



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Design Phase for Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI)
in Washington State**

Submission Deadline: January 7, 2021



Perigee Fund 500 E. Pike St., Suite 100C, Seattle, WA 98122

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GBI Pilot: Design Phase for Guaranteed Basic Income in Washington State

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Key Contacts

- If you have questions about this funding opportunity, contact: Gloris Estrella gloris@perigeefund.org.
- For technical issues with the application, contact: Teresa Gonzales RFP@perigeefund.org.

Information Session

Informational webinars for interested organizations will be held at 12:00 pm on December 2nd, 2020 and 9:00am on December 3rd, 2020. The webinar slides and FAQ will be posted online for those who cannot participate. Due to COVID-19, we regret that local, in-person information sessions will not be offered.

To Apply

Applications are due by **January 7th, 2021** via email to Gloris Estrella.

The grant timeline will run March 1st, 2021 – August 31, 2021.

About Perigee Fund

Early experiences matter, and a child's earliest relationships with caregivers – starting prenatally – profoundly shape child development and caregiver wellbeing.

Funding Opportunity Summary

Perigee Fund is a philanthropic organization based in Seattle, Washington. We are driven by a vision of communities in which all parents and primary caregivers are supported in caring for their children with confidence, competence, and joy. We focus our investments during the prenatal period up to age three, which is the most influential period of brain development for children and when adult caregivers develop their "parenting brain." We are committed to advancing work in the areas of infant and early childhood mental health, as well as prenatal and postpartum mental health. While our deepest work is in Washington State, we also seek to advance national policies and practices to support families most impacted by trauma, racism, and poverty.

Infant and early childhood mental health is a field with the goal of supporting attuned, positive, and safe early parent-child relationships. Reducing parent stress is one way to support this goal. Boosting the financial security of low-income parents and primary caregivers with guaranteed basic income (GBI) or unrestricted cash has the direct effect of reducing the overload and immediate stress that families experience during this critical time. Decreased stress creates more space for hope, and a broader horizon on which to envision their family's future.

We seek a design partner to develop a groundbreaking GBI pilot program in one to three communities across Washington State. The design would be anchored around an intent to enroll pregnant families in a no-strings-attached GBI program, supporting them from the time of pregnancy to the period up to age three. The program would ensure that participating families had the option of connecting to other resources and sources of emotional support, though not as a condition of participation. The cash received by participants should complement, not take the place of, other social services and income supplements participants receive.

This RFP is for the design phase of the pilot. Following the design phase, we hope that the design partner or a group identified by the design partner would be positioned to receive funding from Perigee Fund to implement the pilot. We anticipate funding a design process that takes place over a period of about six months, resulting in a strong implementation plan.

For more information about Perigee fund, visit www.perigeefund.org.

TWO OPEN WINDOWS

Drs. Pilyoung Kim and Sarah Watamura of the University of Denver call the transition to parenting a co-occurring sensitive period, "two open windows," a time when both infant and parent are especially receptive to being shaped by their environments and mutual interactions. Perigee Fund believes that focusing additional resources on supporting families and reducing stress during this exceptionally sensitive period can improve outcomes for children and parents.

The researchers have discovered that parents in adverse circumstances are also more sensitive to external inputs as they're transitioning to parenting. They want help and they want to adapt well to their role as parent and caregiver. From both a policy and practical perspective, this is a powerful time to create and deliver supports serving the whole family during this critical window when caregivers are interfacing with healthcare and other systems and are so motivated to grow in their new role.

[Read](#) their study.

Why Guaranteed Basic Income and Unrestricted Cash?

Unconditional and unrestricted cash embodies a set of values that depart sharply from the paternalistic, stigmatizing approach the U.S. has taken toward poverty alleviation for decades. Further, unconditional cash has numerous and well documented benefits for household economic stability and maternal and child health. Studies illustrate that the cognitive and brain development of low-income children differs from that of children in higher-income families. Higher family income is associated with better performance on assessments of children's language, memory, executive function, and socioemotional functioning, with corresponding associations found in the neural structure and function of brain regions that support these skills.

