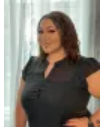


Pomona offering \$500 monthly payments to eligible families beginning this summer

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A family-focused [guaranteed income program](#) first proposed in Pomona three years ago will launch this summer, city officials announced.

Flourishing Families, an 18-month pilot project, is funded by [\\$4.5 million](#) in federal coronavirus aid the city received in 2021. The program will tentatively begin in July.

Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval has been an advocate for a family-focused income program and has suggested other ways to support programs aimed at children under the age of 5.

“The most valuable investment we can make in our communities is in our children,” Sandoval said in an interview. “When we invest in our children we will have better outcomes.”

Sandoval said he is working with city staff and community organizations to streamline access to resources to make it easier for families to receive assistance.

The program targets young parents ages 18 to 25 who have children under the age of 5. Some of the parents targeted have aged out of the foster-care system and need extra support, officials said.

The goal is to help young families navigate and build skills to overcome obstacles such as educational and financial insecurity, according to Beverly Johnson, a city representative for the Neighborhood Services Department.

Pomona, like many cities in the nation, continues to face challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, such as unemployment, lack of affordable housing and inflation.

According to recent [census data](#), at least 14% of Pomona’s population lives in poverty and the city has an average of 3.5 people per household. The state Employment Development Department reports that Pomona has a 5.5% unemployment rate as of February 2024.

After the City Council held study sessions in 2021 to determine the best use of \$45 million it received in federal coronavirus aid, at least \$4.5 million was identified for a future family income program now known as Flourishing Families.

The rollout of Flourishing Families will begin with 600 families total, 350 of them in a control group and 250 in a test group.

Families in the test group will receive \$500 a month for 18 months beginning in July, and those in the control group will receive stipends when they have completed various program-related tasks to increase household stability, improve their financial security, reduce their stress and improve their mental health.

To monitor the progress of families, participants will be subject to check-ins at their one-year mark in the program and six to 12 months after they conclude the program.

The pilot program will offer supportive services from community-based organizations that are still being identified by city staff to all families. Services will address mental and physical health, financial education, employment and education services, and services for children ages 5 and under.

In addition to partnering with local community organizations, the city is teaming up with UCLA to handle data processing for the program and its conclusion report.

Data will be collected throughout the program, and it will be reviewed by UCLA to determine its efficacy and areas for improvement.

Marketing and outreach for program enrollment will begin in May and go through June. Families who apply to the program will go through a screening process to ensure they meet the qualifications.

The Neighborhood Services Department is “pushing hard to gear up soon” and get the first families enrolled in the program, Johnson said.

Those with further questions about the program may call Johnson at 909-620-2368.