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CONTACT: Saadia McConville

media@bridgeproject.org

THE BRIDGE PROJECT

NYC Guaranteed Income Program Scaling Up to Additional 500 Pregnant Moms

Initial Results Released & Applications Open Through April 13 at 12 p.m. ET

April 7, 2022; New York, NY – [The Bridge Project](#) (TBP), New York City’s first guaranteed income project, will be accepting applications for its next round of 500 mothers until April 13 at 12 p.m. ET. Requirements include being currently pregnant, an annual household income below \$52,000 and current residence within one of the following 22 NYC zip codes: 10026, 10027, 10029, 10030, 10031, 10032, 10033, 10034, 10035, 10037, 10039, 10040, 10451, 10452, 10453, 10454, 10455, 10456, 10457, 10459, 10460, or 10474.

The new cohort of 500 pregnant women will all receive \$1,000 monthly for 18 months, followed by 18 months of \$500 payments, all in biweekly installments. TBP is working with more than 25 community partners on outreach and recruitment including NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Harlem Children’s Zone, Association to Benefit Children, Children’s Aid, Nido de Esperanza, Bronx Healthy Start, Power of Two, Montefiore Medical Center, and Ashe Birthing Services.

Today TBP released new demographic information and spending data on the first six months of the program. Payments to an initial cohort of 100 low-income mothers began in July of 2021, giving new mothers \$500 or \$1,000 total a month, paid in biweekly installments, for three years. More than half of these recipients are either working or currently looking for work, with an average income of \$1,200 monthly before the project started. Recipients saw substantial improvements in their ability to access childcare and an increase in savings. 46 percent of funds were withdrawn as cash or transferred to other accounts, with recipients reporting primarily using those funds to pay for large expenses like rent. Of the money that remained on the debit card most was spent on merchandise such as diapers and wipes, with food as the second largest category. More details can be found [here](#), and video interviews with several mothers are available to media outlets by contacting media@bridgeproject.org.

TBP is based on the large body of evidence that shows the first 1,000 days of a baby’s life as a critical time for investment, providing the highest likelihood for a successful childhood and adulthood. In New York City, nearly one in four children under the age of 3 live in poverty, with rates for Black and Latinx children disproportionately higher. Parents are now without the monthly payments of the expanded Child Tax Credit which expired at the end of 2021. Without those, U.S. child poverty rose 41 percent in a single month according to the Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University.

TBP research is led by the University of Pennsylvania’s [Center for Guaranteed Income Research](#) and the project’s implementation and full funding of over \$16M is provided by [The Monarch Foundation](#).

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