

MAY 15, 2023

UpLift News

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME AND THANK YOU!

Project Coordination Staff - Ashley Ezzio and Michael Berger

Welcome to the first quarterly UpLift Newsletter. We're glad you're here to follow the journey of this basic income pilot!

Today marks many firsts, with the 110 UpLift participants receiving their first \$500 monthly income payment! This first payment officially kicks off two years of payments and a three-year community learning opportunity, dedicated to providing Central Iowa with critical data-informed discussions focused on reducing poverty and improving well-being.

The UpLift team would like to express a sincere thank you to the over 6,000 applicants who applied to be part of this opportunity. It is clear Central Iowans are dedicated to using their voice and experience to find innovative strategies to help our community thrive.

This true collaboration would not have been possible without the support and expertise of over 52 community partners and 11 funding entities. Thank you to our partners for spreading the word about UpLift and ensuring many eligible Iowans had the opportunity to be considered for the study. Your support and outreach is evident in our first publication, Meet the Participants, where we highlight how UpLift participants represent the diversity of the tri-county area. Keep reading to learn more about who is participating in this pilot.

Our gratitude continues with a thank you to our randomly selected participants. Sharing your life experiences with our research team and the community is a courageous action. Your voice brings to light not only your family's unique needs, but the struggles and achievements of your neighbors. While we know the need for flexible income assistance goes beyond 110 families, the opportunity to explore basic income in Iowa is the first step toward informing sustainable solutions for financial stability in our community.

We are excited to continue sharing information about the Central Iowa pilot and to host community conversations on basic income and related issues in our community. If not already, be sure to follow along by subscribing to this newsletter and sharing with your colleagues and friends.



110
participants



\$500
per month



24
months




MEET OUR PARTICIPANTS



37
average age



85%
female



4
average number of people in household, with an average of two children per household



9
languages spoken*
Arabic, English, Farsi, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Nuer, Pashto, Spanish, Swahili

Between February 17- 27, over 6,000 Central Iowans applied to be one of the 110 randomly selected individuals for the basic income pilot study. Those selected to receive the monthly payments were notified throughout March and April and attended an onboarding session that involved a detailed overview of the project, specifics about their payments, and if needed, a counseling session to examine any impacts to receiving public benefits. The UpLift team is excited to introduce an overview of the participants who will be sharing their experiences to determine the impacts of basic income in Central Iowa.

Overall, selected participants reflect the diverse communities living within Polk, Dallas, and Warren counties. Eighty-one percent of participants live in Polk County, 10% live in Dallas County, and 9% live in Warren County. Participants live in 20 different communities throughout the three counties. It was important that all of Central Iowa's geographical areas were represented in the study sample to inform how a basic income model works in different community settings. As a result, 10% of participants live in a rural area, 25% live in a micropolitan area, and 65% live in a metropolitan area, mirroring the population demographics of our tri-county study area.

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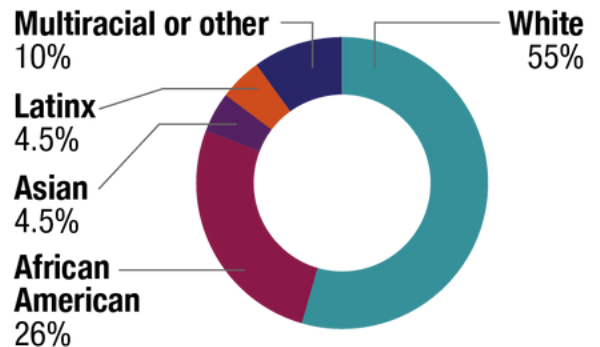
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MEET OUR PARTICIPANTS



Race



Source: Baseline Applicant Survey

Participants also reflect the diverse make-up of the tri-county area. The majority of participants identify as White (55%), followed by Black or African American (26%), Asian (4.5%), Latinx (4.5%), and multi-racial or another race (10%). As for ethnicity, 19% identified as having Hispanic or Latino origin and 81% identified as not being Hispanic or Latino. A breadth of languages – 9 total – are spoken among the participant group. EveryStep and ¡Al Éxito! served as key experts to provide equitable outreach and interpretation services for those who needed support while applying.

While identified as low-income most UpLift participants are working, with the average household income being just above \$24,000 a year. Despite a majority of participants working full-time, participants are still spending, on average, 44% of their income on rent or housing costs. According to United Way of Central Iowa (United Way of Central Iowa OpportUNITY Housing), someone is considered “housing burdened” if they spend more than 30% of their income on rent or housing costs. This illustrates how constrained participants may be in making decisions about meeting their basic living needs.



RECRUITMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Support from many community partners led to successful recruitment and engagement in the pilot. Such a response – 6,000 total applicants – also demonstrates what our community is capable of accomplishing when we come together with a common purpose.

