



## CITY OF EL MONTE GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **What is the City of El Monte's Guaranteed Basic Income Program?**

The **City of El Monte's Guaranteed Basic Income Program** is a program that will give 125 eligible City of El Monte residents \$500 per month for 12 months. While the benefits of guaranteed income programs are well known, this program will be used to learn more about how guaranteed income can help people who are living in poverty.

This program has an independent research study that is being done by the RAND Corporation and the University of Southern California (USC). As part of this research project, eligible applicants will be asked to complete a short survey to gather basic information on their financial situation and overall health. The survey is voluntary and completing it or not will not affect participation in the program. Information that applicants provide as part of the survey will be confidential and will only be used for research purposes. The survey data will be used to help change current policies, plan future programs, and help in the expansion of the City of El Monte's programs to assist residents in need. **Answers to the survey questions will not have any impact on being selected to participate in the program.**

### **What is a Guaranteed Basic Income Program?**

Guaranteed income is a monthly cash payment given directly to qualified residents. There are no strings attached on how to spend it and there are no work requirements. It is meant to add to, not replace, participants' income.

### **Why should the City of El Monte provide people with a guaranteed monthly income?**

Cities throughout the U.S. are trying to understand and address the real need in our communities. This program is just the first step in the City of El Monte's plan to reduce poverty among city residents.

### **Who is eligible for the program?**

To be eligible for the program, you must be a female head of household (no spouse present) who is a current resident of the City of El Monte, who has children between the ages of 0-17 and who has a verified income at or below the federal poverty line. In addition, in order to be eligible for the program, applicants must show that they need this help because they have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and they must submit the required documentation (described below).

### **How will the City of El Monte verify eligibility for the program?**

Applicants who are eligible for the program and are selected to participate will need to show proof of meeting the eligibility requirements described above before being enrolled in the program. To do so, applicants are required to provide the following:



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- Proof of El Monte residency (driver's license, government-issued ID, utility bill in the applicant's name, rental agreement, etc.)
- School enrollment form for each school-age child in the applicant's household
- Proof of income (paycheck stubs for the last 2 months for all members of the household who work for pay and contribute to the household)
- Government issued ID (driver's license, government-issued ID, passport, resident alien card, etc.)

### How do I apply for the program?

If you are eligible to participate in the program, please go to [INSERT URL AND QR CODE] to complete an application online or go to [INSERT ADDRESS] and complete an application form for the *City of El Monte Guaranteed Basic Income Program*. Applications can also be submitted in person at El Monte City Hall West Community and Economic Development Department at 11333 Valley Blvd., El Monte CA 91731. **All applications must be received by [DATE]**. The date and time applicants apply, or the method used to submit an application, will not impact getting selected, as long as you apply during the open enrollment period.

### How will participants be selected?

125 participants will be randomly selected from among a group of eligible applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and submit an application during the enrollment period. Participants will be randomly selected in a lottery done by the RAND/USC research team.

### How will I know if I've been selected for the program?

A member of the RAND/USC team will contact selected participants using the contact information provided with the application. The team will contact the selected participants by letter delivered to the address written on the application.

### What documentation do I have to submit in order to participate in the program?

Applicants who are eligible for the program and are selected to participate, are required to provide the following documentation:

- Proof of El Monte residency (driver's license, government-issued ID, utility bill in your name, rental agreement, etc.)
- School enrollment form for each school-age child in your household
- Proof of income (paycheck stubs for the last 2 months for all members of the household)
- Government issued ID (driver's license, government-issued ID, passport, resident alien card, etc.)



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### **If selected, how will I receive my monthly guaranteed income distribution?**

If you are selected to participate in the program, you will be issued a debit card. Every month, the City will load \$500 on your debit card. You can withdraw cash (up to \$500) with the debit card or can use it to pay for goods and services at any location that accepts debit cards. We will provide training on how to use the debit card.

### **Do I need to have a bank account in order to participate in the program?**

No, you do not need to have an existing bank account or to set up a new bank account in order to participate in the pilot program.

### **Will my public benefits be affected if I participate in the program?**

Some benefits could be affected while others will not be affected at all. Your benefits from CalWORKs, CalFresh, and General Relief will NOT be impacted by participation in this program. However, those selected to participate will have an opportunity to talk to a counselor about their specific situation regarding any public benefits they are receiving and will be able to decide whether they want to participate or not.

### **Who will help me sign up for the program if I'm selected to participate in the program?**

The City of El Monte has partnered with RAND/USC to run this program. If you have questions, need additional information, or have any problems in completing the application, please contact the RAND/USC team at [TOLL FREE NUMBER] or via email at [EMAIL ALIAS].

### **Who do I contact if my guaranteed income distribution is not received or if my debit card is not working?**

Please contact the RAND/USC team at [TOLL FREE NUMBER] or via email at [EMAIL ALIAS].

### **What do I do if my contact information changes?**

If your contact information changes, please email us at [EMAIL ALIAS] or call us at [TOLL FREE NUMBER].

### **Will I be notified if I wasn't chosen for the pilot program?**

The City of El Monte will notify eligible applicants whether or not they were chosen to participate in the program. Notifications will be sent out by mail to the address written in the application. The GBI Program's website will also be updated once all notifications to participants have been completed.