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COUNTIES FOR A GUARANTEED INCOME CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

(February 15, 2024) – Elected officials from cities and counties across the nation celebrated the first anniversary of Counties for a Guaranteed Income (CGI), a network advancing local pilot programs and advocating for a federal stream of funding. CGI celebrated its anniversary with a special event featuring **Nikole Hannah-Jones, Michael Steele, Michael D. Tubbs, Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell** and **Commissioner Rodney Ellis** of Harris County, TX. The panel discussion, titled “**From Promise to Progress: One Year of Counties for a Guaranteed Income, Exploring the Transformative Impact on Black and Brown Lives**” took place at Howard University on Monday, February 12, 2024.

Photos from the event can be [viewed here](#).

Guaranteed income programs provide recurring, unconditional cash transfers to qualified recipients. Results from nearly 60+ pilots show that people spend the money on basic necessities, like food, housing, and transportation. Studies show that recipients are more likely to find long-term employment, further their education and increase the economic security of their households. Guaranteed income helps recipients feel far less stress and anxiety and an overall improvement in their personal relationships and their own self-worth. Public support for guaranteed income is growing, now representing a majority of voters regardless of party affiliation. With Republican lawmakers attempting to ban guaranteed income programs in states like Texas, Iowa and Wisconsin, there is an urgency to ensuring federal support.

“I co-founded CGI because I saw the potential for guaranteed income to benefit a greater number of people,” said **Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell**, who led the creation of Breathe: Los Angeles County, which is currently the largest guaranteed income program in the nation. “In a high cost of living area, just one unexpected expense can put a family underwater financially. Breathe: Los Angeles does what its name implies, it gives them the breathing room to get out of survival mode and reach for their potential.”

“Poverty has to be redefined as simply being about not having enough resources in that sense. That it’s not a personal flaw, poor people don’t have to be perfect, anymore than any of us are perfect,” said **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, in her remarks during the event. “But all of us, in a rich country that wants to see itself as the greatest country in the world, are deserving of a baseline of human dignity in how we live.

“We know that no matter what, cash works. Guaranteed income gives people the agency to make decisions about work, about parenting and caregiving, to contingency plan for the future,” said **Michael Tubbs**, founder and co-chair of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income and co-founder

of Counties for a Guaranteed Income. “I am enormously proud of how far we’ve come in just five years since the first pilot in Stockton. Now we have nearly 60 guaranteed income pilots running nationwide, the majority of which are publicly funded. The fundamental question of if we can give people money has been settled, and the results are clear: guaranteed income works.”

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*Founded in June of 2020 by former Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs, [Mayors for a Guaranteed Income](#) is a coalition of nearly 150 mayors committed to advancing a federal guaranteed income – direct, recurring cash payments to middle and low-income people. Expanding to include city and county legislators in 2023 with [Counties for a Guaranteed Income](#), the network acts as a research and resource hub for municipal pilots around the country—nearly 60 and counting. A new documentary film, *It’s Basic*, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in June 2023, follows recipients and illuminates the life-changing impact of guaranteed income programs on families’ economic security and opportunity.*