



NEW UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PILOT PROGRAM SET TO LAUNCH IN HUDSON, N.Y.

The new UBI program will demonstrate the power of basic income for all and serve as a collaborative effort between The Spark of Hudson, Humanity Forward, partner organizations and community leaders in Hudson

NEW YORK— Today, [The Spark of Hudson](#) and [Humanity Forward](#) announce the early stages of a brand new universal basic income (UBI) pilot program to be launched in Hudson, N.Y. later this year. [HudsonUP](#), a collaborative initiative between the two organizations, will provide 20 Hudson residents \$500 per month for five years. The \$600,000 project will be made possible by two \$300,000 contributions, each from The Spark of Hudson and Humanity Forward.

HudsonUP is a collaborative effort, with The Spark of Hudson and Humanity Forward working closely with individuals and organizations within the community to design the project's recipient selection process and implementation method. Hudson has an estimated population of approximately 6,000 residents, with a median household income of \$35,439 and poverty rate of 19.2%. These statistics, plus the city's diverse population, make Hudson an ideal host city for a UBI pilot program.

"In light of the current ongoing crisis, this pilot will give a glimpse of hope to our constituents, many of whom are facing various financial burdens. We welcome out-of-the-box and innovative ideas that can better our communities," said Hudson Mayor Kamal Johnson. "This pilot will provide a cushion for families, and this support could be life-changing."

In addition to the support of the Mayor's Office, HudsonUP has garnered widespread support from other community leaders and organizations. These include the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services and the Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood (GHPN), an organization strengthening the Hudson community by supporting children and families to reach their potential from cradle to career.

"We are thrilled that the City of Hudson has been selected for this project. UBI provides a unique opportunity for families and communities to begin dismantling the intergenerational cycles of poverty," said Joan Hunt, Executive Director of GHPN. "We look forward to continuing our involvement with this exciting and innovative project."

Andrew Yang, former presidential candidate and founder of Humanity Forward, believes that the HudsonUP project will improve recipients' mental health and empower them to feel more secure in their futures.

"Receiving a form of UBI allows you to begin making meaningful, long-term plans. It allows one to think beyond next month's bills; through the HudsonUP project, we're going to see families benefit enormously from receiving \$500 a month for five years," Yang said.

Founders of The Spark of Hudson, Susan Danziger and Albert Wenger, are longtime UBI advocates. They hope the time frame of a five-year program will show the long term impact UBI can have in a single community.

"UBI gives freedom—freedom to be entrepreneurs, to run for office, to stay home with the kids, to take care of sick parents, to leave abusive relationships, and to help our community in times of crisis," Danziger said.

[The Spark of Hudson](#) is a learning and training center set to launch in Hudson, NY dedicated to reinventing education. In addition to The Spark of Hudson and HudsonUP, Wenger and Danziger have launched and funded a variety of other projects to better the greater Hudson community and beyond.

[Humanity Forward](#) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization founded by former presidential candidate Andrew Yang. The organization is dedicated to continuing the movement inspired by Yang's 2020 presidential campaign and to making its core ideas a reality, one of which includes UBI.

To learn more about the HudsonUP UBI project, please visit hudsonup.org. For press inquiries, please contact press@movehumanityforward.com.

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