



COLUMBIA COUNTY BTCF Guaranteed Income for Columbia County

New Countywide Program Provides \$500 per month to Single Parents and Caregivers

“The simplicity of guaranteed income is powerful—it’s direct, effective, and rooted in trust. This program is a bold step toward supporting families in a way that is both practical and transformative.”

-Kara Mikulich

BTCF Guaranteed Income for Columbia County (BTCF-GICC) is a partnership between Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood (GHPN). BTCF-GICC will deliver monthly payments of \$500 to two families in 21 towns, totaling support for 42 households for the next two years.

BTCF-GICC focuses on single parents and caregivers earning up to 80% of the area median income raising at least one child aged 6 or younger. Participants will be selected by lottery from a confidential application process in July.

Guaranteed income programs have been implemented and evaluated in communities across the nation, and they have become a proven tool to stabilize household finances, support early childhood development, increase food security and expand opportunities for improved housing.

“This initiative is about more than money—it’s about stability, dignity, and opportunity for families during the most important years of a child’s life,” said Kelly Sweet, Interim Director of Philanthropic Services at BTCF. “We’re proud to bring this research-backed solution to our region with no strings attached.”

GHPN, a trusted community-based partner, will serve as the program’s administrative lead and provide direct support to participating families. The organization operates HudsonUP, a successful guaranteed income program in Hudson that inspired this broader countywide initiative.

“I’ve seen firsthand how guaranteed income transformed lives in Hudson,” said Joan Hunt, Executive Director of GHPN. “We’re excited to expand this approach across Columbia County to bring the same kind of stability and relief to more families.”

BTCF-GICC is made possible through the generosity of the Community Fund at Berkshire Taconic, the Fund for Columbia County, Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation, and individual donors across the region. Learn more at berkshiretaconic.org/btcf-gicc. ■