

## **New Release: The Political Economy of Guaranteed Income**

The final paper in JFI's series on 'getting to guaranteed income,' this report examines the political future for cash policy post pandemic

### *Press Release*

New York, NY, August 15, 2022 — A [new report](#) from the Jain Family Institute charts public support and political pathways for guaranteed income in the US, with an examination of recent years' trends and comparative models of related social policy movements.

[“The Political Economy of Guaranteed Income: Where Do We Go From Here?”](#) is the final installment of a [white paper series](#) providing in-depth, nonpartisan analysis of pathways to a guaranteed income in the US. This report deepens the practical recommendations of the previous papers by assessing public opinion polling, awareness campaigns around over 60 nationwide cash pilots, best practices in narrative-building efforts, the evolution of the Child Tax Credit debate in Congress, and concurrent movements in economic policy—particularly that of One Fair Wage. The paper charts pathways forward for guaranteed income advocates within the post-pandemic political landscape for public benefits expansion.

The authors of the report are JFI Lead Researcher on Guaranteed Income [Stephen Nuñez](#), Vice President for Policy Communications [Halah Ahmad](#), and contributing author [Saru Jayaraman](#), Executive Director of One Fair Wage and faculty at University of California - Berkeley.

Key takeaways include:

- Public support has shifted positively on guaranteed income, but there is a need for more polling and more grassroots organizing around pilots and policies.
- The CTC and stimulus checks had stronger public support and mobilized greater numbers of cash-supportive players, with public, philanthropic, researcher, and advocacy coalitions. Still, elite buy-in and advocacy campaigns were not enough to make the policy permanent.

- The movement for eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers provides an important model for a future people-powered movement led by those a GI would most benefit.
- Looking forward, some policies may prove more politically feasible as starting points for a GI within the existing systems—the EITC and CTC, SNAP expansion, or carbon dividends. However, advocates should be mindful of the path dependency of working through existing systems that have long been designed to keep more people out than in.

Read the [full report here](#).

View the full [series here](#). The [first paper](#) covered targeting and disbursement architecture, the [second paper](#) situated a national guaranteed income within the existing federal safety net, and the [third paper](#) explained macroeconomic research to date on the potential impacts of a permanent guaranteed income policy. See JFI's position on guaranteed income [here](#).

Alongside this series on national implementation, JFI builds the knowledge base for [guaranteed income](#) through policy analysis of emergent legislation, policy [microsimulations](#), and applied engagements such as the [Compton Pledge](#), an 800-recipient guaranteed income initiative; and the [Maricá Basic Income Evaluation](#), an over 42,000-recipient policy in Brazil.

#### **About the Jain Family Institute:**

The Jain Family Institute (JFI) is a nonpartisan applied research organization in the social sciences that works to bring research and policy from conception in theory to implementation in society. Founded in 2014 by Robert Jain, JFI focuses on building evidence around the most pressing social problems.

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