



City of West Hollywood Pilot for Guaranteed Income for Older Adults

What is guaranteed income?

Guaranteed income is a regular cash payment – no strings attached - provided to a specific group of people for a definite period of time.

What is a pilot for guaranteed income and why is it needed in West Hollywood?

A guaranteed income pilot is a way to test the impact of regular cash payments. West Hollywood is launching this pilot to explore whether guaranteed income is a way to help prevent homelessness, assist community members to age in place, reduce the stress of financial insecurity, and better understand the unique challenges older adult community members face.

Why an older adult pilot?

There are many pilots happening in cities and counties around the country all focusing on different populations. The City of West Hollywood is focusing on older adults living on a low income because of the statewide and local data that indicates older adults are facing great challenges, including high levels of poverty and increasing homelessness, related to financial insecurity. Please [click here](#) to learn more about the data, as well as the pilot's partners and funding sources.

What will be provided in the West Hollywood pilot and who is eligible?

The City of West Hollywood's pilot will provide \$1,000 a month for 18 months to 25 randomly selected people from the applicant pool who meet the following criteria:

- West Hollywood resident
- 50 years or older
- Living with an annual income of \$41,400 or less (based on "Very Low Income" category of 50% of the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Area Median Income (AMI) in L.A. County in 2021)

Process for potential participants:

- June 1, 2022 - Details about the pilot will be available at NCJW|LA.ORG/WHPGI, the official pilot website
- June 17, 2022 - The application period opens
- June 26, 2022 – The application period closes
- The application will be available at WWW.NCJWLA.ORG/WHPGI and assistance completing the application will be available by calling (323) 852-8500 ext. 650 or emailing WHPGI@NCJWLA.ORG
- June 27 - July 8, 2022 – The Center for Guaranteed Income Research at the University of Pennsylvania will conduct a randomized selection of participants from the applicant pool
- July 11 – July 22, 2022 - Selected participants will be notified by NCJW|LA staff; participants will then be provided with benefits counseling and enrolled in the pilot
- Sept 15, 2022 – First monthly cash payment will be distributed

Will there be an impact to a participant's public benefits as a result of receiving the cash payments?

- Pilot participants will be provided a benefits counseling session as part of the program onboarding process. The session will help participants understand the impact of the cash payments on their eligibility for other benefits they may already receive and then enable participants to make an informed decision about whether to participate in the pilot.
- There are various public benefits, and the eligibility/maintenance rules for many of them are complicated. Currently, there are no federal pilot waivers that exclude guaranteed income payments from being considered for SSI/SSDI eligibility or income limits; there are also restrictions/limitations on pilot waivers for certain state benefits.
- Public benefits that will be impacted by receiving a guaranteed income might not be worth relinquishing in order to join the pilot if the monthly amount of the pre-existing benefit is substantial, it is difficult to re-apply for that benefit, or the benefit is unlikely to be reinstated after the pilot's completion.

For more information about the pilot, please contact Diane Kahn-Epstein, City of West Hollywood Strategic Initiatives Program Administrator, at dkahnepstein@weho.org.