

## Guaranteed Basic Income

### **Program name: Evergreen Basic Income Trust**

The Evergreen Basic Income Trust (EBIT) is a guaranteed basic income (GBI) program that provides regular, unconditional cash payments to recipients who meet certain criteria. GBI programs provide greater freedom and dignity to participants in deciding how to best care for themselves and their families. EBIT is intended to build on the experience of locally based, community-driven pilots and the statewide GBI feasibility study and create space for more legislative support for a statewide program.

### **Program benefit:**

Participants will receive a monthly payment that is equal to the cost of rent for a 2-bedroom unit in the participant's area of residence. This monthly payment will last for 24 months to allow time for participants to increase financial stability and see any real change.

### **Payments:**

Payment amount will be determined by the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Fair Market Rent \(FMR\)](#) and adjusted annually. HUD's FMR accounts for geographic variations in housing costs, so the benefit amount will be more reflective of the cost of living and better cover basic needs in different parts of the state. For example, Yakima County resident participants would receive \$1,050; King County resident participants would receive \$1,940.

### **Eligibility:**

Participants must be a resident of Washington State and 18 years old or above. They must have income at or below 50% of the area median income, as determined by the HUD HOME Income Limits. This measure would accommodate geographic variation in cost-of-living. For a 1-person household, that is \$24,750 in Yakima County and \$40,500 in King County.

### **Outreach and enrollment process:**

DSHS will work with community-based organizations to support outreach and enrollment especially to communities who are harder to reach like people experiencing homelessness, rural communities, and immigrant and refugee communities. DSHS will prioritize outreach and enrollment efforts to the lowest-income households and other key populations, such as young adults who have aged out of foster care, young adults experiencing homelessness, and adults who were formerly incarcerated. Automatic enrollment and integration with other public benefits will be arranged whenever possible.

### **Impact on other public benefits**

Participation will not impact eligibility for other income or means-tested programs including, but not limited to, Washington Basic Food; Aged, Blind, and Disabled Assistance Program; Housing and Essential Needs Program; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; and indigent defense services.

### **Report on the program**

HB1045 (Creating the Evergreen Basic Income Pilot Program) made it out of the Policy Committee in 2023 and will continue through the legislative process in the 2024 session.