

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GUARANTEED INCOME FOR ALL

WHEREAS, 46% of American households have experienced serious financial trouble during the pandemic, including running out of savings, difficulty affording food, paying utility bills, and paying their rent or mortgage; and

WHEREAS, Black and Hispanic workers were more likely to experience COVID-19-related unemployment, as well as higher levels of food insecurity and nearly twice as much difficulty meeting household expenses; and

WHEREAS, direct Economic Impact Payments under the CARES and ARPA legislation alleviated and reduced poverty, allowing individuals and families to pay for essential needs, such as rent, food, and utilities; and

WHEREAS, the expanded child tax credit reached more than thirty-five million households with children, temporarily cutting child poverty by nearly half and driving it to record lows, including for all racial and ethnic groups measured; and

WHEREAS, the expanded child tax credit reduced food insecurity among families by 26% and led to the lowest share of households with children that were food insecure on record; and

WHEREAS, nearly 40% of Americans could not afford a single \$400 emergency prior to the pandemic, and rising income inequality is compounded by an ever-growing wealth divide; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County has processed a sustained elevated level of eviction prevention assistance requests from low-income households since 2020; and

WHEREAS, providing an income floor through which no American family could fall will benefit individuals and communities both now and in the future; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Board,

Supports its Members joining Counties for a Guaranteed Income, a national coalition to advance work to create an income floor for all residents; and

Supports ongoing, direct cash payments to significantly income constrained households from the federal government which can provide these benefits at scale, which are portable and provide protection that cash benefits will not reduce eligibility for other safety net programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arlington County Board will notify local, state, and federal lawmakers of our advocacy position on Guaranteed Income and share the evaluation of the Arlington Guarantee Pilot program when published.

ADOPTED on this 13th day of June 2023