

Yolo Basic Income Project (YOBI) Evaluation



UC DAVIS
Center for
Regional Change

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HEALTH

Violence Prevention
Research Program
California Firearm Violence
Research Center

- **What:** Unconditional cash support for 24 months to bring families up to the California Poverty Measure minimum.
 - **Average family stipend:** \$1,289
 - **Served 243 individuals:** 96 adults and 147 children
- **Why:** To determine if increasing the income of families to the CA Poverty Measure will improve childhood outcomes and family financial stability.

Implementation Partners:





Three Treatment Groups

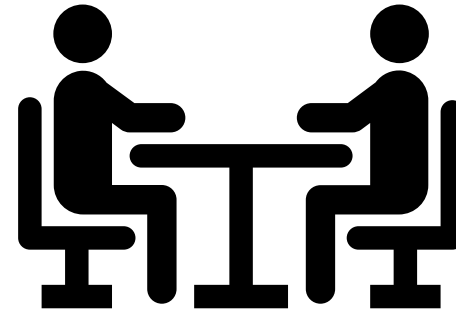
All three treatment groups had at least 1 child under the age of 6 years old and received CalWORKS benefits.

YOBI Only Families: Received monthly YOBI payments for two years.

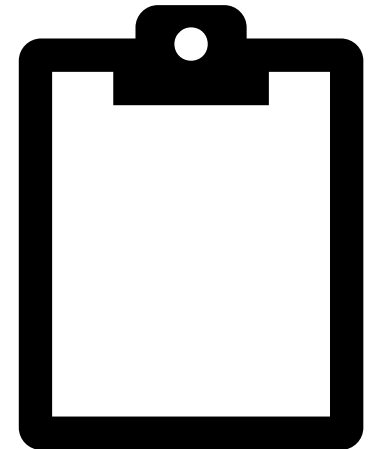
YOBI HSP: Received monthly YOBI payments and were enrolled in the county's Housing Support Program (HSP).

Comparison: Received CalWORKs benefits only.

Mixed Methods Evaluation Components



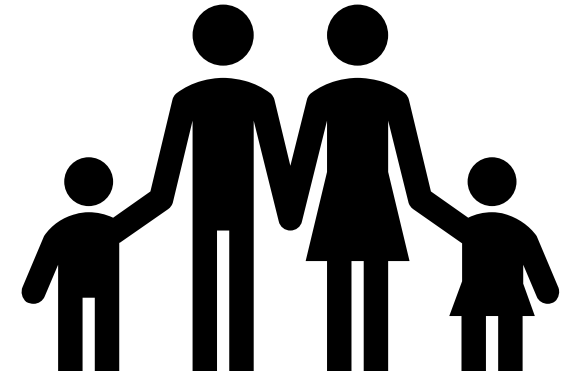
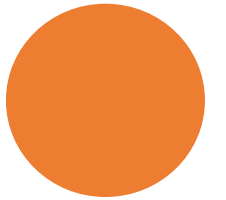
137 interviews with participants
and 44 with staff



260+ surveys with participants

Life felt more stable

- “For the first time in my life I was able to feel confident in my ability to be a mom and provide and I wasn't worried and stressed about, 'how am I gonna do this?'”
- “I can't have my mom and dad help me forever. I had to learn to be independent...it helped me grow as a person to a little bit, you know.”
- “YOBI kind of gave me that boost and that confidence I needed to provide for my family...and I was able to move up in my...position confidently, knowing that I was secure, you know.”



**62% increase in the number of YOBI families reporting:
"Overall, my life feels stable to me."**

YOBI families were more likely to rent or own their homes



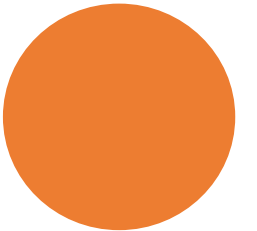
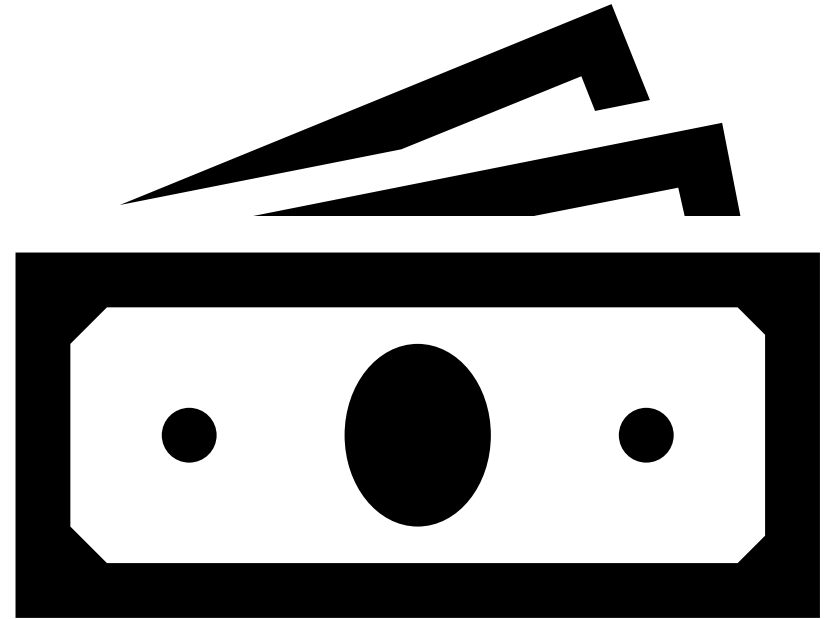
- “YOBI...has been a great deal of help. Without that last month, I wouldn’t even have been able to pay rent.”
- “...the only reason I was able to get into my apartment that I’m in because I was able to claim that [YOBI] income. Like without it, I wouldn’t have qualified. So that kind of saved my life because there’s no way I could afford the rent where I was any longer.”

