



CITY OF OAKLAND

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COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR  
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**AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

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Date: May 20, 2021  
To: Oakland City Councilmembers  
From: Councilmember Loren Taylor  
Subject: Guaranteed Income Support

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Colleagues on the Council:

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we will collectively decide if we are going to continue business as usual or if we will instead use this experience as an opportunity to sharpen our focus on addressing the economic inequities faced by Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) community members. While not new, one solution that is quickly gaining momentum and support is providing a guaranteed income (GI) or universal basic income (UBI) to low income residents.

Several GI or UBI pilots are being planned and explored for Oakland residents including Oakland Resilient Families, which was announced in March 2021 to eliminate racial wealth inequities and is a coordinated effort from Oakland Thrives and The Families Independence Initiative. In addition, Oakland's Human Services Department is exploring a guaranteed income program for homeless transitional aged youth (ages 18-24) with the goals of increased housing stability, increased income, and increased health. Oaklanders also would benefit from the \$35M dedicated to Universal Basic Income pilots in California Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed 2021-22 state budget.

Several other cities have already launched successful cash transfer programs including the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) program initiated by Mayor Michael Tubbs. Since the successful launch of that program, which has produced valuable data, several other cities have started their own guaranteed income pilot programs including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Compton and Marin County.

City Council adoption of this Resolution supporting the study and implementation of guaranteed cash transfer payments would encourage the implementation of such programs in Oakland, encourage further investment by government and non-governmental organizations, and help add to the necessary body of evidence to support state and federal programs. Currently, there is proposed state legislation on universal basic income and unconditional cash transfer payments including Assembly Bills 1338 and 65 from Assembly Member Low, and Senate Bill 739 from Senator Cortese.



I am encouraged that the City of Oakland staff has already begun considering guaranteed income programs as a solution for addressing the needs of homeless youth and strongly believe that we should support staff efforts to creatively address the economic challenges faced by our low-income neighbors.

I, respectfully request your support of this Resolution to encourage the implementation of guaranteed income pilot programs in Oakland.

Yours in service of Oakland,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loren Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Loren Taylor  
Councilmember District 6