



The Denver Basic Income Project (DBIP) is an unconditional cash transfer, or guaranteed income, for people who are unhoused in Denver, Colorado. DBIP conducted a soft launch of the project in July 2022 where participants were randomly assigned to one of three payment groups: A) \$1,000/month for 12 months, B) \$6,500 the first month and \$500 the next 11 months, or C) \$50 a month.

In October 2022 participants assigned to either Group A or Group B were invited to complete interviews to describe any changes that the cash transfer had on their daily lives. Through thematic analysis of the interviews, researchers found five themes emerge: 1) Access housing or movement toward housing, 2) Motivation, goal-setting, and thinking about the future, 3) Relief and financial security, 4) Thriving, not just surviving, 5) Agency to make decisions and be flexible.

THE DENVER BASIC INCOME PROJECT

SOFT LAUNCH 2.0
QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

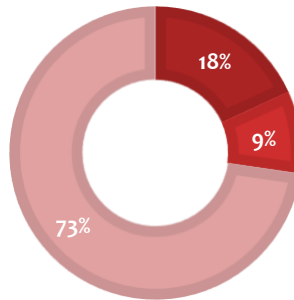
January 2023

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

N=11

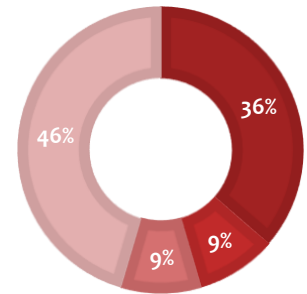
GENDER IDENTITY

■ Man ■ Transgender or nonbinary ■ Woman



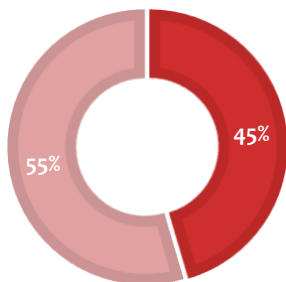
RACE AND ETHNICITY

■ Black/African American ■ Latine/a/o/x
■ Native American/Indigenous ■ White



PAYMENT GROUPS

■ Research Arm A (\$1,000/month)
■ Research Arm B (Lump sum)



SLEEP LOCATION AT ENROLLMENT



THEMATIC ANALYSIS

HOW DOES GUARANTEED INCOME CHANGE YOUR DAILY LIFE?

Participants were asked to reflect on how receiving the cash impacted their daily life. Each interview was transcribed and analyzed by four members of the research team using a rapid qualitative analysis structure.

ACCESS HOUSING OR MOVEMENT TOWARD HOUSING

- "Well, I'm not on the side of the road. **I'm not in a broke-down van sleeping every night.** I am not cold. It's just like moving from, you know... it's a lot. It's a lot different. I got a bathtub. I got a bathtub I can take a shower in."
- "I haven't been able to get an actual place of my own yet but I've been staying with my nephew and I really hadn't had enough money to help with bills and things like that, so now that I've been receiving this money I am able to help out with bills here at the house and then **also able to save, put money away, so that eventually I can get a place of my own.**"

MOTIVATION, GOAL-SETTING, AND THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

- "It definitely gets me motivated to do something that I want to work towards in my life besides just getting a job, like maybe going to school or, you know, kind of just, I don't know, **bettering my life and getting stable** so that when I move out of there, I can have like consistency and a good job"

RELIEF AND FINANCIAL SECURITY

- "It's like I'm a trapeze artist and that first net is my job, my job is that first net and then the **project is a second net underneath that in case the first net breaks**"
- "I feel **more comfortable** for now and **more secure** for now...If I need to find shelter or if I need to find, you know, a hot meal, I know that money is there. Receiving the money is helpful knowing that it's there if you run into a snag."

THRIVING, NOT JUST SURVIVING

- "...having the money has actually been helping us not only afford necessities but also afford things that actually help us to thrive. **To actually thrive and not just survive.**"

AGENCY TO MAKE DECISIONS AND BE FLEXIBLE

- "Like just being able to eat when I want to, you know stuff like that, you know like most people...It's allowed me to get to this place [apartment]. Now **I'm stable and it's improved my health** and it's going to help me get some employment. This [cash transfer] helps a person get stable."
- "I had **more options** because of the money that I received and being able to pay off my debt."