As an example, an adequate supply of diapers is a tangible way of reducing parenting stress, a critical factor influencing child health and development.¹ According to a research conducted in the University of Manitoba (Canada), offering pregnant women \$81 per month through the years of 2003 to 2010, without conditions, improved health outcomes. Those who received the benefit had 8% preterm birth rate, while those who did not had a 11% preterm birth rate.² According to March of Dimes, the cost associated with premature birth is estimated to be \$26.2 billion to U.S healthcare costs each year.

Our definition of guaranteed basic income (GBI) is aligned with the [Mayors for Guaranteed Income](#) project – a monthly, cash payment given directly to individuals. It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work requirements. A guaranteed income is meant to supplement, rather than replace, the existing social safety net and can be a tool for racial and gender equity.

The financial and health crises caused by the COVID-19 crisis have heightened the experiences many struggling families face with economic insecurity, systemic racism, relived trauma, increased stress and social isolation. Now more than ever, it's critical to identify solutions that will have an immediate impact on both health and economic inequities. One highly effective intervention is among the simplest: giving families cash with no strings attached. A substantial body of evidence shows that cash payments have significant impacts on both economic stability and health, including maternal and child health. Unrestricted cash pilot programs in the U.S. and worldwide have been associated with higher birth weights, lower infant mortality, better nutrition, and improved access to healthcare.

The rapid adoption of the recent measures of financial assistance (stimulus check, as well as extended and increased unemployment benefits) underscored two things:

1. unrestricted cash works and is recognized as the most efficient approach to enabling people to meet basic needs, and
2. the existing safety net is inadequate to the task of providing basic resources.

Addressing the current crises, and preparing for the next, requires that we put in place flexible and responsive structures that adequately protect pregnant people and caregivers with young children against the economic shocks caused by large-scale job and wage loss. The pandemic has exposed the deep inequalities and deficiencies in our social safety net that have relegated millions of families to the margins of the economy, while perpetuating racist myths about work and poverty.

¹ Unconditional Prenatal Income Supplement and Birth Outcomes, Marni D. Brownell, Mariette J. Chartier, Nathan C. Nickel, Dan Chateau, Patricia J. Martens, Joykrishna Sarkar, Elaine Burland, Douglas P. Jutte, Carole Taylor, Robert G. Santos, Alan Katz and On behalf of the PATHS Equity for Children Team

Pediatrics June 2016, 137 (6) e20152992; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2015-2992>

² Diaper Need and Its Impact on Child Health, Megan V. Smith, Anna Kruse, Alison Weir and Joanne Goldblum

Pediatrics August 2013, 132 (2) 253-259; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2013-0597>

Examples of Current GBI Pilots in the US

Several groundbreaking basic income programs and cash transfer efforts focused on family support and healthy development are underway around the US. While a pilot program in Washington State may look very different than the ones described below, these efforts have been a source of inspiration for Perigee Fund and are reference points for the design of a pilot in Washington State.

Abundant Birth Project³

The Abundant Birth Project is a pilot program that provides targeted basic income to women during pregnancy and after giving birth. The pilot provides an unconditional monthly income supplement of \$1,000 to approximately 150 Black and Pacific Islander women in San Francisco for the duration of their pregnancy and for the first six months of their baby's life, with a goal of eventually providing a supplement for up to two years post-pregnancy. Expecting Justice, a collective impact initiative led by Dr. Zea Malawa at the San Francisco Department of Public Health and supported by the Hellman Foundation and the UCSF California Preterm Birth Initiative, will study the resulting health impacts of the pilot program, which is the first of its kind in the United States.

The Abundant Birth Project's approach to achieving better maternal health and birthing outcomes is providing pregnant Black and Pacific Islander women a monthly income supplement for during pregnancy and the postpartum period as an economic and reproductive health intervention. "Providing guaranteed income support to mothers during pregnancy is an innovative and equitable approach that will ease some of the financial stress that all too often keeps women from being able to put their health first," said Mayor Breed of San Francisco. "The Abundant Birth Project is rooted in racial justice and recognizes that Black and Pacific Islander mothers suffer disparate health impacts, in part because of the persistent wealth and income gap."

