

# Research Brief #7: Community and Family Impacts

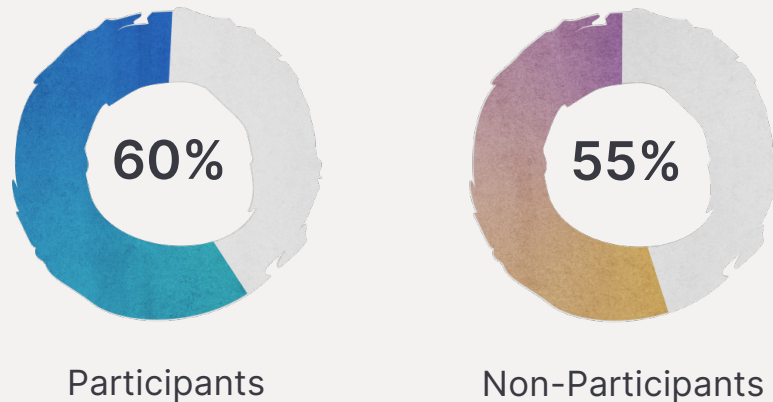
In 2022, Creatives Rebuild New York (CRNY) launched its Guaranteed Income (GI) for Artists Program. This program provided 2,400 artists across New York State with \$1,000 a month for 18 months. Built on the principle that all artists deserve financial security, the GI program ensured artists could use these no-strings-attached monthly payments in whatever way they chose, including directly supporting their artistic practice, stabilizing their financial situation, building a savings buffer to help with financial emergencies, paying down debts, or anything else.

**In this research brief, we explore the impact these payments had not only on the artists who received GI payments, but also on their broader communities. We assessed the program's community impact through in-depth interviews, surveys, and analysis of bank account and transaction data.<sup>1</sup>** We find that artists who received the GI payments engaged in more community-based work. In addition, participants reported that the monthly payments enabled them to invest in their close relationships and provided them the capacity to engage with others in a more positive and supportive way. These findings illustrate how the effect of a guaranteed income can extend outward. It can foster both personal and community-level growth and contribute to a richer cultural and social landscape where artists are better positioned to thrive not only in their artistic practice, but in their lives.

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1. See *Guaranteed Income for Artists Impact Study: Introduction* for a detailed description of all research methods and data sources.

FIGURE 7.1

**Artists' Participation  
in Community Work in  
Past 12 Months**

## Key Findings

### The program's financial support helped participants engage more actively in their communities.

Many participants extended their time and energy to their broader communities. In surveys, more than half of the artists who received GI payments (60%) participated in community-based work [See Figure 7.1], a modest increase over those who did not receive the payments (55%). One interview participant shared how they used their financial stability to advocate for housing rights in their community. They connected with groups like the New York State Civil Liberty Union and neighborhood tenant organizations to address concerns about a planned viaduct removal and proposed developments that could displace low-income residents, stating, *"I was able to go to more places, meet more people, talk to them, interview people."* Their efforts included researching the impacts of gentrification, collaborating with activists, and supporting proposals for a community trust fund to ensure equitable development.

### Guaranteed income payments helped strengthen personal relationships.

Participants also noted how the program's benefits had a ripple effect on their interactions with others. One person remarked, *"I think when you're less stressed, you're more pleasant to be around."* Another described how their improved mental health influenced their social life: *"When I'm feeling more secure and positive, I'm lighter and can be there for friends or enjoy time with family more. I can get out and show up."*



Motherhood by Reuben Hernandez\*

*“The program made me feel loved and cared for in a deep and meaningful way.”*

Many interview participants shared that the program positively impacted their close relationships by allowing them to invest more time in those connections. One participant expressed, *“I think that’s one thing it really gave me—time with my family.”* Financial security also played a key role in improving relationships. As one participant explained, *“I could get stuff by myself and not have to ask for money or beg to do something.”* Another added, *“We were just able to enjoy our time together. And I was able to pick up the tabs when we went out.”*

Caregiving participants further told us about the impacts the GI payments had on their care responsibilities. Three-quarters of GI artists reported that the funding allowed them to spend more time with loved ones (see **Brief #1 Artists’ Demographics** for more on artists’ caregiving roles). One artist described how payments transformed his day-to-day work and self-care routines, ultimately improving his ability to provide care for a younger sibling with a disability and fostering a more harmonious and supportive environment at home. A parent we interviewed shared, *“Being a parent and responsible for children, the money really helped with everything that comes with childcare and allowed me to spend more time with my family because of the extra funding.”* Another reflected on how the payments allowed them to forgo unaffordable daycare, saying, *“I was able to stay home with my child. Because I still can’t really afford daycare. But it allowed me to just have a really beautiful connection with my kiddo that I don’t think I would’ve had during her formative years.”*



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