Universal Basic Income (UBI) programs will be powerful tools to support the health and wellbeing of transgender communities. UBI projects can provide low-income transgender people the means to afford basics such as housing, groceries, and utilities to create a minimal level of financial security.

**Poverty in Transgender Communities**

Transgender and gender non-conforming people are more likely to live in poverty than cisgender people. Three in ten (29%) transgender people live in poverty, and transgender people are 4x more likely to earn less than $10,000 a year than the general population.

Income gaps are even greater for trans people who are also members of other marginalized communities, including people of color, immigrants, and those who are justice-involved. 38% of Black trans adults live in poverty, as do 48% of Hispanic trans adults.

**Employment Gaps**

Unemployment, underemployment, & discriminatory barriers to career advancement can severely affect the earnings of trans workers. Nearly half (48%) of transgender employees reported being fired or not hired based on their LGBT status and 45% report harassment and hostile treatment on the job from supervisors and coworkers.

Difficulties generating income through employment in the formal economy leads many trans and gender nonconforming people to engage in underground economies. One in five transgender adults report having done work that is currently criminalized at some point in their lives (20%)-including 9% who report having done so in the past year-in order to generate income to support themselves and their families.

**Food Insecurity**

During the pandemic, one in five transgender adults experienced food insufficiency (20%), 2.5x more often than for cisgender adults (8%). Transgender people of color were even more likely to experience food insecurity (28%). Despite greater need, transgender adults were less likely to receive public food assistance.

In California, newly proposed programs include projects in Palm Springs and San Francisco to provide UBI to low-income transgender individuals. These programs will help address the disproportionate levels of poverty, food insecurity, and housing insecurity for transgender communities, and support the health and wellbeing of transgender people by empowering them to create a basic level of financial security for themselves and their families.