The Abundant Birth Project connects with local prenatal care providers and the City's own network of pregnancy support services to identify and enroll eligible clients over the next two years. Given the high cost of living in San Francisco, the project targets low-income and middle-income pregnant people for the income supplement. Community members were involved in developing the Abundant Birth Project. Black and Pacific Islander mothers were part of the design team and have been recruited and trained as community researchers to engage pregnant mothers and women with children to obtain accurate on-the-ground data about the actual needs of potential participants.

The effort is led by Expecting Justice, a Black-led Birth Justice initiative based in the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Grounded in the principles of collective impact, it is a collaboration between the Department of Public Health, the California Preterm Birth Initiative at UCSF, UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, the San Francisco Treasurer's Office, the San Francisco Human Services Agency, and First 5 San Francisco.

For more information about the Abundant Birth Project visit their website [here](#).

³ <https://www.expectingjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Abundant-Birth-Project-Fact-Sheet-11.19.pdf>

Magnolias Mothers Trust⁴

In partnership with the Economic Security Project, The Magnolia Mother's Trust supports 15 Springboard to Opportunities families in Jackson, Mississippi, and has been giving \$1000 cash on a monthly basis, no strings attached, for 12 months straight. Families are free to use this money in whatever way they see fit to best meet their financial needs. While there have been several initiatives around a guaranteed income worldwide, this was the first that specifically focuses on resourcing extremely low-income families headed by an African American female living in affordable housing in the United States. The Magnolia Mothers Trust is a program that really is about restoring dignity into the lives of low-income African American mothers. This pilot started small, learning alongside the participating families about what cash assistance can really do. In an interview with ESSENCE, Aisha Nyandoro, who heads this pilot said, "this program is radical and women driven, Black women are—falsely—labeled 'welfare queens' and dehumanized just for trying to survive in a system constructed for us to fail—and it's not like foundations are lining up to give money to Black women."⁵

In addition to the no-strings-attached income, women in the pilot program also receive peer support and can participate in ongoing leadership opportunities designed to provide respite and external support. The Magnolia Mother's Trust believes in the need to provide holistic support for families at Springboard and they honor that in this effort. They also recognize the long-term trauma that is present for their families and offers individual coaching and counseling to help disrupt the scarcity mentality that so many families have had to adopt for basic survival.

In an interview for PBS, Nyandoro states, "we have seen as a whole collectively the 20 women in this pilot have paid off about \$10,000 in debt. And not only that, individuals on average have saved about \$500 which makes them better off than a lot of individuals that we're seeing when they know that very few Americans have \$400 saved to deal with an emergency. So they're saving, they're planning. We have seen women go back to school. We've seen now women actually complete their community college degrees because they now have opportunity to take time off from work or work less hours than when they had this income."⁶

To learn more about The Magnolia's Mother's Trust, visit their website [here](#).

Baby's First Years⁷

Baby's First Years is the first study to test the casual connections between poverty reduction and healthy development among very young children, including brain development. The project provides low-income mothers a monthly, unconditional cash gift starting at birth for the first three years of a child's life. One thousand low-income mothers and their newborns were recruited in several ethnically and geographically diverse communities. Mothers receive either (1) \$333 each month (\$4,000 each year), or (2) \$20 each month (\$240 each year), for the first 40 months of the children's lives with the first payments occurring shortly after the baby's birth.

Developmental scientists agree that poverty is especially likely to shape children's early development because of the high plasticity and rapid growth of the brain during the first three years of life. To test these findings, researchers and policy makers called for a rigorous study to examine how providing income support to families may affect infants' and toddlers' brain function and development.

