

Stimulus Learning Series Deep Dive: Implementing Guaranteed Income Programs

July 29, 2021



HARVARD Kennedy School
Government Performance Lab

Transforming systems to better serve the most vulnerable

Vulnerable families are being left behind

Families are shut out from structures that support economic mobility – especially families of color

Overrepresentation of poor families and families of color in punitive, harmful, and stigmatizing experiences

Government safety net does not support economic advancement out of poverty

You have told us you want to make the benefits system...

More accessible and more dignified

More effective at moving families out of poverty

More efficient

**Offering more flexible benefits,
cash assistance, basic income:**
“Low-income families know best what
they need to rise out of poverty”

Making sense of direct payment programs:

Three approaches

Small pilots to promote concept

\$500/mo to 125 families living in low-income neighborhoods (Stockton, CA)

- Opportunity to demonstrate feasibility while spending only \$1m/yr.
- Limited reach: Typically <1% of households
- Too small to learn about local impact (MDE>15pp), especially with proper adjustment for multiple endpoints

Serve everyone in a targeted population

Up to \$1,000/mo to 2,500 young people exiting foster care (California)

- May be able to reach substantial share of target population
- If administered through lottery and population is sufficiently large, potential to have enough statistical power to detect moderately large impacts

Community-wide anti-poverty initiative

\$400/mo to 2,000 families (12% of city's households) earning less than 30% of area median income (Chelsea, MA)

- Very expensive: To reach 12% of households with \$400/mo in city the size of Boston, Nashville, or Oklahoma City would cost \$140m/year
- Philanthropic pilot funding likely does not scale
- If administered through lottery, likely to be able to detect moderately large impacts

Example

Considerations



¡Presentamos el programa Chelsea Eats!

¿Qué es el programa Chelsea Eats Card?
Este programa apoya a las familias de Chelsea que necesitan de fondos adicionales para comprar alimentos durante la crisis de COVID-19.



You may use your **CITY OF CHELSEA EATS Visa® Prepaid Card** anywhere Visa Business Prepaid cards are accepted.

Your card is **active**. Use it to purchase food and essentials before **June 30, 2021**.

...su tarjeta para comprar alimentos y productos para bebés (como fórmulas para bebés y pañales).

Most households receive \$400 per month.

One-person households receive \$200.

Two-person households receive \$300.


Payments began in late November.

Cards can be spent anywhere that Visa is accepted.


The Lottery

facebook [Sign Up](#) Email or Phone Password [Log In](#)
[Forgot account?](#)

Via Cisco Webex



City Hall Council City Hall Conferen -17:44

 **City of Chelsea Massachusetts- Gov** was live.
September 17, 2020 · 🌐

Chelsea Eats Lottery :: Lotería del programa Chelsea Eats
Chelsea Eats lottery results - Click in the link below to check the full list of applicants selected in the Chelsea Eats lottery.
Resultados de la lotería - Haga click en el link debajo para ver la lista completa de solicitantes seleccionados en la lotería Chelsea Eats

Design questions for guaranteed income programs

Population

Who will be offered this support?

1. Engaging community members on program design
 2. Identifying who will be eligible for this program
 3. Figuring out how to recruit, select, and engage participants
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Delivery

How will this support be delivered to them?

4. Determining amount, frequency, and duration of cash assistance
 5. Negotiating how to preserve income eligibility for existing benefit programs
 6. Establishing mechanics for how funds will be disbursed
 7. Building out program management and oversight processes
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Evaluation

How will we know if we want to continue this support?

8. Defining what results to measure
9. Designing how to collect data and evaluate results

Are there other important questions that are not reflected here?

