



3rd Annual POVERTY INNOVATION SUMMIT

Solutions Circle Recap

Let's Boost the Economic Security of Families: Guaranteed Income

Every resident of Franklin County, regardless of race, income, or zip code, deserves to thrive. However, economic instability remains a significant challenge for many, hindering their ability to meet basic needs and achieve prosperity.

This session focused on the movement for guaranteed income and its potential to enhance economic security for families. It was co-facilitated by Will Petrik, Director of Policy & Advocacy at RISE Together Innovation Institute, and Christina Ratleff, former Executive Director of the Columbus Women's Commission. This is a summary of the information shared in the session.

RISE Together Innovation Institute

RISE Together's mission is to harness the collective power of people and systems to disrupt structural racism and issues of poverty to achieve equity for all residents in Franklin County.

Long-Term Goals for People in Franklin County (defined by attendees)

What does **thriving** mean to you?



What does **economic security** mean to you?



The Challenge

- o **Economic Instability:** In 2022, an estimated 243,000 residents in Franklin County lived at or below 125% of the federal poverty level.¹ For a family of 3, that's at or below \$31,075 annually.²
- o **Low Wages:** Many common jobs in Central Ohio (fast food, retail, home health aides, cashiers) do not pay family-sustaining wages. 95,000 local residents work low-wage jobs.³
- o **Corporate Price Gouging:** Rising costs due to corporate price gouging further strain residents' ability to afford essentials like groceries, fuel, and utilities.

¹ '(Franklin County) Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months,' U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701, 2022, accessed on March 2, 2024, <https://bit.ly/45t2uNC>
² '2023 Poverty Guidelines: 48 Contiguous States (all states except Alaska and Hawaii),' US Dept of Health and Human Services, accessed on June 17, 2024, <https://bit.ly/4b88QTN>
³ Michael Shields and Bryce Springfield, 'Still working for too little in Columbus,' Policy Matters Ohio, based on May 2022 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), accessed on March 2, 2023, <https://bit.ly/4cr1yv>

The Cost of Growing Up in Poverty

- **Maternal and Child Health:** Economic insecurity and related stress adversely affect maternal and infant health, leading to outcomes like preterm birth, low birth weight, and developmental issues in children.
- **Long-Term Effects:** Poverty and toxic stress negatively impact early childhood development, affecting learning abilities, behavior, and overall health.⁴ Children who spend most of their lives in poverty before age 18 have an over 90% chance of experiencing poverty as an adult.⁵
- **Disproportionate Impact:** Black residents disproportionately experience poverty and economic insecurity. A history of discriminatory policies has limited Black communities' access to wealth-building, education, jobs, and housing opportunities.

When families have adequate resources, children are healthier, perform better in school, and earn higher incomes over their lifetimes. Economic security policies significantly enhance the well-being of families.

Guaranteed Income

A Guaranteed Income is a monthly supplemental payment given directly to individuals - no strings attached and no work requirements. Guaranteed income is meant to supplement, rather than replace, people's current income. It's also meant to supplement existing public economic security programs, and it is being piloted in cities across the country as a strategy to improve racial and gender equity.

The Impact of Guaranteed Income Pilots

- **Expanded Child Tax Credit:** The temporary expanded Child Tax Credit provided significant relief to 1.2 million Ohio families, reducing child poverty to a record low and helping families manage rising costs.⁶
- **Minneapolis, MN Pilot:** The first year of the pilot program, which provided \$500 monthly to low-income households, resulted in reduced stress, increased financial stability, less hunger, and improved housing stability.⁷
- **Jackson, MS:** 130 Black mothers with an average annual income of \$11,300 received \$1,000 a month. The result was a significant boost in participants' ability to pay all their bills – increasing from 37% to 80% of participants after the first year. After the second year, participants were 48% more likely to have some money saved for emergencies.⁸

⁴ Clancy Blair, PhD, MPH and C. Cybele Raver, PhD, "Poverty, Stress, and Brain Development: New Directions for Prevention and Intervention," *Acad Pediatr*, Apr 16, 2016, <https://bit.ly/3xg7YPI>

⁵ Danielle Sydnor and Rob Moore, "Poverty in Franklin County," prepared for the RISE Together Innovation Institute by Scioto Analysis, accessed on June 1, 2024, <https://bit.ly/4cLebCh>

⁶ Kalee Burns, Liana Fox and Danielle Wilson, "Expansions to Child Tax Credit Contributed to 46% Decline in Child Poverty Since 2020," US Census Bureau, September 13, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3VHMoNo>; Leah Hamilton, Stephen Roll, Mathieu Despard, et al., "The impacts of the 2021 expanded child tax credit on family employment, nutrition, and financial well-being," Brookings Institution, the Global Economy and Development Program, April 2022, <https://bit.ly/3RTxvFd>

⁷ Andrew Goodan-Bacon, Ryan Nunn, Vanessa Palmer, "One year of basic income in Minneapolis: Experimental findings show how a stable source of income helps households," Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, January 18, 2024, <https://bit.ly/3SWTIBP>

⁸ "The Invaluable Benefits of Investing in Black Women," The Magnolia Mother's Trust, Springboard to Opportunities, accessed on June 1, 2024, <https://bit.ly/3LBCBIF>

Narrative and Policy Change

We must build a new narrative to advance policy change. Guaranteed income is a viable strategy to promote economic stability and well-being for residents in Franklin County. By advocating for change, participants can help create a more equitable Central Ohio.

Harmful, Dominant Narratives	Let's Build a New Narrative
Personal responsibility. We must eliminate "waste, fraud and abuse." The "welfare queen" stereotype (focus on the individual). Poor people can't be trusted.	Trust each other. We're all doing our best and working hard to support our families. We trust you to make the best decisions for your family.
Self-sufficiency. We must eliminate "dependency" on government assistance. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps (focus on the individual)	Interdependence. We need each other. We've all needed help from a friend, family member, or teacher. We all have a role to play. We got your back.
Welfare to work. You are only deserving of support if you are working (work requirements); work is the goal, even if it's low-wage work and doesn't sustain a family.	Dignity for All. All of us, regardless of race, income, or zip code, should be able to live with a foundation of economic security and stability. Economic security is the goal.

Take Action Today

Participants were encouraged to:

1. **Join the movement** to boost economic security and launch a guaranteed income pilot.
2. Engage in conversations about economic security and the benefits of guaranteed income.
3. Think and talk differently about the work to build a new narrative around trust, interdependence, and dignity for all people.

The 3rd Annual Poverty Innovation Summit hosted by RISE Together Innovation Institute took place on Thursday, June 20th, 2024 in Columbus, OH. Learn more about RISE Together at rtiico.org.