The Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) is the nation’s first mayor-led guaranteed income initiative. In February 2019, we began giving 125 randomly selected Stocktonians a guaranteed income of $500 per month, for 18 months. The cash is unconditional - no strings attached and no work requirements. In October 2019, we released demographic details as well as impact data for the five months of disbursements.

Who's receiving the $500, and what's the impact?

70% of recipients identify as female

$1,800 recipients' median monthly household income before SEED

37% of recipients identify as Hispanic, Latinx, or of Spanish origin

47% White
28% Black or African American
11% Asian
2% American Indian
2% Pacific Islander
10% Other

43% of recipients are employed full- or part-time
20% are disabled, not working
11% care-takers
11% looking for work

Less than 2% of SEED recipients are unemployed and not looking for work

40% of money is spent on food

Merchandise makes up 25% of purchases, and utilities about 11-12%

“My health feels a lot lot better. I was stressed out, my body was wearing out, you could tell my body was wearing out...I feel healthier, I have more energy, I’m able to just relax and have fun I guess have fun. Having fun with my kids, that’s the biggest thing right now. It’s only six months right now. Six months and it opened my eyes to a whole bunch of different things.”

-- Tomas Vargas, SEED Recipient