More YOBI families could afford to rent or own:

- **53% to 82% YOBI Only**
- **64% to 93% YOBI HSP**

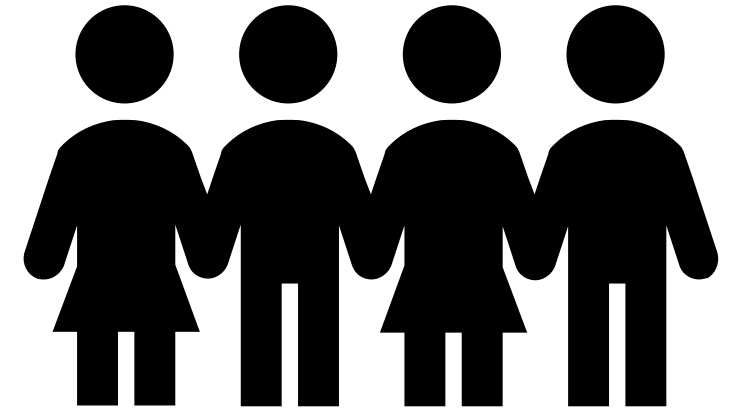
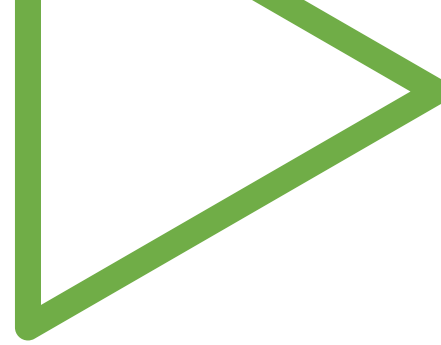
YOBI families could better cover expenses and material needs while comparison families showed no change

- “Without YOBI it would be a struggle...my kids, it keeps a roof over their head, it keeps them with hot water, or a place to play, a place to call home.”
- “Things like childcare, gas...even maintenance with the car...Sometimes it would help with rent...also other expenses that I pay as well, like life insurance and things like that.”
- “My son’s growing like a weed...diapers, shoes, underwear...plus he goes to daycare...even his medication...”



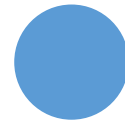
YOBI changed their childhood

- “...the kids...got stuff that they wouldn't have gotten before YOBI and there were...better birthdays...they got to....go play soccer...this weekend we went with my mom - we went bowling...you know...it changed their childhood.”
- “I was able to figure out exactly what was going on, and be able to show up to his school, and, you know, just be more involved with the teachers and counselors and stuff that he has to deal with on a daily basis.”
- “This program has really helped me focus more on his [my son's] mental health and his learning, because at first he wasn't talking. He was walking...He's in school now....so I'm really grateful for that.”



Losing YOBI

- “You know, now we don't have YOBI again...we're back to square one again without YOBI. We're back to bills up high again”
- “Well , that's it. I can't... buy clothes for my children...and the food too. It's difficult for me. It scares me a little bit... a fear that we are not going to be okay.”
- “I'm always on the edge. My rent's not even paid for this month. So I'm thinking it's already going to be June. and my landlord checks me on Sunday for an update on the rent, like, I don't have an update for you, cause I don't have nothing.”



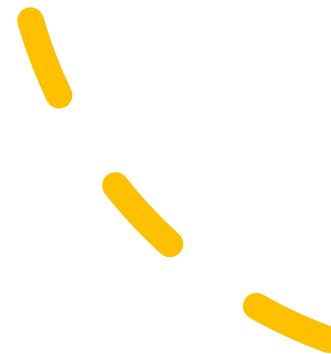
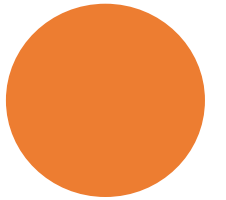
Staff: 23 HHSA staff involved in implementation



Staff reported increased job satisfaction and retention despite the additional effort of managing the pilot

“It’s really great to be able to have that camaraderie, and to be part of a program that is genuinely structured to really help and empower families.”

“I've really enjoyed the project ... I don't really wanna look for a position outside [of the county] because I wanna see the finish of the project as a whole”



UC Davis Evaluation Team

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