

Background

The Ontario Government released its "Basic Income Consultations – What We Heard" in March 2017, which has formed the basis of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot that is being rolled out in:

- Hamilton, Brantford and Brant County - Launching late Spring 2017;
- Thunder Bay and the surrounding area - Launching late Spring 2017;
- Lindsay - Launching by Fall 2017;
- A First Nations pilot will also be included at a later date.

Appendix A: Basic Income Consultations – What We Heard

The locations were selected based on community demographics to study outcomes in urban, rural and mixed urban/rural areas. The regions were also assessed for their economic need, demographics and access to local resources and services.

Details around the pilot are highlighted in a summary document entitled "Ontario's Basic Income Pilot – Studying the Impact of a Basic Income".

Appendix B: Ontario's Basic Income Pilot

The three year pilot is intended to include 4,000 people from across the identified communities. Individuals opting into the program will exit the social assistance system; however Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients, who are randomly selected and voluntarily agree to leave social assistance to participate in the pilot, will retain their eligibility for the Ontario Drug Benefits. Furthermore, those on ODSP and their spouses will remain eligible for dental benefits if they were receiving them prior to entering the Pilot.

Study participants will be:

- randomly selected;
- 18 to 64 years old;
- living in one of the selected test locations for the past 12 months or longer; and
- living on a lower income.

The pilot will measure outcomes in areas such as: food security, stress and anxiety, mental health, health and healthcare usage, housing stability, education and training, employment and labour market participation.

The pilot will support participants going to school to further their education or beginning/continuing to work will receiving the basic income. The basic income will decrease by \$0.50 for every dollar an individual earns through work.

Payment amount

The payment will be based on 75 per cent of the Low Income Measure (LIM), plus other broadly available tax credits and benefits. Following a tax credit model, the Ontario Basic Income Pilot will ensure that participants receive:

- Up to \$16,989 per year for a single person, less 50% of any earned income
- Up to \$24,027 per year for a couple, less 50% of any earned income

By comparison the full entitlement available per year while an individual or family is on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program is as follows:

Family Composition	Ontario Works	Ontario Disability Support Program
Single person	Up to \$8,470	Up to \$13,536
Couple	Up to \$13,140	Up to \$20,256

For people on either Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support program deductions for any earned income is calculated as follows; from net earnings each adult declaring earned income is given a \$200 exemption less 50% of the net balance.

Child benefits

Participants currently receiving child benefits, such as the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB), will continue to be eligible to receive them during the pilot.

CPP and EI benefits

Participants on Employment Insurance or on the Canada Pension Plan will have their monthly basic income payment reduced dollar for dollar

Pilot evaluation

The pilot will be evaluated by a third-party research group. An advisory group will also be created to monitor the pilot and ensure its conducted with integrity, rigour and ethical standards.

Public Reporting

The public reporting will occur in 2020, no participant's personal information will be included or shared in any reports.

Next Steps

The City of Greater Sudbury will continue to engage with the Ministry of Community and Social Services to improve outcomes for vulnerable individuals in our community and monitor the results of the pilot. A report will be brought back to the Community Services Committee to provide an update on the pilot outcomes.