

Date: February 21, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Bo Martinez, Director of Economic Development



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Baseline Survey and Dashboard**

On March 16, 2021, the City Council approved the Long Beach Recovery Act (LB Recovery Act), becoming one of the first major cities to approve a COVID-19 recovery program utilizing federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The LB Recovery Act has over 80 programs, including the Long Beach Pledge, the City's guaranteed income pilot program.

The Long Beach Pledge pilot provides \$500 a month for twelve months to 250 families with children who live in the 90813 zip code, are below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Line, and have one income earner for their household. The pilot also included a baseline evaluation study to provide meaningful insight into the needs and challenges faced by some of Long Beach's households living in poverty. The California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Research Foundation has completed a preliminary analysis of participant data for the Long Beach Pledge. Results of the evaluation indicate that participants are facing food and housing insecurity, with over 25 percent of families responding that they are at risk of eviction and over 50 percent responding that they have trouble paying for food.

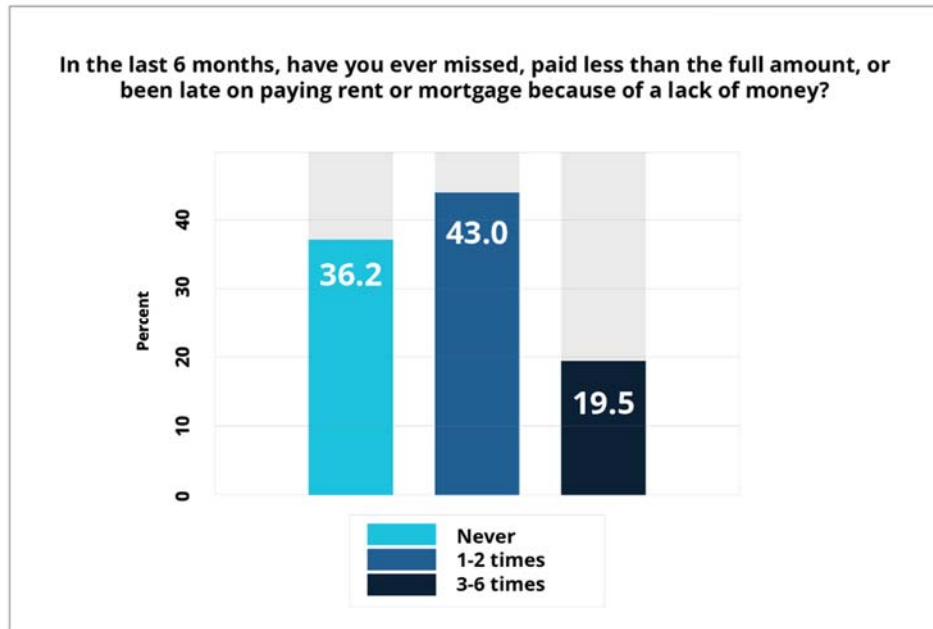
The baseline survey went out to eligible single-parent families with children, who submitted applications to participate in the pilot and prior to being notified if they had been selected. To maximize response rates, incentive payments of \$50 via a digital Master E-Card were offered for each completed survey.

The Economic Development Department is managing the pilot in partnership with implementation partner, Fund for Guaranteed Income (F4GI), and evaluation partner, CSULB. F4GI has managed the program application and enrollment process and disburses monthly payments to participants via four payment options. CSULB is conducting a randomized controlled trial study on the pilot, collecting data through three surveys, including the baseline survey and qualitative interviews to evaluate the program's impact on single-parent families.

The preliminary report, available in its entirety on the [Long Beach Pledge Dashboard](#) provides insights from the first of three surveys to be conducted through this research. More data and results will be shared with the community as it becomes available. The CSULB research team states in the report that, "Overall, the Long Beach Guaranteed Income Pilot preliminary survey paints a picture of stressed but resourceful parents doing the best they can to care for their families in difficult financial circumstances."

Survey responses indicate that a majority of participants are Black and Hispanic/Latinx single mothers with one to two children in their care and face several vulnerabilities due to a lack of financial resources. Respondents reported struggling to pay monthly rent/mortgage on time, with 62.5 percent sharing that they had made incomplete or late payments (often multiple times) in the

six months prior to being surveyed, as seen in the bar graph listed below. More than a quarter of respondents (27.5 percent) had been threatened with eviction, served an eviction notice, and/or evicted during the last six months. Food security was also identified as an ongoing challenge, with over one-third (35.6 percent) of respondents reporting that they often lacked enough food for everyone in their household.



The mid-pilot survey and first round of qualitative interviews were completed in November-December 2023. Preliminary results from these data will be added to the dashboard as they become available in 2024. Similar surveys and interviews will also be completed for the second cohort of program participants opening in 2024. Preliminary results from this second cohort will also be displayed on the dashboard as reports are completed by CSULB.

For questions, please contact Courtney Chatterson, Business Development Office, at (562) 668-1019.

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