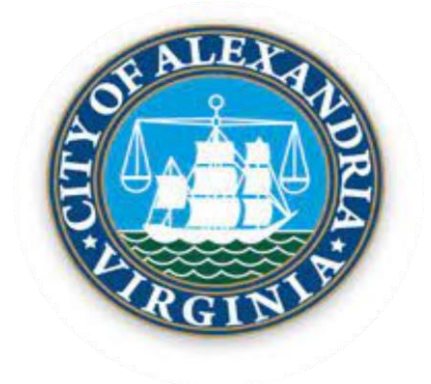




Alexandria's Recurring Income for Success and Equity (ARISE) Project

Department of Community and Human Services
City of Alexandria, Virginia
February 28, 2023



Why Guaranteed Income (GI) in Alexandria?

- ALL Alexandria Resolution commits to the adoption of practices and policies centered on creating and ensuring racial and social equity.
- GI is about giving people choice, autonomy and power to make decisions in their economic self-interest
- Supports three core principles for moving from poverty to economic mobility: Economic success, power and autonomy, and being valued in the community
- Opportunity to understand the impact of unconditional cash payments

ARISE Program Design

Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity

\$3 million dollar budget, ARPA funds, appropriated by City Council



\$500 monthly cash payment given directly to 170 individuals for 24 months



Eligibility Criteria: 18 years or older, City of Alexandria resident, household income at or below 50% AMI



Unconditional, no strings attached. Offers flexibility and autonomy



Supplements existing social safety net programs and services – rather than replaces



Participants have access to supportive service available to general public

Benefit Waivers

- Benefits counseling offered to all participants, using Atlanta Federal Reserve's Benefits Dashboard
 - Allows participants to understand exactly which of their existing benefits would be impacted by GI and by how much so they can make an informed decision regarding participation in ARISE
 - All participants signed informed consent
 - ARISE secured benefit waivers from the state for:
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Medicaid
 - Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - Childcare Subsidy
 - Waiver for City means tested programs
-
- No waivers from HUD for housing subsidies or SSA for Social Security Insurance (SSI)
 - Approximately 13% of participants receive a housing subsidy and 6% receive SSI

Research and Evaluation

- Conducting a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) evaluation including 170 treatment group and 210 control group participants
- Abt Associates (Abt) awarded contract through competitive RFP – COA is Abt’s eighth Guaranteed Income Pilot evaluation
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Community-based approach, Abt trains and mentors two, paid, Alexandria residents as Research Fellows who are the “face” of the research to participants
- Research focuses on impact of unconditional cash on physical and emotional well-being, housing and food security, financial stability, labor market participation, sense of hope and child outcomes



Research and Evaluation (continued)

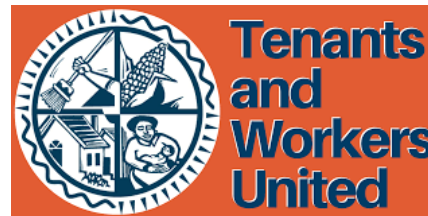
- Qualitative research includes interviews with 30 participants and Ethnography
- Ethnographic research focuses on impact of GI on single parents specifically
- Follows eight participants throughout project through interviews and in-person observations
- Allows City to understand *why* GI has the impact it does



Key Community Partners



**MAYORS FOR A
GUARANTEED
INCOME**



Outreach Efforts

Communication toolkit including fliers, postcards, posters, social media and email messages – translated into Spanish, Amharic and Arabic (Funded by ACT)

DCHS mailing to residents living in Qualified Census Tracts; ARHA mailing to residents

Subgrants to Neighborhood Health, Tenants and Workers United and African Communities Together for outreach and application support

Coordination with nonprofit and faith-based groups to access and utilize communication toolkit

Outreach Efforts (continued)



Fliers in ALIVE grocery bags, public libraries, Alexandria City Public Schools and posted around town



City of Alexandria website updates and press releases



Public information webinar with live interpretation in Spanish and Amharic



DASH bus posters



Many participants reported hearing and seeing information from multiple sources



Application Numbers

status	Amharic	Arabic	English	Spanish	Total
Incomplete	215	73	6645	955	7888
complete	114	26	3155	854	4149
% incomplete	65%	74%	68%	53%	66%
% complete	35%	26%	32%	47%	34%
Total	329	99	9800	1809	12037

Post Application Process

- ✓ Data cleaning and randomization process (Abt)
- ✓ Created notification and onboarding process (ARISE)
- ✓ Trained notification and onboarding staff (12/5/22)
- ✓ Began notification and onboarding (12/12/22)
- ✓ Completed notifications and onboarding (1/25/23)
- ✓ Mailed/distributed debit Mastercard (1/30/23)
- ✓ First payment to be disbursed (2/15/23)

Demographics of Participants

Gender: Male 32% | Female 68%

Race: White 25% | Black 41.8% | Asian 8.2% | Two or more 5.9% | LatinX 13.5% | Other 5.3%

Language Spoken at Home: Amharic 15.3% | Arabic 4.1% | Dari 6.5% | English 38.2% | Pashto 3.5% | Spanish 29.4% | Other 2.9%

Average Household Size: 2.8

Median Household Income: \$19,200

Average Age: 43

Zip Code: 22301 1.2% | 22302 2.9% | 22304 34.7% | 22305 20.6% | 22311 15.3% | 22312 12.9% | 22314 12.4%

The People and Voices Behind the Numbers

Small business owner, soon-to-be mom, lives with parents and boyfriend. "This will help with childcare costs so I can run my business"

"This will help me pay off debt I got during COVID and rebuild my credit."

Retired early during COVID after successful, high-level career. "Grateful but embarrassed" to need this support.

ARISE participants have many faces, voices and life circumstances

"I'm going to pay my rent with this money. This is a god-send"

Recent arrival, married, mother of two young kids. Building a new life in the City of Alexandria.

Unhoused for five years. Recently moved into housing with ARHA. Excited to get life back on track.

Single mom of one daughter. "Today is my daughter's birthday! I can't tell you what a gift this is for us."



Challenges

- No access to application pool data – caused frustration among applicants
- Received feedback from community that baseline survey included in application was long and intrusive (questions on mental health, financial health, sense of value in community)
- 14 people chose not to participate: 2 opted out for unknown reasons, 4 opted out because of benefits loss, 4 were not eligible, 4 did not respond to notification

What's Next?

- Centering voices of people with lived expertise
- Policy and systems change
- Transitioning pilot participants

Questions?



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