

GUARANTEED INCOME: INCREASING EMPLOYMENT AND HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

GI pilot participants reported higher rates of employment, significant improvements in housing stability, food security, and child well-being.

AFTER RECEIVING GUARANTEED INCOME CHECKS FOR A YEAR:

- Rural participants reporting increases in employment: **14% INCREASE**
- Urban participants reporting having unstable work schedules: **36% DECREASE**
- Rural participants reporting having unstable work schedules: **17% DECREASE**
- Participants reporting that they had trouble paying the rent or mortgage on time: **35% DECREASE**
- Participants reporting having to reduce or forego expenses for basic household necessities, such as medicine or food, in order to pay the rent or mortgage: **9% DECREASE**
- Urban participants reporting having to reduce or forego expenses for basic household necessities, such as medicine or food, in order to pay the rent or mortgage: **18% DECREASE**
- Rural participants reporting never having to skip a meal in the last year: **12% INCREASE**
- Rural participants reporting receiving food from a food pantry: **14% DECREASE**
- Participants reporting that their child is on track to complete their grade level and graduate: **9% INCREASE**
- Rural participants reporting that their child is on track to complete their grade level and graduate: **13% INCREASE**

AFTER RECEIVING GUARANTEED INCOME CHECKS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 6-MONTHS:

- Participants reporting increases in employment: **15% INCREASE**
- Participants reporting having trouble paying the rent or mortgage on time: **73% DECREASE**

ABOUT THE NEW MEXICO GUARANTEED INCOME PILOT PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

This guaranteed income (GI) pilot program was designed and implemented by the five New Mexico organizations that constitute the NM Economic Relief Working Group and UpTogether.

Funding for the GI payments was provided by private foundations.

The 18-month GI pilot program was created in 2022 to address poverty and economic security for low-income, mixed-immigration status families and workers in New Mexico.

Immigrant families were chosen for the pilot because polling showed that they were faring worse than the general population during the pandemic. In addition, most are not eligible for public safety-net programs, even though many of them are essential workers and they make substantial tax contributions and have positive economic impacts on our communities, state, and nation.

This is the only statewide GI program to focus specifically on immigrant families.

The program selected 330 mixed-immigration status households to receive unconditional direct cash transfers of \$500 monthly for 12 months from February 2022 to February 2023.

One-third of households came from rural communities and two-thirds from urban communities.

An additional extension was granted to 50 randomly selected mixed-status households to receive \$500 monthly for an additional 6 months (February 2023-August 2023).

Pilot program applicants were selected using the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must have lived and proven residency within one of the following 13 New Mexico counties: Bernalillo, Chaves, Curry, Doña Ana, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Luna, McKinley, Rio Arriba, Roosevelt, San Juan, or Santa Fe.

- Applicants must have been part of an undocumented or mixed-immigration status family.
- Applicants must have been the parent or legal guardian of at least one minor child or a dependent adult with a disability.

Quantitative and qualitative surveys were used to determine the impact of the GI pilot for participants.

Quantitative surveys were done before the pilot program began, after the payments had ended, and again after the payments had ended for those 50 participants who received the additional 6-months' worth of payments.

Qualitative surveys were conducted, mostly in Spanish, by 10 peer-to-peer interviewers and were taped with consent.

ABOUT THE NM ECONOMIC RELIEF WORKING GROUP

A coalition of several grassroots and advocacy organizations – many of them focused on immigrant rights – ERWG was formed in 2020 initially to secure pandemic relief for those New Mexicans who did not qualify for federal relief due to their immigration status. ERWG worked on getting an accurate 2020 Census count for the state, and has also worked on wages, voting rights, tax credits, child care assistance, and the New Mexico Guaranteed Income Pilot Project for Immigrant Families.

