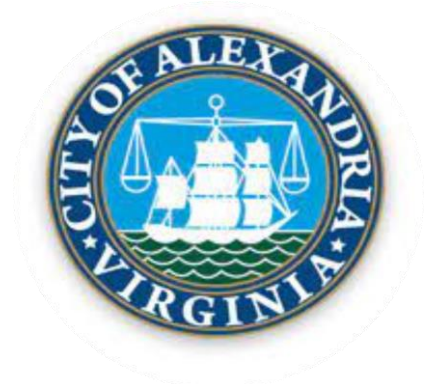




# Alexandria's Recurring Income for Success and Equity (ARISE) Project

Six-Month Update  
Department of Community and Human Services  
City of Alexandria, Virginia  
September 20, 2023



# ARISE Pilot Overview

## Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity

\$3 million dollar budget, ARPA funds, appropriated by City Council



\$500 monthly cash payment given directly to 170 individuals for 24 months



Eligibility Criteria: 18 years or older, City of Alexandria resident, household income at or below 50% AMI



Unconditional, no strings attached. Offers flexibility and autonomy



Supplements existing social safety support programs and services – rather than replaces



Participants have access to supportive services available to general public

# Demographics of Participants



## Race

**25% White**  
**41.8% Black**  
**8.2% Asian**  
**5.9% Two or more**  
**13.5% LatinX**  
**5.3% Other**



## Language Spoken at Home

**15.3% Amharic**  
**4.1% Arabic**  
**6.5% Dari**  
**38.2% English**  
**3.5% Pashto**  
**29.4% Spanish**  
**2.9% Other**



## Zip Code

**34.7% 22304**  
**20.6% 22305**  
**15.3% 22311**  
**12.9% 22312**  
**12.4% 22314**  
**2.9% 22302**  
**1.2% 22301**

# Demographics of Participants



**Average Household  
Size**

**2.8**



**Median  
Household  
Income**

**\$21,400**



**Average Age**

**43**



**Gender**

**68% Female  
32% Male**

# Participant Voices

““ The program has given me the freedom to take better care of myself through exercising and created room for me to think about the future and work towards that. ””

““ Now, I have the freedom to quit my second job. ARISE gave me the freedom to have time to think for tomorrow. My kids know me better now since I get to spend time with them. ””

““ I use the money from ARISE to buy healthy foods and buy clothes and shoes for my kids. It gave me a little bit of flexibility to get treats for my kids. ””

““ My kids do not have health insurance and ARISE helped me pay for their children's doctor's visits ””

**Top Spending Categories**  
Grocery stores 25%  
Restaurants 6%  
Wholesale clubs 6%

Participants also are also paying rent, car notes, and paying down debt

# Research and Evaluation

- Conducting a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) evaluation including 170 treatment group and 210 control group participants
- Abt Associates awarded contract through competitive RFP – COA is Abt’s eighth guaranteed income pilot evaluation
- Includes quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Community-based approach, Abt trains and mentors two, paid city residents as Research Fellows who are the “face” of the research to participants
- Research focuses on impact of unconditional cash on:
  - ✓ Physical and emotional well-being
  - ✓ Financial Stability
  - ✓ Housing and food security
  - ✓ Labor market participation
  - ✓ Sense of hope and mattering
  - ✓ Child outcomes



# Research Activities and Timeline

## Quantitative Research

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### Full Survey

Impact of monthly cash on physical and emotional well-being, housing and food security, financial stability, employment, sense of hope and child outcomes

- ✓ Baseline survey at application
- ✓ 12-months after first payment
- ✓ 30-months after first payment (six months after final payment)

### Survey Tracker

Two questions regarding economic stability including current employment status and how respondent would pay for a \$400 financial emergency

- ✓ 6 months after first payment
- ✓ 18 months after first payment
- ✓ 24 months after first payment

## Qualitative Research

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### Ethnography

In-depth interviews and observations of single parents to understand the *why* behind qualitative data

- ✓ 12 single parents over 24-month period

### Interviews

Questions crafted in partnership with DCHS to understand trends

- ✓ 30 participants after 12-month survey

## Lessons Learned

- Leading with equity takes an investment of time and resources
- Participants experiencing increase in quality of life and mental wellbeing

## What's Next

- Narrative change work and continuing to learn from ARISE
- Formation of Economic Mobility Action Group
  - Defining stages of mobility and mapping community assets and resources along a mobility spectrum
  - Possible Urban Institute technical assistance
- Looking at how we can decrease administrative burden and increase participant autonomy and choice
- Advocating at the state level for policy change



# Key Community Partners



**MAYORS FOR A  
GUARANTEED  
INCOME**



# Questions?



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