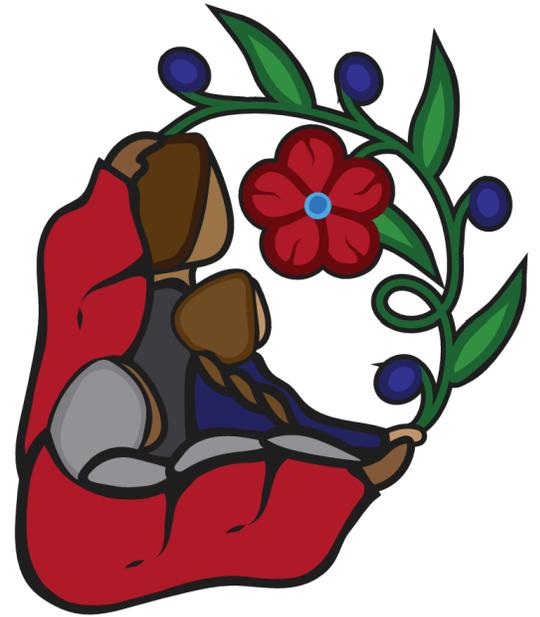


March 20, 2024

Dear Chair Noor and committee members,

On behalf of the [Economic Mobility Hub for American Indians in the East Metro](#) (a partnership of the Department of Indian Work and the Montessori American Indian Childcare Center), we are writing in support of HF 2666, the MN Basic Income Bill.

The Economic Mobility Hub serves low-income American Indian families who live in Ramsey County. Our clients face significant challenges to increasing their economic mobility, including trauma, single parent households, health issues including mental health and addiction, family violence, and criminal backgrounds that can make getting out of poverty very difficult. The Hub received grants from two private funders which allows us to provide a Guaranteed Income of \$500/mo. for 24 months (starting in July 2023) for 26 Hub families.



The Hub's family coaches work with Hub families to assist them with work, income, and health supports; education and career training; financial management and intergenerational wealth building; and cultural connections and community support. Our guaranteed income program gives Hub families the extra breathing room they need to plan and carry out the major action steps they need to take to increase their stability and economic mobility. So far, one Hub family has used their Guaranteed Income to pay for their child's trip to Spain with school, and she will be the first person in her family to travel out of the country. Two Hub families started a savings account with their Guaranteed Income. Three families are working on starting small businesses using their Guaranteed Income. One family used the money to start an in-home exercise space and, because of their new exercise routine, three of the family members are no longer pre-diabetic.

When asked to describe the positive impact the extra \$500 per month is having on their family, one Hub participant said "I was in unpaid maternity leave so the extra \$500 helped a lot while I was out of work!" Another said: "This extra money has helped tremendously. I feel secure knowing the money will be there for help with the house bills and I always try to spend money on my children for their activities/needs each month." Finally, a third participant said: "I've been saving \$100 a month, and one month I saved \$200, so it's self-discipline."

HF 2666 is a critical piece of legislation that will ensure people have the resources they need to afford their rent, childcare, transportation, job training, and enrichment activities for their children. All of these factors are critical to escaping poverty. Some facts about the Guaranteed Income that would be available to more Minnesota families through the MN Basic Income Bill:

- It is a monthly, cash payment given directly to individuals with the intent to disrupt poverty, advance racial and gender equity and support basic needs
- It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work requirements
- It is meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net
- It is time limited
- Communities are required to design their program with the people who would be accessing it
- Data tells us that basic income programs:
  - alleviate barriers to full-time employment,
  - improve mental health outcomes,
  - improve infant and toddler developmental outcomes, and
  - reduce the impact of unexpected economic shocks

This bill is an easy way to ensure Minnesotans have the income they need to increase their economic well-being which in turn increases their physical and mental health and housing stability, all of which are critical components of safe, thriving communities.

We urge you to support HF 2666!

Sincerely,



Kelly Miller, Director  
Department of Indian Work



Janice LaFloe, Executive Director  
Montessori American Indian Child Care Center

