

Basic Income: Covers a person's basic needs (i.e. costs of food, shelter, utilities, and other living expenses)

Guaranteed Income: Steady, predictable, and unrestricted amount of money; does not necessarily meet basic needs

Targeted: Designed to service a specific population (e.g. households below a certain income threshold)

Universal: Available to people broadly within a given community, without other specific qualifications

Universal Basic Income (UBI): Provides a financial stipend to individuals, regardless of need or other qualifying characteristics

Conditional: Requires recipients to meet certain eligibility requirements (e.g. having a young child or maintaining a specific attendance record for school)

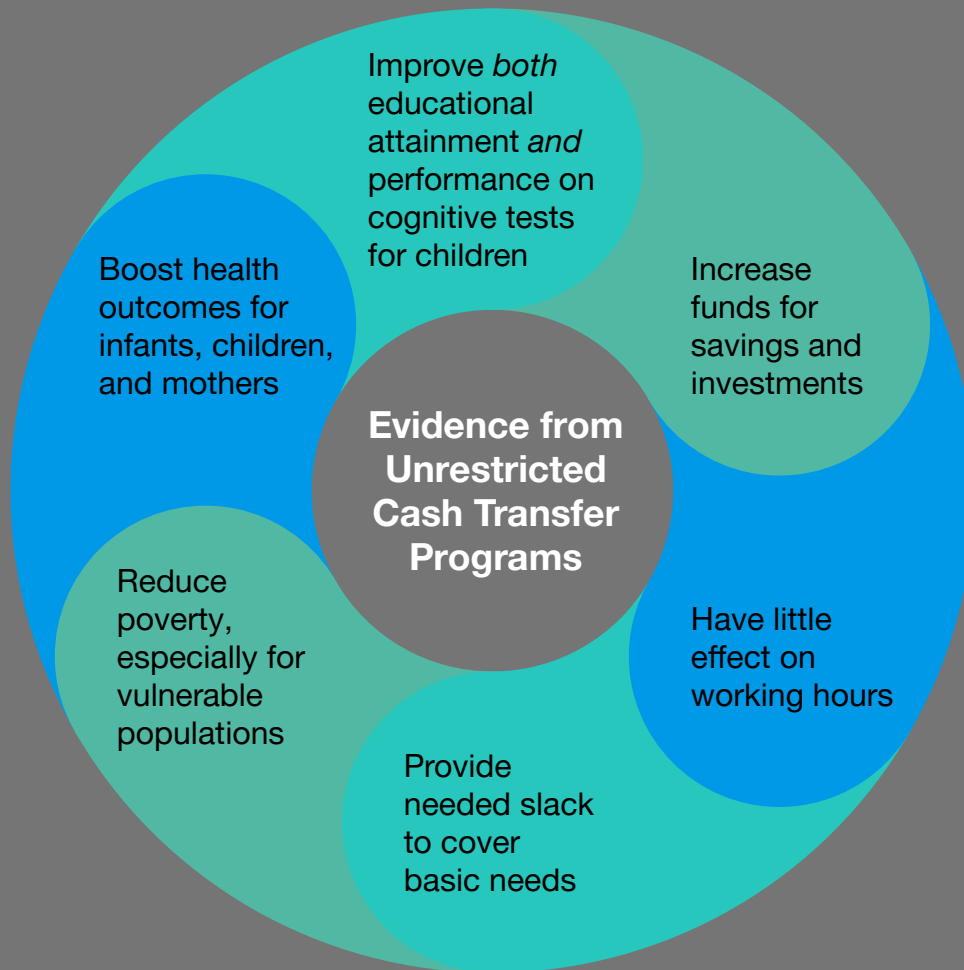
Unconditional: No behavioral or action-oriented requirements

Restricted: Limits the way that received funds can be utilized (e.g. housing or education costs or to start a business)

Unrestricted: No limitations directing how the money can be used

Guaranteed Income and Other Cash Infusions

Three-Part Series | Aspen Institute Financial Security Program



Part 1: A Review of the Evidence

Unrestricted funds: 1) Help families maintain their current financial positions and consumption levels and build resilience against financial shocks; 2) Create opportunities to invest in mobility-enhancing efforts that can boost or stabilize household income; and 3) Provide flexibility and dignity to families and give them the agency to address their unique situations.

Part 2: Lessons from LIFT and Family Independence Initiative

LIFT unlocks the potential of families living in poverty by placing parents in the driver's seat, moving away from "managing" issues to giving parents the tools and resources they need to rise above and stay above the poverty line for good.

The Family Independence Initiative (FII) model trusts low-income families, working in peer groups, to lead their own change.

Part 3: Opportunities for Scale

Three strategies to expand cash infusions' reach: 1) Adopting new and expanding current cash infusion programs; 2) Adding a cash infusion component alongside current programming; and 3) Reducing strings to other cash or cash-like programs.

Basic Income, the Multnomah Mothers' Trust Project and DCHS

In Multnomah County, *every person – at every stage in life – has equitable opportunities to thrive*: The DCHS North Star guides the department to invest in strategies that dismantle the systemic barriers that exacerbate and perpetuate racial economic disparities and to explore solutions such as guaranteed income and other cash infusion programs.

The success of **Multnomah Mothers' Trust Project** (MMTP aka Trust) is evidence for further expansion of Basic Income programs across DCHS divisions and systems of care.

What is the importance of unrestricted cash in people's lives?

Cash puts **dignity, creativity, and choice** back into the hands of those receiving it.

Part 1: A Review of MMTP Survey Data

Survey data shows that at their current rate of saving and debt accumulation, Trust Members will not be able to purchase homes anywhere in the Portland metro area without substantial financial assistance.

The amounts for the matched savings and down payment assistance program were established by analyzing eight months of monthly financial reporting from Trust Members. On average, Trust Members have \$8,200 of debt, and average incomes of \$1,200 per month, with the upper bound estimate at \$6,000 per month. The existing MMTP provides basic income of \$500 per month to each household to support economic stability.

Part 2: Lessons from MMTP

Families were invited to join the MMTP as participant researchers in one of two ways - using an existing database, provide monthly information about how the financial resources are impacting their families, and/or participate in an equity and person-centered collaborative design process related to debt reduction, homeownership, and other asset building initiatives.

National research, and local experience, show that trusting and investing in families living on a low-income through access to unconditional cash does contribute to the success of those families - especially for BIPOC families.

Part 3: Opportunities for Scale

From the [Economic Justice Project \(EJP\) Discussion Guide](#), here is a menu of potential approaches for advancing economic justice in Multnomah County:

- Strategies that build assets
- Strategies that support income security
- Strategies that repair past harms to Black and Indigenous communities by local jurisdictions
- Strategies that eliminate barriers to wealth-building

Economic justice is long-term and ongoing work to reform policies, systems, and practices to eliminate racial disparities in income and wealth so that everyone can prosper.

How might DCHS build long-term economic security and prosperity for the populations most impacted by historic inequities?