



Frequently Asked Questions

What is basic income?

Basic income is an unrestricted no strings attached monthly payment meant to supplement, not replace, the current social safety net. Having a steady guaranteed income reduces month-to-month income fluctuations and allows recipients to decide how they can best meet their personal needs.

What is UpLift - The Central Iowa Basic Income Pilot?

UpLift - The Central Iowa Basic Income Pilot, is a basic income demonstration taking place in Polk, Dallas, and Warren counties. This project will launch in February 2023, with first payments going to selected participants on May 15, 2023. Those selected will receive a monthly income payment of \$500 for 24 months. The purpose of the pilot is to study the impacts of a sustained monthly income on selected participants' health and well-being.

How do I apply?

You can apply by clicking the following link and filling out the survey.
www.UpLiftIowa.org/

Can more than one person from my household apply?

Unfortunately, only one person per household can apply and participate.

Do I need to be a permanent resident or a U.S. citizen to participate?

No, you do not need to be a permanent resident or a U.S. citizen to participate.

Do I need a bank account to participate?

No, you do not need a bank account to be able to participate. Selected participants will receive a reloadable prepaid debit card where they can access their funds.



How do I contact customer support?

The Project Coordination Team is here to help! To reach the Uplift team please, email Ashley.Ezzio@UpLiftIowa.org or Michael.Berger@UpLiftIowa.org, or call 515-612-8540 on Monday through Friday between 9AM – 5 PM.

How are individuals being selected to participate?

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Des Moines University will be conducting the randomization and selection of participants from the pool of applicants that were confirmed to be eligible. 110 participants will be randomly selected to receive the monthly income payment and 140 participants will be randomly selected to serve as the control group. Those in the control group will not receive the monthly income payments, but will be compensated for completing health and well-being surveys.

Are there requirements to keep receiving the monthly \$500?

No, once you are selected to be a participant of the study there are no additional requirements you need to complete or fulfill to receive the additional \$500 each month.

If selected, how will I receive the monthly income payment?

Selected participants will receive a prepaid debt card that will be reloaded each month with the \$500 payment. The card on which participants will receive their UpLift income payments works like a debit card. It can be used anywhere Visa and Mastercard debit cards are accepted. Individuals can make purchases, shop online, set up automatic payments to pay bills, and use the functions of online banking.

Those selected to receive the monthly income payment can use their card to get cash back when making purchases or withdrawing cash at ATMs. Purchases that exceed the available balance will not be approved. In rare circumstances, if a purchase results in a negative balance, individuals will not be charged an overdraft fee. It is important for individuals to know their balance before making purchases. Using online banking and the mobile app makes knowing current balances easy and simple. UpLift staff will assist participants in accessing these services.

Does the money need to be spent a certain way?

No, the \$500 monthly income payments can be spent anyway the participants see fit to meet their needs. Since the payment is unrestricted, participants have the flexibility to use their payments based on what they need most from month to month.



Will I be required to report how I spend the money?

No, you will not be required to report how you spend the money. Data on spending patterns will be collected to understand how people make use of the monthly income payment, but it will not be traceable to any of the participants.

Will I need to report the \$500 monthly payments on my taxes?

No, you will not need to report the monthly income payments on your taxes. UpLift payments will be characterized under the IRS's "charitable gift status" which is non-taxable and only needs to be reported to the IRS if individuals receive \$16,000 or more in one year. Because the UpLift benefit will amount to \$6,000 per year, individuals will only need to report this income payment if they receive additional cash/asset gifts outside of the pilot, totaling \$10,000 or more (per year) while participating in this pilot study.

Will the additional \$500 each month impact my eligibility for receiving other public benefits?

Some public benefits programs, Supplemental Security Income, Child Care Assistance, and others have income requirements that count cash gifts as "countable income". This means that UpLift's income payments may affect benefit levels or eligibility. Many times, this question can only be answered on a case-by-case basis. Selected participants will undergo benefits counseling when onboarded so they can make an informed decision on their participation in the pilot study.

For a brief overview of benefits impacts, please see the UpLift Benefit Impact Guide.

What is the timeline for the pilot?

UpLift is scheduled to launch participant recruitment in February 2023. Selected participants will receive their first payments on May 15, 2023. The monthly payments will continue for two years. A final evaluation report will be completed in Spring 2026.

How is the pilot being funded?

