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THE BRIDGE PROJECT

New York City's First Guaranteed Income Project Underway

January 18, 2022; New York, NY – Announced today, [The Bridge Project](#) (TBP) is the first guaranteed income project in New York City. TBP gives low-income mothers of infants and expecting mothers \$500 or \$1,000 total a month, paid in biweekly installments, for three years. Payments to 100 mothers began in July of 2021, and the program will scale up to add an additional 500 mothers in early 2022. TBP is working with several community partners, including Harlem Children's Zone, Children's Aid, El Nido de Esperanza and Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation.

The initial cohort of 100 mothers reside in Northern Manhattan's Washington Heights, Inwood, and Central Harlem neighborhoods. Roughly half the mothers are Latinx and half the mothers are Black. One in five are undocumented.

The project is based on the vast amount of data that shows the first thousand days of a baby's life are the most critical time to invest in their development for successful childhood and adulthood. Nearly one in four children in New York City under the age of 3 live in poverty. That rate is about ten percentage points above the national childhood poverty rate, and the numbers are even worse for Black and Latinx children.

"The Bridge Project is built around the truth that poverty is not an individual failing, it is a systemic failing of our economic system and an insufficient social safety net," said TBP's Executive Director, Megha Agarwal. "While we live in an intensely polarized time, we should all be able to agree that in the wealthiest country in the world, no baby should go without the food, shelter and safety that economic security provides."

The project will begin recruitment in April for the additional 500 first-time, pregnant mothers across the project's existing neighborhoods, as well as to the expanded neighborhoods of East Harlem, Central Bronx, and South Bronx. TBP is a randomized controlled trial, with research led by the [Center for Guaranteed Income Research](#) at the University of Pennsylvania. Project implementation and full funding of more than \$16M is provided by [The Monarch Foundation](#).

"At first I thought The Bridge Project was too good to be true," said Brittany, a TBP recipient who experienced complications with her pregnancy that required several doctor's appointments. "This money has helped me with cabs back and forth to the hospital, and everything I need for my baby."

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