⁴ <http://springboardto.org/index.php/blog/story/introducing-the-magnolia-mothers-trust>

⁵ Magnolia Mother's Trust: 15 Black Mothers To Receive \$1000 Per Month in Basic Income Initiative, <https://www.essence.com/culture/magnolia-mothers-trust-15-black-mothers-to-receive-1000-per-month-in-basic-income-initiative/>

⁶ Aisha Nyandoro on Social Welfare Programs, <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/amanpour-and-company/video/aisha-nyandoro-on-social-welfare-programs/>

⁷ <https://www.babysfirstyears.com/about>

To understand how poverty reduction affects children's development and family life, quantitative data is being collected on or around the children's first, second, and third birthdays. Each wave of data collection captures:

- Aspects of family life hypothesized to be affected by poverty, including parent stress, family expenditures, family routines, parents' time use and parenting practices, and childcare arrangements.
- Children's development, as well as their physical health, stress, and behavior.

In addition, qualitative semi-structured interviews are being conducted with 80 randomly selected mothers in two of the four study sites at four different intervals during the period when mothers are receiving cash gifts, and immediately following.

The study is designed to produce strong and clear evidence about the magnitude and pathways of causal connections between family income and early childhood development. Beyond its core contributions to science, the study will provide important evidence about the likely effects of tax and income-enhancement policies for families with young children, such as the Child and Earned Income Tax Credits, and related social policies designed to enhance family economic stability and well-being.

For more about the Baby's First Years, visit their website [here](#).

The Opportunity

We seek proposals from potential partners passionate about economic security and wellbeing for expectant families and families with young children (0-3) to design a GBI pilot in one to three communities in Washington State. Participants would receive unrestricted cash from the time of pregnancy to the period up to age three. We expect that a well-thought-out plan will be followed by Perigee Fund's financial support for implementation of the pilot. If the partner has presence and community trust in multiple communities, they can recommend supporting multiple communities (no more than three). The partner will lead the design process with the support of advisory group(s), which we expect would include family representatives and community leaders with multiple viewpoints, including that of policymakers. Advisors will be convened and facilitated by the partner with support of Perigee Fund, and they will inform the design process and implementation plan(s). Family perspectives should inform choices about the GBI structures that they envision would fit their lives.

Human-centric design requires that any new policy or program is grounded in the needs, wants, and capabilities of the people being served and prioritizes participation among those most marginalized by the current social policy system. We believe that in order for a GBI pilot to be successful, getting the details right will require community engagement, informed consideration of how the pilot will interact with other programs, and a commitment to ensuring the pilot's design advances principles of equity and inclusion.

Perigee Fund is prepared to fund a six-month grant focused on the design of a GBI pilot program in Washington State. At the end of the design process alongside an advisory group(s), the partner should submit their developed plan(s) and a request for financial support (and technical support as needed) to implement the pilot.

While we expect that the financial resources will make a difference for the family's economic choices, it is not Perigee Fund's expectation that the GBI pilot will necessarily change the family's income or family economic stability in the years following their participation. Our aim is to reduce cumulative stress for expectant families and/or families with young children (0-3 years) during a critical developmental period, and hope the income gives families more agency, reduces potentially toxic stress levels to tolerable stress, and improves overall health and wellbeing outcomes for primary caregivers and children.

The implementation plan should include the following:

- Goals that are aligned with Perigee Fund’s intent, including a focus on serving pregnant or parenting people with an emphasis on attuned, safe, and positive early relationships, ages 0 to 3, and an understanding of the role of stress, trauma, and adverse childhood experiences in the lives of the target population.
- Criteria for eligibility for inclusion in the pilot and a chosen target population, with an expected focus on families of color and centering caregivers in the planning phase
- An enrollment process for pilot participants
- GBI amounts and timeline of payments that fit with the design guidance received
- Mechanisms for managing a cash disbursement process, ensuring that the approach works for the population served
- An approach to connecting families to emotional supports and other resources available to participating families, either through a direct role or through referral relationships with community partners and other systems
- An analysis to understand the implications of additional income for enrolled families and risks to current eligibility for other public support, potentially including a plan to seek local and state policy change to ensure the GBI pilot increases total income and resources for participating families
- An approach to bringing voice and storytelling to communicate the value of unconditional cash assistance, or guaranteed basic income, particularly during this critical life stage and shifting narratives about family poverty
- An approach to participating in data collection and evaluation, which would be implemented by a third-party evaluator
- A budget for the capacity needed to implement the pilot along with the GBI payments

Target Population:

- We expect the pilot to include a significant focus on enrolling and supporting pregnant people and/or primary caregivers with children (0-3) who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).
- We would expect that undocumented families that may be part of a chosen target population (members of a geographic or cultural community) would be considered for inclusion in the pilot.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Community-based organization, including tribal organizations, with 501(c)3 nonprofit status or with a fiscal sponsor that qualifies as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.
- Based within the state of Washington and currently serving communities in Washington.

