

# Universal Basic Income for Transition Age Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Board of Supervisors

April 21, 2020

Item 21

# What is Universal Basic Income?

- Universal Basic Income (UBI) as a concept has some or all the following five key features:
  - **Unconditional:** A basic income may vary with age, but with no other conditions.
  - **Automatic:** Basic income would be automatically paid.
  - **Non-withdrawable:** Basic incomes would not be means-tested. Whether someone's earnings increase, decrease, or stay the same, their basic income will not change.
  - **Individual:** Basic incomes would be paid on an individual basis and not based on household status.
  - **As a right:** Every citizen receives a basic income.

# Elements to Consider

Key program elements to address during the UBI pilot:

- Impact on other benefits
- Duration
- Desired outcomes, metrics and evaluation
- Target population
- Income thresholds and/or other conditional requirements
- Policy and economic impacts

# Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs)

*Fiscal Year 19*

- Age 18-21 years old
- 45% female, 55% male
- 40% White, 22% Hispanic, 14% Black, 8.5% Asian/Pacific Islander)
- Predominantly English-speaking (82%)
  - 18% Spanish-speaking
- Missing 91% is school /education data
- 67% receiving assistance through SSA programs (e.g., GA, CalWORKS, Adoption Assistance, KinGAP)
  - Mean of \$19,033 of benefits issued (max of \$93,000) to NMDs\*
  - 5% receiving some unearned income (e.g., unemployment benefits) with a mean value of \$750

*\*may also receive \$1,000 a month, if living independently, which is not included in above numbers*

# Recommendation

- 60 Transition Age Youth aging out of foster care
  - 22 to 24 years old
- June 2020 through May 2021
- \$1,000 monthly
- No control group
- Participatory Research model
  - Robust Intake Questionnaire
  - Check-in every three months

# Potential Public/Private Partnerships

- Interest in basic income concepts from prominent philanthropists in the Bay Area and nationwide
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation supported Stockton UBI demonstration project
- Initial conversations with philanthropists; if pilot project approved by the Board, Administration will continue researching and connecting with potential philanthropic partners

# Conclusion

- Next Steps
- Questions?