To reach eligible individuals, the UpLift team’s primary recruitment strategy was to work through the established networks and relationships of community organizations and those they serve. Partner organizations received appropriate resources and materials needed to tell their clients about the pilot. To ensure all interested eligible individuals had the opportunity to apply and to include experiences of diverse community members, recruitment materials were made available in 10 different languages: English, Spanish, Swahili, Burmese, Pashto, Somali, Nepali, Karen, Arabic, and Vietnamese. Interviews with organizations and data from community partners informed the selection of languages. To bolster support and engagement with the effort, the UpLift project coordination team held information sessions with partner organizations’ staff that gave an in-depth look at the pilot’s design and its recruitment process.



Community Learning တစ်စိတ်တစ်ပိုင်းမှာ ပါဝင်ဖို့ လျှောက်ထားပါ။

UpLift – Central Iowa Basic Income Pilot သည် လစဉ် \$500 ရရှိရန် ကျန်းမာရေးချယ်ခြင်းဖြင့် လူ 110 ကို ရွာရွေးနေသည်။ ရည်ရွယ်ချက်မှာ ကန့်သတ်မရှိပဲ အခြေခံဝင်ငွေ 24 လအတွက် ဘယ်လို အကျိုးဆက်များကို လေ့လာရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ ဝင်ငွေပေးပေးမှုအား မည်ကဲ့သို့ခံယူမည်ကို ကန့်သတ်ချက်မရှိပါ။ ရွေးချယ်ခံရသူများသည် ဝင်ငွေခံယူလိုအပ်ချက်များကို အကောင်းဆုံးဖြည့်ဆည်းရန် ငွေကို အမေ့သုံးနိုင်သည်။

ဘာတွေ့သိဖို့ လိုအပ်သလဲ?

- ရွေးချယ်ပါက တစ်ဦးချင်းစီကို အုပ်စုနှစ်စု တစ်ခုစီ ကျန်းမာရေးပေးမည်ဖြစ်သည်။ အဖွဲ့တစ်ဖွဲ့သည် လစဉ်ဝင်ငွေသက်သာ 500 ရရှိမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး အခြားအုပ်စုမှာ ပေးဆောင်မည်မဟုတ်ပါ။ အဖွဲ့နှစ်ဖွဲ့စလုံးသည် သူတို့သောဘာသာ ဝင်ငွေတို့၏ဘဝအတွက်အကြံများနှင့် ရံဖန်ရံခါအပ်ချက်များအကြောင်း အချက်ကြီးသော အချက်အလက်များကို ပုံမှန်ပေးမည်ဖြစ်သည်။
- သင်ကိုယ်ရေးကိုယ်တာသည် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့အတွက် အရေးကြီးပါသည်။ ဤ application နှင့် pilot project တစ်ခုစီ စုဆောင်းရရှိထားသော အချက်အလက်အားလုံးသည် သီးသန့်ထားမည်ဖြစ်သည်။
- လျှောက်ထားရန် ဘတ်အကောင့် လွှဲပြောင်းချေပေးမှု (SSN) သို့မဟုတ် တစ်ဦးချင်း အခြေခံဝင်ငွေ သက်သေခံနံပါတ် (ITIN) မလိုအပ်ပါ။
- လျှောက်လွှာဖြည့်ပြီးနောက် 25-30 မိနစ်ခန့်ကြာလိမ့်မည်။

ဤအဖွဲ့အစည်း အတွက် စဉ်းစားရန် လိုအပ်သည်။

- 18 နှစ်နှင့်အထက်ဖြစ်ရမည်။
- Polk, Dallas သို့မဟုတ် Warren ကောင်တီတွင် နေထိုင်ပါ။
- အသက် 25 နှစ်အထိ ဖြစ်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- အောက်ဖော်ပြပါအတိုင်း သို့မဟုတ် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ အိမ်ထောင်စုဝင်ငွေရှိရမည်။

60% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

| လူဦးရေ | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| တစ်နှစ်စဉ် | \$47,280 | \$53,190 | \$59,100 | \$63,828 | \$68,556 | \$73,284 | \$78,012 |
| တစ်လ ဝင်ငွေ | \$3,940 | \$4,433 | \$4,925 | \$5,319 | \$5,713 | \$6,107 | \$6,501 |

Table Source: Common Good Iowa, Cost of Living in Iowa 2022 *ဝင်ငွေသည် အဖွဲ့မချွတ်ခင်ကန့် တွက်သည်။

This allowed local community-based organizational partners to be ambassadors themselves for the study and help build trust among their clientele regarding the effort. A secondary recruitment strategy utilized advertisements in other media forms, such as newspapers, radio stations, and social media platforms across the tri-county study area, with the goal of reaching community members who were not well connected with social services and community resources. Multicultural radio stations and social media accounts were also used to expand the reach of recruitment messages into diverse racial and ethnic communities.



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