survey via a short online form will be notified by email and phone. This group will also receive \$25 for each completed survey. Being able to compare data between those selected to receive funds and those survey participants who did not receive funds is critical to the research process.

### **What will I need to do to participate in the surveys?**

The surveys will be sent to program participants and the selected non-participants via email. The survey will take 20-30 minutes to complete.

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*The United Way California Capital Region's Guaranteed Income Program is possible thanks to support from our partner:*

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