



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 6, 2022

**Contact:** Syretta Hill, Executive Director, StepUp Durham, [syretta@stepupdurham.org](mailto:syretta@stepupdurham.org)

## **New Data Dashboard Finds Excel Helps Recipients Afford Basic Necessities**

*Recurring, unconditional cash payments alleviate costs of basic necessities and make participants more economically resilient.*

**DURHAM, NC** - Today, the initial spending and demographic results of Excel, Durham's guaranteed income pilot were rolled out as part of a major, nationwide step forward for the guaranteed income movement.

[Mayors for a Guaranteed Income](#)'s new [data dashboard](#) shows that in Durham and around the country, families are using their need-based cash payments to cover necessities in an uncertain economy — providing them with the opportunity, freedom and resilience they need to build financial security.

Excel is a guaranteed income pilot project that provides 109 formerly-incarcerated individuals, with an unconditional cash payment of \$600 per month over the course of 12 months.

Initial data from Excel shows:

- The majority of the funds were spent on basic necessities like food, household goods, and transportation.
  - 48.75% of the funds were spent at retailers and discount superstores on things like food, clothes, household goods and hygiene products.
  - 19.02% was spent at grocery stores.
  - 12.82 % was spent on transportation costs like gas and car repair.
  - 4.53% went to housing and utilities.
  - Other expenses included loan repayments, medical expenses and tuition.

- Guaranteed income pilot programs are an effective tool to improve racial and gender equity. The programs were not targeted by race or gender, yet the funds reached higher proportions of women and people of color because systemic racism and sexism makes it harder for them to achieve financial freedom.
  - 25.96% of participants were women, 73.09% men, 0.1% other.
  - 83.65% of participants were African American.
  - 2.88% identified as Hispanic.
  - 5.77% were of mixed descent.
  - 10.58% identified as White.

“Guaranteed income has been a blessing in my life considering I’m a single mother of three children. I’m able to get back and forth to work with the vehicle that the guaranteed income payment has been able to help me keep up,” **said Tydricka Lewis, Excel participant.**

“The first six months of our pilot data reflects much of what I expected. It shows that individuals are spending these funds in the same ways that you and I would to support our own families. The monthly funds are providing a vital bridge to secure food and basic needs products and transportation services that each of us rely on every day to survive and thrive. We must continue to build an infrastructure around those that have been left out of our communities for far too long. Guaranteed income is one way to do that.” **said Mayor O’Neal.**

“The data released today is a breakthrough for justice, equality, and the guaranteed income movement. It proves that cash is an urgent solution to the failures of the American economy,” **said Mayor Michael D. Tubbs.** “It’s time for leaders, at every level, to join us in this guaranteed income movement to finally create an economy that works for all.”

###