

Ontario's Basic Income Pilot

Studying the impact of a basic income



What is basic income?

A basic income is a payment to eligible families or individuals that ensures a minimum income level regardless of employment status.

Why study a basic income?

The pilot will test whether a basic income can better support vulnerable workers, improve health and education outcomes for people on low incomes, and help ensure that everyone shares in Ontario's economic growth. It will measure outcomes in:

- Food security
- Stress and anxiety
- Mental health
- Health and health care usage
- Housing stability
- Education and training
- Employment and labour market participation

Where is the pilot taking place?

The three-year pilot will take place in the following locations:

- Hamilton, Brantford, Brant County - launching late spring 2017
- Thunder Bay and the surrounding area - launching late spring 2017
- Lindsay - launching by fall 2017

How does it work?

Randomly selected individuals will receive information in the mail inviting them to apply to be part of the pilot. Eligible individuals will be randomly selected to either receive the basic income or be part of a control group made up of people who will not be receiving payments. Individuals receiving the basic income will be compared to the selected control group.

Up to 4,000 participants receiving basic income payments will be included in the pilot at full implementation.

Participants will be:

- Randomly selected
- 18 to 64 years old
- Living in one of the test locations for the past 12 months or longer
- Living on a low income.

Ontario is also planning a separate, parallel First Nations Basic Income Pilot, co-created and designed with First Nations partners.

How much will participants receive?

The payment will account for other income and ensure a minimum level of income is provided. Participants will receive:

- Up to \$16,989 per year for a single person, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to \$24,027 per year for a couple, less 50 per cent of any earned income
- Up to an additional \$6,000 per year for a person with a disability.

Participants can go to school to further their education or begin/continue to work while receiving the basic income. The basic income amount will decrease by \$0.50 for every dollar an individual earns through work.

Income from other programs, such as the Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance, would reduce the basic income payment dollar for dollar. Income related to children, such as the Ontario Child Benefit and child support, would be exempt. People receiving support through Ontario Works who enter the pilot will continue to receive the Ontario Drug Benefit, and people on the Ontario Disability Support Program will continue to receive the Ontario Drug Benefit and dental benefits.

Who will evaluate the pilot?

A third-party research consortium will evaluate the pilot. The province will form an advisory group with research and evaluation experts to ensure the pilot is conducted with the utmost integrity, rigour and ethical standards.

For more information about the pilot, please visit www.ontario.ca/basicincome or call **1-844-217-4516**

