



**CITY OF BOULDER
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: June 7, 2022

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of a motion to accept the May 24 study session summary regarding the Guaranteed Income Pilot Project

PRESENTERS

Elizabeth Crowe, Deputy Director, Housing and Human Services
Cameron Burns, Deputy Director, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2022, City Council approved use of up to \$250,000 in ARPA Tranche 2 funds to begin designing a guaranteed income pilot project. Staff intend to request council approval in the third quarter of 2022, for another \$2,750,000 in Tranche 3 ARPA funds to continue the pilot project. For this agenda item city staff provided background, an update and additional details for a Boulder guaranteed income project supported through city American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The purpose of the agenda item was for staff to provide background about guaranteed income pilots, describe and obtain input on proposed draft project outcomes and other project design elements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion: Motion to accept the May 24 study session summary regarding the Guaranteed Income Pilot Project.

ANALYSIS

Staff provided an overview of the proposed guaranteed income project, including background on mayor-led guaranteed income pilot projects, the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income network, examples of past and current pilot projects in the U.S., and participant outcomes associated with those projects.

Staff shared perspectives from HHS, nonprofit partners, Community Connectors and community members experiencing low-income about the gaps left with existing financial assistance programs (e.g., limitations on the use of assistance and the short duration of assistance) and how a guaranteed income approach could result in value-added benefits for participants and the

Boulder community. The presentation also included draft pilot project outcomes, proposed criteria for pilot project design and implementation, a proposed approach for community engagement and a high-level timeline that could result in direct cash transfers to project participants by March 2023. Staff also noted that tools like the city's Racial Equity Instrument and the Engagement Strategic Framework will be used to keep the project community-focused and in alignment with the city's equity goals.

Questions for city council were:

1. What, if any, additional outcomes might council want to achieve through a GI pilot project?
2. What additional criteria might council suggest regarding the project structure or partnerships?
3. What suggestions does council have on the proposed approach to community engagement?

Council member comments and input included:

- Affirmation of staff's general approach to the project, including use of a community task force to help determine project outcomes, design and implementation elements. Several council members affirmed centering project input, outreach and engagement with community members who have direct or lived experiences as people with low-income.
- Concern as to whether or not a guaranteed income approach is the best option to utilize \$3M in ARPA funds compared to utilizing that amount of funding for HHS or nonprofit partner programs in addition to current HHS investments and services, and suggestion to consider a holistic balance of ARPA and local HHS funds.
- Observation that staff are generally on target with the outcomes, criteria and community engagement as described in the memo and presentation materials.
- Encouragement for staff to include best practices, examples from pilot projects in cities whose characteristics are similar to Boulder.
- Request for staff to collect data and outcomes in such a way to attract investment partners.
- Suggestion to explore a name for the pilot project that inspires and avoids confusion about the meaning of "guaranteed income".
- Appreciation for the transformative nature of the pilot project concept, for the elements of empowerment and dignity that are different from other forms of assistance.
- Encouragement to have an evaluation process that focuses on the transformative impacts.
- Interest in how the overhead/administrative expenses associated with a pilot project relative to the number of people served and desired outcomes, and compared to that which are included in other human service and financial assistance programs.

NEXT STEPS

HHS staff will share input from council with the city staff team working on the guaranteed income project; move ahead with steps outlined in the draft timeline; and continue to network with local agencies and potential partners and through pilot project networks. Staff will also plan to provide an update to council on planning progress, along with the staff ARPA Tranche 3 expenditure recommendations later this year.