

## Level Up – Mayors Guaranteed Income Project Research & Evaluation Plan

**Research & Evaluation Overview:** In partnership with City of Mount Vernon, Abt Associates is the research partner that has been selected by the Mayor’s for Guaranteed Income Coalition to work on Mount Vernon’s Guaranteed Income Study. Abt Associates will execute a randomized controlled trial to determine the impacts of guaranteed income on the overall health and well-being of recipients. The trial will enroll 200 families to receive the \$500.00 monthly unconditional cash transfer, and 275 households to serve as a control group of households not receiving funding but who will also complete the research surveys.

**Sampling:** City of Mount Vernon will employ a targeted universal model for participant selection, with the following selection criteria: over the age of 18, residence in a neighborhood identified as being at or below CBDG annual income limit, in a single person household that falls at or below CBDG minimum income, in a household with two or more persons that falls at or below 80% CBDG Annual Income, have been financially negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and not concurrently participating in another GI program. The selection process will occur in Spring/Summer 2022.

**Recruitment and Onboarding:** City of Mount Vernon will publicize a locally hosted website containing an application survey at [Level Up - MGI Pilot](#). The survey will be provided and hosted by CGIR. At the close of the application window, CGIR will verify inclusion criteria and randomly assign 200 applicants to the participation (treatment) condition and 275 applicants to the control condition. CGIR will provide the city of Mount Vernon with a list of 200 applicants to participate in the project. The city of Mount Vernon program manager will be responsible for contacting and enrolling participants in the guaranteed income program. CGIR will be responsible for notifying applicants of their assignment to the control group. The treatment group will participate in an onboarding session to determine potential interaction with other safety net benefits. This onboarding process will be completed in an individual session with each participant. The start date for the pilot program is Spring/Summer 2022.

**Data Collection:** Each participant may choose to engage in research activities. However, participation in research activities is not necessary to receive the \$500 per month. Research activities entail completing an online survey given every six months at six time points: 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months, 36 months, and 42 months after enrollment. Participants will be provided a \$30.00 gift card as compensation for their time completing the surveys. The core survey will include measures like physical health, mental health, income volatility, housing stability, spending, consumption, employment, education, family dynamics and parenting, stress and coping, hope and mattering, household food security, and COVID-19 variables. Other instruments specific to the local context may be added to this core survey. Participants will also be invited to participate in in-depth interviews with CGIR staff. These interviews should be completed twice during the course of the program and are compensated at \$30.00 per interview.

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**Reporting:** The City of Mount Vernon and associated stakeholders will receive a final report of all findings of the local research project 12 months after the final data collection point. Additionally, the city of Mount Vernon will be provided an online dashboard showing demographic and spending data of program participants. This public dashboard will be updated quarterly.