

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2585 (Arambula) – As Amended March 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Human Services Vote: 5 - 2

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill expands eligibility for the California Guaranteed Income Pilot (GIP) Program to include parents of children ages zero to five and victims of domestic violence. The bill also deletes the requirement that grant funds be awarded in proportion to the number of individuals anticipated to be served by an eligible pilot program and, instead requires preference be given to eligible entities in regions that have not yet been awarded grant funds under this program.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Estimated General Fund (GF) costs in the low tens of millions of dollars annually to fund the existing GIP program with the proposed expanded eligible population.

The state GIP program is subject to an appropriation in the annual budget act. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) notes previous GF funding allocations totaling \$40 million have been fully granted and allocated to previous populations. The 2026-27 proposed budget does not allocate additional funding for the program.

The author is requesting \$15 million in the 2026–27 state budget to support a three-year GIP program.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

[GIP] programs across California and the nation have demonstrated promising results, including improved financial stability, health outcomes, and participants’ ability to pursue education, employment, and safe housing. However, many regions, particularly underserved and rural areas, have not yet had the opportunity to participate in or benefit from these efforts. Because California’s communities vary widely in cost of living, economic conditions, and access to services, expanding pilots to include counties that have not previously received funding is critical. [This bill] extends the state’s GIP Program to allocate funding for parents of 0-5 year olds, victims of domestic violence, and people in previously unserved geographic areas.

- 2) **Background.** To mitigate the effects of poverty, the state offers a variety of social services, including several cash assistance programs, such as the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), the Social Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP), Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), and the Refugee Cash Assistance Program (RCA).

More recently, guaranteed income programs, which provide direct cash transfers to individuals and families, have gained traction. AB 153 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 86, Statutes of 2021, established the California GIP Program to provide grants to eligible entities to implement pilot programs and projects that offer guaranteed income to California residents who are pregnant or are aging out of extended foster care.

The Budget Act of 2021 provided a \$35 million GF allocation over five years for the state GIP program. CDSS, who administers the program, has directed funds through a competitive process to support seven guaranteed income pilot projects across the state. CDSS must assess the impact and implementation of the pilots and provide a report to the Legislature. The report is expected by the summer of 2028.

The Budget Act of 2024 provided an additional \$5 million over five years to expand the state GIP program to support adults 60 years of age or older who are either eligible for or receiving a means-tested benefit. CDSS awarded this funding for a project in San Joaquin County with payments beginning in summer 2026. An evaluation of this effort is expected by June 30, 2030.

This bill expands program eligibility to include parents of children aged five and under and domestic violence victims and requires CDSS prioritize eligible programs in regions that have not yet received awards.

The state GIP program is dependent on an appropriation in the annual Budget Act. The 2026-27 proposed budget does not allocate additional funding for the program.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 661 (Lee), of this legislative session, would have required contracted entities to develop and provide recommendations to design, fund, and implement a permanent, statewide GI Program. AB 661 was held on this committee's suspense file.

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