



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**



# Release of ARISE Contingent Reserve Funding

**City Council Meeting December 10, 2024**





# Agenda

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# Background Information

- ▶ **Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity (ARISE) was funded by a \$3 million dollar allocation of ARPA funds by City Council in 2021.**
- ▶ **Eligibility criteria included: City of Alexandria resident, 18 years or older, household income at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI).**
- ▶ **More than 4,000 people applied to be one of 170 participants randomly selected to receive \$500 a month for 24 months.**



# Background Information

- ▶ Research questions include: How \$500 a month impacts mental and physical health, housing, food, transportation financial stability, labor market participation, and child outcomes
- ▶ Communication goals include narrative change regarding why people experience poverty: Amplifying the voices and centering the experiences of participants
- ▶ In the FY25 Budget process, City Council voted to extend ARISE payments for an additional 5 months, through June 2025, and maintain program infrastructure.

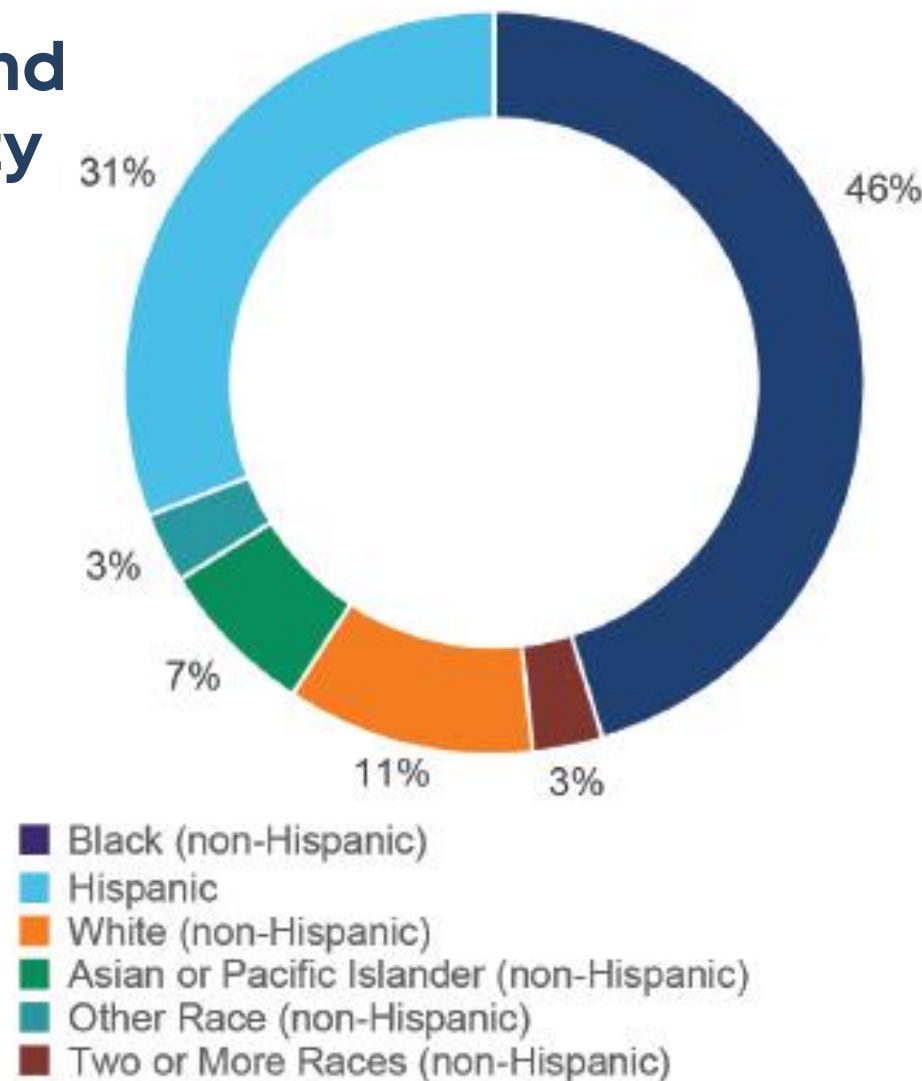




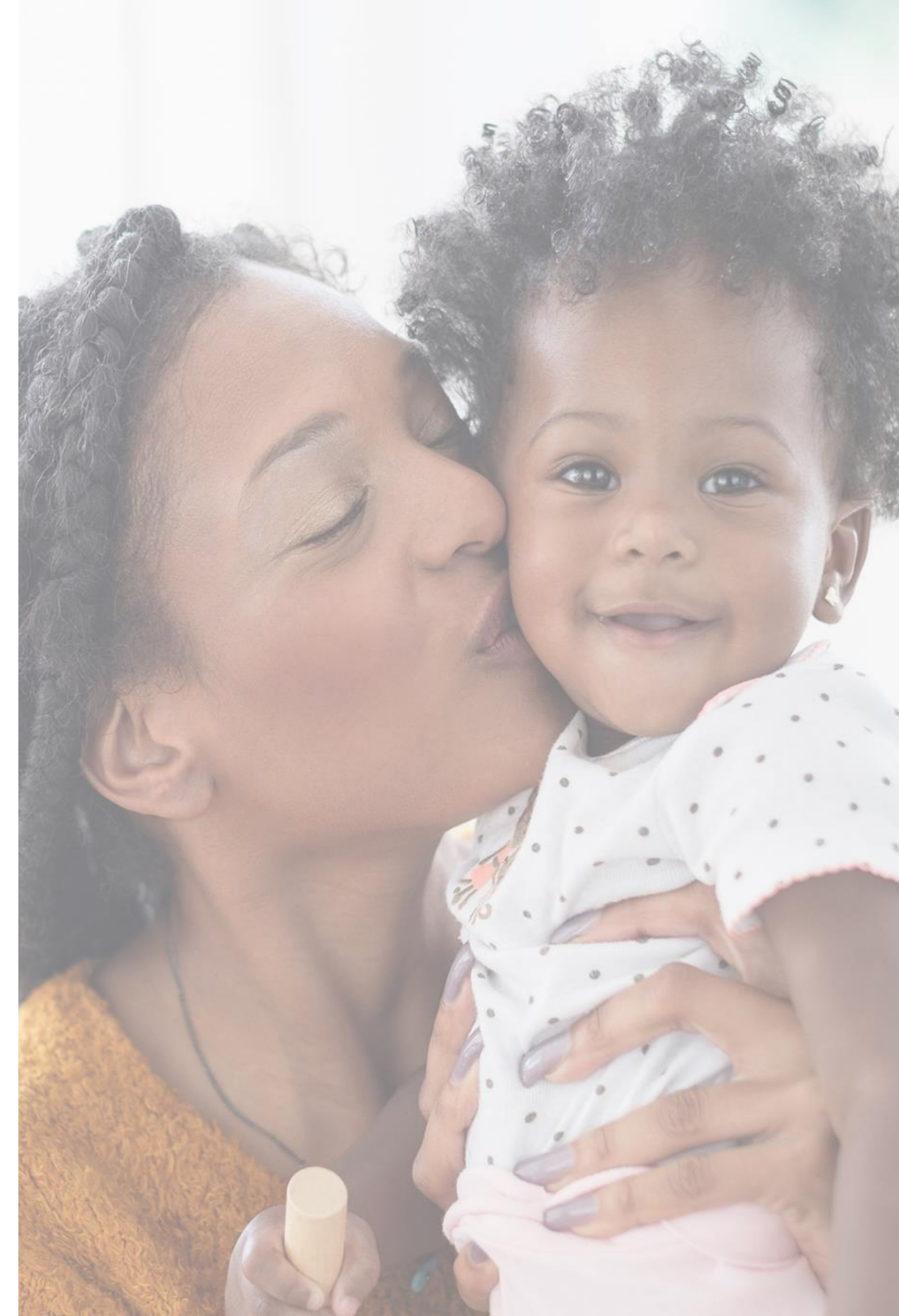
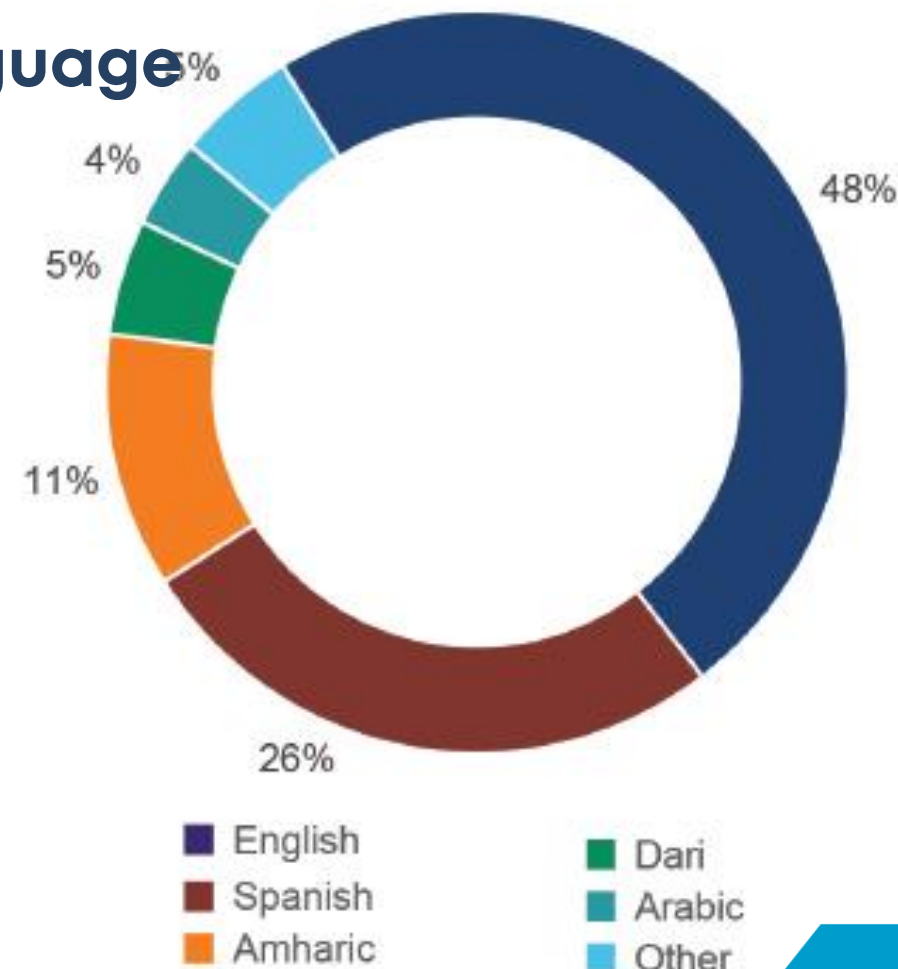
# Participant Demographics at Application