The project is partially funded by federal funds under the Corona Virus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. In addition to donations from public, private, philanthropic, and non-profit organizations.



How will the research study work? What is being measured?

The University of Pennsylvania will be the lead research team working together with Des Moines University to conduct the randomized controlled trial that will study the impacts of a sustained basic income on recipients' health and well-being. Over the course of two years, selected participants will be sent periodic optional surveys that will collect data on indicators associated with physical health, mental health, employment status, housing conditions, work and school absenteeism, and social connectedness. Research on participant time will be collected using a time study app to identify how participants are spending their time, especially as it relates to caregiving activities that are often unpaid. General data on spending patterns will be tracked to learn more about how people decide how to use their monthly income payments. All data will be reported as a group and will not be traceable to any of the participants involved in the study.

How will my information be used?

The information collected in the application will only be used to determine an applicant's eligibility. Survey responses will be used to identify changes in physical health, mental health, employment status, housing conditions, work and school absenteeism, and social connectedness. These responses will be analyzed by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Des Moines University to inform the local and national conversation about how basic income programs can improve community well-being. None of the information provided will be traceable back to any of the participants.

The application asks very personal questions about my life. Why do you want to know things like how I identify, how I feel, or what my finances are like?

The application is designed by researchers at the Center for Guaranteed Income Research—the questions are chosen because they will help build a better understanding of the impact that finances may have on our well-being and everyday lives. There are many unanswered questions about how guaranteed income works—including whom it works for, and what effects it can have. Learning more about the answers to these questions will help us build better policies and programs in the future. The information you share will never be linked to you directly and it will be de-identified before it is analyzed, so your information will remain confidential and private.



I didn't get a confirmation e-mail or text, was my application received?

Successfully completing the application should get you to a final screen that reads:

We thank you for the time spent completing this application survey! This message confirms that your application has been received and recorded. You will not receive confirmation other than this message. If you need a copy for your records, please screenshot or take a picture of this page. If you are selected to participate in the study, you will be contacted at a later date. For more information and updates, please visit the pilot website [here](#).

¡Le agradecemos el tiempo dedicado a completar esta encuesta de solicitud! Este mensaje confirma que su solicitud ha sido recibida y registrada. No recibirá ninguna confirmación más que este mensaje. Si necesita una copia para sus registros, haga una captura de pantalla o tome una foto de esta página.

Si es seleccionado para participar en el estudio, será contactado en una fecha posterior. Para obtener más información y actualizaciones, visite el sitio web piloto [aquí](#).

As long as you saw that screen, you have been entered into the random selection process! Because the information you shared in the application is protected and confidential, the program partners, including UpLift, are not allowed to know who has applied for the pilot—only the independent research team at the Center for Guaranteed Income Research has access to that information right now.

I finished my application and it was recorded, what happens now?

The applications are processed by independent researchers at the Center for Guaranteed Income Research at the University of Pennsylvania to make sure there are no duplications and that all entries meet the UpLift eligibility criteria.

- Once the applications are cleaned, they are then randomized to ensure no bias. You will end up in one of two groups:
 - Recipients: people who will receive the monthly cash and will be eligible to participate in compensated surveys so we can learn more about guaranteed income;
 - Control participants: people who will not receive the monthly cash, but who will be eligible to earn gift cards by taking research surveys during the pilot so we can learn more about central Iowa and our residents' needs; and



- Non-participants who are not a part of the study and will not be contacted in the future.

How will I know if I've been chosen to participate?

Staff working with UpLift will start contacting recipient participants to notify them as soon as the random selection process has been completed.

I haven't heard from anyone, does this mean I haven't been chosen?

UpLift will be updating this website once all notifications are complete. If you check the website and it says we have finished notifications to participants, but you have not been contacted, then you have not been selected to participate.

Why won't I get notification if I am NOT selected?

The information you shared through the application can only be used for research purposes, so the program team for UpLift is not allowed to have access to the data for non-selected individuals. This means we can't contact you to tell you if you haven't been chosen to participate. Check this website to stay up to date on the notification process.

If someone submits more than one application, does that increase their chances of getting selected?

No, researchers at the Center for Guaranteed Income Research will remove duplicate entries before randomly selecting participants. Multiple entries won't increase the likelihood that someone is selected.

I want to start the application over but when I open the link, it takes me back to where I left off. What should I do?

Clear all cookies and your browser history or open the survey in a private browsing window.