



Black Women's Resilience Project

Who is Café X: By Any Beans Necessary?

Café X: By Any Beans Necessary (Café X) is a family-owned, Black woman-owned cooperative coffee shop built to support generational wealth building in the Black community and other marginalized communities. We do this by developing cross-sector partnerships with community-based organizations and individuals; sustaining creative and artistic projects; and developing the next generation of leaders to generate a social, cultural, and economic movement that changes the quality of life in our communities. **Café X has partnered with San Diego for Every Child and Jewish Family Service to develop the Black Women's Resilience Project (BWRP) to study how guaranteed income paired with culturally relevant social services and networks impact socioeconomic mobility for Black families.**

The goal of the BWRP is to support and advance culturally relevant strategies to shift human services delivery models for Black women facing the violence of poverty. Through this program, we seek to understand the racial and ethnic experience of poverty as a social construct, rather than a character deficit, and actively develop solutions to eliminate it. **By providing a base of income and a supportive network of community-based resources, we will create an environment for individual self-determination and communal participation, and study those impacts on participant's socioeconomic health.**

What we know

- Forty nine percent of Black households experience food insecurity in San Diego County -that is the highest of any racial/ethnic demographic.
- The infant mortality rate among Black mothers in San Diego County is almost five times that of white mothers.
- Among the racial and ethnic groups presented, Black, non-Hispanic children ages 0-17 had the highest poverty rates in metropolitan and micropolitan areas in 2018.



Why Fund Black Women?

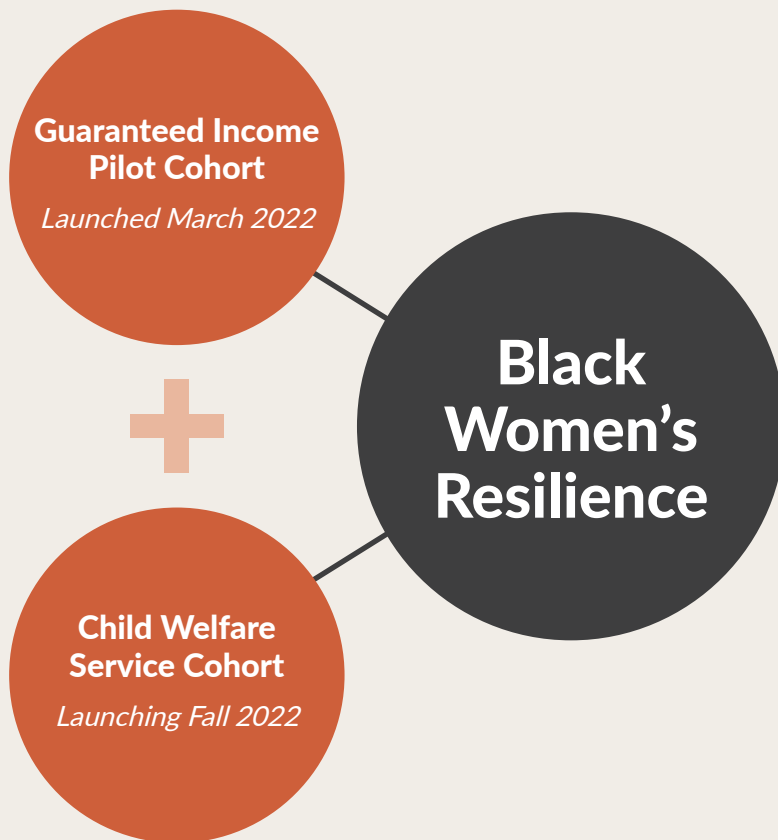
Black women stand at the intersections of race, class, and gender discrimination that impacts their health and well-being physically, socially, and economically. Though Black women in the United States experienced substantial improvements in health over a few decades, health disparities persist. Black women continue to experience excess mortality relative to other U.S. women, including shorter life expectancies and higher rates of maternal mortality. Moreover, Black women are disproportionately burdened by chronic conditions, such as anemia, cardiovascular disease (CVD), and obesity. These health indicators do not occur in a vacuum but are the result of environmental stressors and systemic racism experienced over the course of a lifetime that impact socioeconomic well-being. Reversal of these dismal health outcomes must rely on inclusive socioeconomic strategies that empower the end-user as well as the surrounding community to be architects and providers of long-term solutions.



Design Construction

Leveraging the ongoing San Diego for Child Guaranteed Income Pilot and the Child Welfare System Cash Transfer programs, BWRP will provide a supportive network of services to improve the social mobility of Black women and families. Families will identify and participate in programs and services to maximize the receipt of guaranteed income and targeted research questions will inform conversations about culturally responsive approaches to economic resiliency. The goal of the BWRP is to study how guaranteed income, paired with culturally relevant social service networks, impact socioeconomic mobility for Black women and their families.

To develop this project design, Café X By Any Beans Necessary hosted several focus groups with Black women residing in affordable housing as well as an advisory board wholly comprised of Black women. These conversations highlighted the need for a more nuanced view of social service delivery and safety net programs available to the Black community in San Diego County. During these conversations, we discovered evidence that cash alone may not provide long-term solutions to pervasive health problems in the Black community. In other words, cash without long-term, culturally relevant, supportive resources may not be enough for sustainable impact.



San Diego Guaranteed Income Pilot

San Diego for Every Child GI project provides 150 families within four underserved zip codes with \$500 monthly cash payments for 24 months. Residents in these areas predominately identify as people of color, have environmental health concerns, and rank as having less access to opportunity. Families selected have at least one child in the family 12 years old or younger, with a maximum income of \$53,000 for a family of four. The program launched in March 2022.

San Diego Child Welfare Services Cash Transfer Program

Cash Transfer Program is intended to prevent child maltreatment and youth entry into foster care through the provision of economic resources necessary for families to safely care for their children and support family strengthening.

The program will serve families with children ages 0 to 12 years who are at risk of entering foster care, particularly in communities of color with higher rates of poverty. Eligible families will receive monthly income subsidies for up to two years and have access to equitable opportunities to participate in supportive services. The program will launch in Fall 2022.

What We Need

By providing unrestricted guaranteed income and culturally relevant support services, the BWRP will help its participants achieve self-actualization, economic mobility, improved mental health, and civic engagement & belonging. To achieve this goal, the project needs the following:

- *Advisory Board and Supportive Services.*
This will go beyond the nonprofit sector to include for-profits providing consultative services to women.
- *Narrative Change.*
Community conversations and workshops to debunk myths about deservedness and worth.
- *Case Management.*
Software and staff to follow up with participants utilizing services included in BWRP core supports and other community resources.
- *Research and Evaluators.*
We will leverage existing guaranteed income program resources by adding participatory action research and targeted questions for this program.

Your Support

Although significant resources have been secured for the guaranteed income projects, support is still needed for the Black Women's Resilience Project. Approximately, \$450,000 of private philanthropic support is needed for the administration and delivery of connected support services, staffing, and advisory board stipends. Now is the moment to act, and this funding will help the racial and gender inequalities that impact the lives of Black women.