



2024-2025 Research Package
Topic: THS a universal basic
income



What is a universal basic income?

A universal basic income (UBI) is an unconditional payment the government provides to individuals on a regular schedule. It is a social welfare proposal, in which all citizens can receive a minimum income in the form of a transfer payment. Most versions of UBI are premised upon a “no strings attached” model, wherein employment status and government assessments are not conditions.

Why are policymakers considering UBI?

Across the globe, the wealth gap between the rich and poor is increasing. Economic inequality, the unequal distribution of income and opportunity between different groups in society, is at the forefront of various political agendas. According to the World Bank, around 700 million people worldwide live in extreme poverty or on less than \$2.15 USD today. Unemployment and lockdowns induced by the COVID-19 pandemic are also contributing factors that leave workers without a reliable source of income and forced many small businesses to close. The question is whether a UBI program will solve these issues, thus stabilizing the economy, or be too costly to maintain, thus increasing these economic concerns.

What are some examples of UBI programs?

- Andrew Yang’s flagship *Freedom Dividend*.
- Canada’s *Mincome* pilot project from 1974 to 1978
- The charity, GiveDirectly’s, UBI program in Kenya
- Iran’s 2011 unconditional cash transfer program

Commented [1]: I suggest a list rather than full explanations to encourage (force) debaters to do their own research rather than providing the script.

Questions to Consider:

- Will a universal basic income policy fix the wealth gap and economic inequality of the nation?
- Where have universal basic income programs seen the most success?
- What are other possible alternatives to a universal basic income program?
- Does universal basic income do more for the people most in need of assistance than, for example, Canada's current social safety net?
- Is it fair for all citizens to receive an unconditional stipend from the government?
- How might citizens spend their universal basic income?
- Who stands to gain from this policy? Who stands to lose? Or is it universally beneficial or harmful?

Sources & Future Readings:

[What Is Universal Basic Income \(UBI\), and How Does It Work?](#)

[Everywhere basic income has been tried, in one map](#)

[1970s Manitoba poverty experiment called a success](#)

[Universal Basic Income Has Been Repeatedly. It Works. Will America Ever Embrace It?](#)

[Multiple countries have tested a universal basic income and it works](#)

[What is basic income, and how would it impact me?](#)

[The expensive truth of a universal basic income](#)