- ▶ Median household income was less than \$21,600 and 61% of participants reported receiving public assistance.
- ▶ 68% of participants are women, average age was 43 years old and over half (58%) live with children.

Race and Ethnicity



Language



Participant Snapshot



# Evaluation Highlights

*First year report completed by Abt Global.*

## ▶ **Key Findings:**

- ARISE participants reported improved mental well-being
  - ARISE participants show signs of improved financial stability
  - ARISE might have enabled participants to maximize wellbeing by working fewer hours and focusing on other responsibilities
  - Despite improvements from ARISE, participants still face challenges
- ▶ While participants reported improvements in key areas, Alexandria's high cost of living continues to be a challenge that might have limited participants' ability to save enough money to feel financially secure
- ▶ Final report will include results from an 18-month tracking survey, 24-month survey, an additional year of ethnographic data, and 30-month interviews reflecting on the conclusion of the pilot





# Participant Voices

Narrative change work includes using stories and data to illuminate why people experience poverty and the approaches, systems, and policies that improve equity and economic stability.

DCHS has received support to advance narrative change to include:

- ▶ Sharing of a series of stories about ARISE participants and their experiences receiving guaranteed income through multiple of channels.
- ▶ Creating video content of ARISE participants sharing their stories and the impact of ARISE on their lives.
- ▶ Launching a digital media campaign.



**Participant Voices**



# Funding Distribution Transition Plan

- ▶ **Experiences from other pilots suggest** that it may be easier for participants to prepare for the end of the program if payments decrease slowly over time.
- ▶ **ARISE Participants will choose the structure of the payments** during the five-month extension to maximize their psychological and financial wellbeing. They will also weigh-in on what other supports will be helpful in the months leading up to and after the final payment.
- ▶ **The two payment option structures include the same total amount of \$2,500:**

**Option 1:** Maintain current payment structure of \$500 a month

**Option 2:** Payments decrease by \$25 each month. Option 2 is structured as follows:

February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	TOTAL
\$475	\$450	\$425	\$400	\$750	\$2,500





# Contingency Fund Utilization

DCHS recommends the following budget for approval by Council to release the contingency funds:

Category	Explanation	Cost
Direct Costs, Payments to Participants	5 months= \$2500 per 170 participants	\$425,000
Fees for MoCaFi Payment Platform	4% of total funds disbursed	\$17,000
Operations	Personnel (2 positions) and Infrastructure	\$108,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$550,000</b>

**Contingency Fund**



# Next Steps

**DCHS staff continue to seek out possible partners and methods to pursue some type of targeted continuation of a guaranteed income model.**

Discussions with state, private, and federal entities have focused on prevention approaches, economic mobility models, and utilization of federal funds. There are no confirmed funding sources or partnerships at this time. Staff will continue to pursue these opportunities aggressively.