Universal Basic Income for Transition-Age Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Board of Supervisors
April 21, 2020
Item 21
Universal Basic Income (UBI)’s five key features:

1. **Unconditional**: A basic income may vary with age, but with no other conditions.

2. **Automatic**: Basic income would be automatically paid.

3. **Non-withdrawable**: Basic incomes would not be means-tested. Whether someone's earnings increase, decrease, or stay the same, their basic income will not change.

4. **Individual**: Basic incomes would be paid on an individual basis and not based on household status.

5. **As a right**: Every citizen receives a basic income.
Key Program Elements to address during UBI Pilot:

- Impact on other Benefits
- Duration of assistance
- Desired outcomes, metrics, evaluation
- Target population
- Income thresholds and/or conditional requirements
- Policy and economic impacts
Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs)

Fiscal Year 19

- Age 18-21 years old
- 45% female, 55% male
- 40% White, 22% Hispanic, 14% Black, 8.5% Asian/Pacific Islander
- Predominantly English-speaking (82%)
  - 18% Spanish-speaking
- Missing 91% is school/education data
- 67% receiving assistance through SSA programs
  (e.g., GA, CalWORKS, Adoption Assistance, KinGAP)
- Mean of $19,033 of benefits issued (max of $93,000) to NMDs*
- 5% receiving some unearned income (e.g., unemployment benefits) with a mean value of $750

*may also receive $1,000 a month, if living independently, which is not included in above numbers
1- Year Pilot Program

- Up to 60 Transition-Age Youth served
  - aging out of foster care
  - 22 to 24 years old
- June 2020 through May 2021
- $1,000 monthly
- No control group
- Participatory Research Model
  - Robust Intake Questionnaire
  - Check-in every three months
Potential Public/Private Partnerships

- Interest in basic income concepts from prominent philanthropists in the Bay Area and nationwide
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
  - Stockton UBI demonstration project
    - 100% private funding
- Initial conversations with philanthropists and stakeholders demonstrate:
  - Commitment to developing a joint strategy
  - Readiness and willingness to be thought and funding partners
Conclusion

Next Steps

Questions?