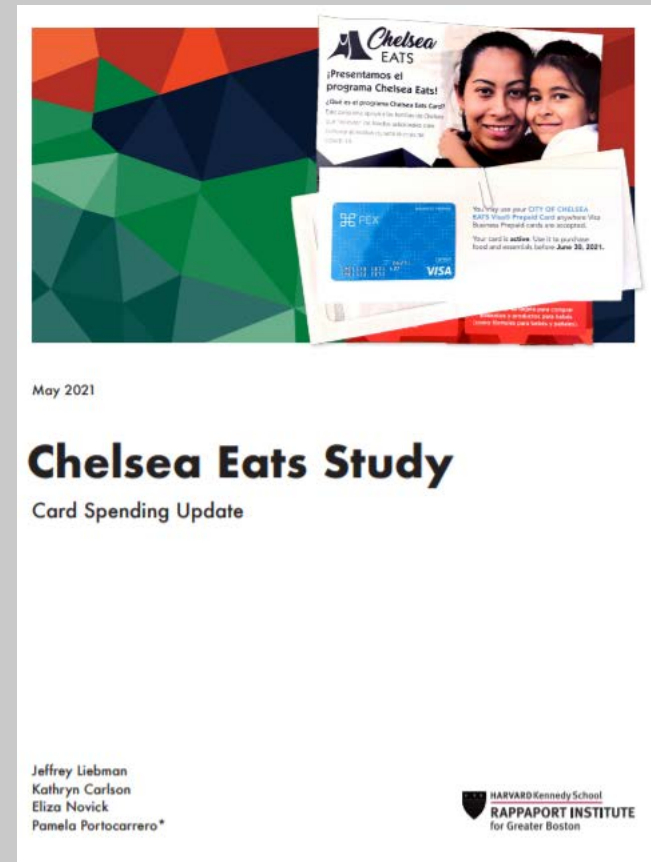
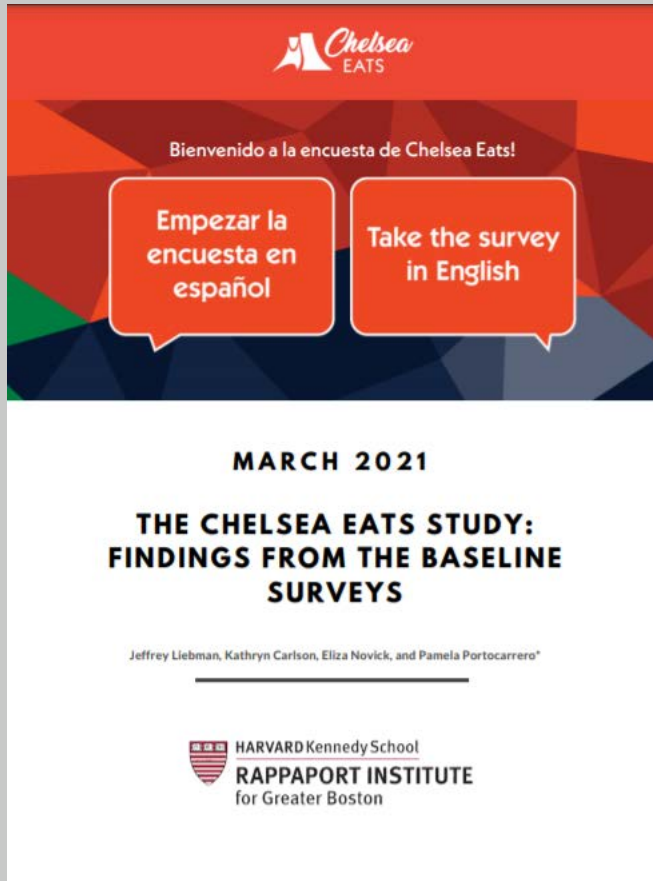
Looking ahead: GPL's stimulus learning series

Type into the chat: What additional questions do you have about setting up guaranteed income programs?

✓	July 9	Benefits & Economic Mobility
✓	July 15	Early Childhood & Families
✓	July 29	<i>Implementation deep-dive:</i> Guaranteed income programs
	August 2	Behavioral Health & Housing
	August 10	<i>Implementation deep-dive:</i> Using procurement to advance innovation
	August 25	Jobs & Economic Development

Questions? Contact Danielle at danielle_cerny@hks.harvard.edu

Register for upcoming sessions at: <https://govlab.hks.harvard.edu/stimulus-learning-series>



<https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/taubman/programs-research/rappaport>