Strong preference will be given to:

- Organizations whose governance and leadership reflects the communities they serve and the pilot’s target population.
- Organizations that center racial equity, family economic security and emotional wellbeing for families in their work and approach.
- Organizations with strong relationships and trust in the communities they serve.
- Organizations that demonstrate a clear commitment to a no-strings-attached guaranteed basic income.

- Organizations who serve pregnant people and primary caregivers with young children (0-3).

Examples of organizations who may be good candidates for this work include multiservice organizations or community action agencies, or those that focus on family economic security, asset building, early childhood, maternal child health, or family support.

Timeline

November 16, 2020:	Release RFP
December 2, 2020:	Information session (12-1pm)
December 3, 2020:	Information session (9-10am)
January 7, 2021:	Application closes
January 25- February 12, 2021:	Interview finalists
March 1-August 31, 2021:	Estimated grant timeline

Learning and Evaluation

During the design phase, a third-party evaluator will be identified and will work with Perigee Fund and the design partner to determine the key questions for the evaluation process and provide guidance about the size of the pilot needed to answer evaluation questions, as there is a relationship between the number of families participating and the conclusions that can be drawn from an evaluation methodology.

Proposal Review Process

Proposals will be screened by the Perigee Fund team. Finalists will be invited for a phone or video conversation. Decisions will be made based on applicants' relevant skills and experience, the strength of the proposed approach relative to that of other applicants, and a demonstrated commitment to Perigee Fund's priorities in design and implementation. Those priorities include centering families most impacted in decision-making, trusting families with no-strings-attached financial resources, and a commitment to advocate for the wellbeing of expectant families and families with young children (0-3).

How to Apply

Information Session

An optional information session for prospective applicants will be held December 2nd, 2020, at 12-1:00pm and December 3rd, 2020, at 9-10:00am. Please register for an information session [here](#).

Proposals must be submitted by **January 7th, 2021**. Email [Gloris Estrella](#) with questions or to request an extension.

Proposal Elements

Proposal Narrative Questions:

1. How does this opportunity to design a GBI pilot fit with your organization's mission and goals?
2. How does this opportunity fit with the needs and priorities of the community or communities you serve?
3. How would you approach the process to design the pilot and produce an implementation plan that includes the elements outlined in the OPPORTUNITY section of this RFP? What challenges and tensions do you anticipate in the design process? How would you address these?
4. How would you structure advisory group (s) to inform the pilot design and implementation plan? How would you engage families in the design process?
5. How would you anticipate working with Perigee Fund during the design phase?
6. After the design phase, Perigee hopes to fund the design partner or another organization that has been identified during the design to implement the pilot. Do you currently have operating capabilities or operating partnerships that you could draw upon to implement a GBI pilot? Please explain.
7. Please add any additional points that you see as relevant to this application.

Budget:

- Please propose the budget needed to accomplish the design work. In the proposal review and interview process, we will discuss areas where Perigee Fund has budget priorities and parameters, in response to what is proposed.
- The design process will determine the GBI parameters. At this time, we are not requesting a budget for implementation of the pilot, only the budget for the design phase.

Attachments:

- A. Contact information
- B. Background information about the mission, services provided, communities served, and annual operating budget of your organization
- C. Appendix with examples of your work that are relevant to this application or demonstrate your organization's capabilities

All responses must be:

- Page numbered with the organization's name on each page
- In font size 12 point for normal text and no less than 10 point for any graphics
- Proposal narrative of no more than 10 pages, excluding attachments and budget
- All elements must be contained in a single PDF file emailed to Gloris Estrella by January 7, 2021. Please contact Gloris if you would like to request an extension or have any questions.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this opportunity.