ESP Statement on Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs

SEED continues and MGI expands with pilots planned in 10 cities

November 18, 2020, New York, NY - The Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) will continue as planned, despite the election loss of Mayor Michael Tubbs. With initial disbursements beginning in February of 2019, the program has already been extended from its original 18 months to two years because of the coronavirus pandemic. The last disbursements will be made in January 2021, and initial research will be available in February of 2021.

“Over the last three years, Mayor Tubbs worked tirelessly to bring guaranteed income to the forefront of the national conversation,” said ESP Co-chair Natalie Foster. “Because of his leadership, pilots are happening across the country and cash policies have been introduced at the national level – ensuring a commitment to economic security takes root across the country.”

Founded in June of 2020, Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI) includes 25 mayors, with several more being onboarded, throughout the country. Many mayors are starting pilots in their own cities, and all mayors are pushing for cash policies at the federal level to provide an income floor for every American who needs it. MGI pilots are currently planned in Compton, CA; Hudson, NY; Saint Paul, MN; Long Beach, CA; Richmond, VA; Pittsburgh, PA; Oakland, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Columbia, SC and Newark, NJ.

At the federal level, ESP’s Emergency Money to the People campaign advocates for recurring checks to combat the economic effects of coronavirus. There are currently 10 policies in Congress to provide ongoing cash payments during the pandemic. Recent polling from Lake Research shows 76% of voters support ongoing cash payments throughout the economic crisis. Several incoming Congressional members also ran on platforms focused on guaranteed income, including Cori Bush of MO, Marilyn Strickland of WA and Jamaal Bowman of NY.

Additionally, a pilot in Chelsea, MA is providing monthly cash payments to more than 2,000 residents; the Abundant Birth Project in San Francisco will provide a guaranteed income to Black and Pacific Islander expecting families, CA’s Santa Clara County has a guaranteed income pilot for foster youth aging out of the system and the Magnolia Mother’s Trust in Jackson, MS is currently in its second year of disbursements.

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