



# GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME

Las Cruces, NM

# Las Cruces Poverty Rate

- 2019
  - *Total: 26.40%*
  - *Under 18: 38.30%*
  - *Under 5: 39.80%*
- 2010
  - *Total: 21.5%*

-Census Data

-Distressed Communities Index

# Poverty is a Policy Choice

- Cash Works
  - *Returns dignity to people struggling with poverty*
  - *Families understand their needs best*
- Combats dangerous dominant-narratives that have guided poverty policy
- GBI Pilots create a demand for Congress to take action

# Las Cruces GBI Proposal

- Las Cruces is receiving \$24 M from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- \$2M invested into a GBI pilot project to be administered by a partner non-profit
  - *The non-profit partner will set the final parameters for the cash transfer program and the research program.*
- With the following considerations:
  - *Non-profit partner must also administer a research component*
  - *Participants should meet low-income guidelines*
  - *Will receive at least \$500/month for at least 12 months*
  - *At least one child in the household*
  - *Non-profit partner must work to protect participant's benefits*

# Sustainability

- GBI Programs can continue to be funded through:
  - *Private partners*
    - Foundations, businesses, etc.
  - *Grants*
- Public Funds
  - *The Las Cruces Telshor Fund*
  - *State of New Mexico*
  - *Current examples: More than \$850 billion in direct cash was provided to low- and moderate-income Americans in three rounds of stimulus payments during the coronavirus pandemic. (Peter G. Peterson Foundation. (2021).*
  - *NM States & NM Counties & Cities have provided millions in direct cash assistance throughout the pandemic with the use of CARES funds.*
- Biggest barrier moving forward:
  - *Anti-donation clause*

# Publicly Funded Projects

- City of San Antonio and Family Independence Initiative (UpTogether)
- People's Prosperity Project in Saint Paul, MN
- Richmond Resiliency Initiative in Richmond, VA
- BIG:LEAP in Los Angeles, CA
- Trust Youth Initiative in New York, NY

Thank You!