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## Fresno EOC Releases Results of Advancing Fresno County Guaranteed Income Program

*One-year initiative provided \$500/month to 150 families in Southwest Fresno and Huron*

Fresno, CA — Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) today released the results of the Advancing Fresno County Guaranteed Income (AFCGI) program, a 12-month effort providing \$500 per month to 150 families in Southwest Fresno and Huron. The program tested how direct, unconditional cash support can improve stability for families living in communities with some of the highest poverty rates in the county.

“With this program we were able to pay off debts, but we were able to do things that weren’t able to do because our finances have been tight,” said Ariel Williams, participant at the press conference.

Families shared that guaranteed income gave them room to breathe—less debt, fuller kitchens, and the emotional relief of being able to show up for their children with less fear and more joy.

“This program helped to keep me afloat and spend time with my kids. That is priceless,” said one participant.

Launched in July 2024 and concluded in June 2025, the program served parents and caregivers of young children with incomes at or below 80% of their area median income.

### Key Findings

- Debt reliance dropped sharply: Borrowing for regular expenses fell from 40% to 18%.
- Food security improved: Families reporting not having enough to eat fell from 49% to 17%.
- Making ends meet became easier: Those who said it was “very difficult” dropped from 37% to 11%.
- Stress decreased: Parents often bothered by worry fell from 36% to 24%.
- Employment remained stable, with many using the stability to pursue better jobs, reduce gig work, or enroll in training.
- Rural families in Huron reported that guaranteed income helped them manage the volatility of seasonal agricultural work.

[Here is a link to the report](#)

### Poverty Context

Fresno County’s poverty rate remains among the highest in California, with 18.7% of residents and 25.5% of children living below the poverty line. In the program communities, poverty is far more severe: 37.7% in Southwest Fresno and 33.2% in Huron, with childhood poverty reaching 48.4% and 54.9%, respectively.



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“Poverty in Fresno County is not an abstract statistic—it is a daily reality for families doing everything they can to survive. At Fresno EOC, we fight to end poverty because every child and every parent deserves stability and dignity. These results show what happens when we trust families and give them the resources they need: they rise,” said Steven Lewis, CEO, Fresno EOC.

The program was administered by Fresno EOC and evaluated by the Center for Community Voices at Fresno State, which conducted a randomized controlled trial with 300 families. Fresno EOC extends deep gratitude to participating families, staff, and partners.

The program was funded by The California Wellness Foundation and additional philanthropic partners including The California Endowment, The James Irvine Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Delta Dental Community Care Foundation, Central Valley Community Foundation, Sierra Health Foundation, The James B. McClatchy Foundation, and Mayors for a Guaranteed Income.

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