

Cash transfers in the U.S.: The science of impact

- *Introduction* – Kick-off: 3-5 minutes each lead offers a summary of their RCT and three puzzles/dilemmas from each team
- *Panel 1* – Cash transfers, hardship, and stress:
 - How does hardship and stress intersect with goals of cash transfer programs?
 - Interrogate measures of well-being, material and socio-emotional and health, particularly with respect to financial strain and stress. Are there options/alternatives/complementary approaches of measurement with administrative and other sources of data?
 - What is the state of quality of self-report of well-being and its relevance and association with objective assessments of hardship?
 - How are measures limited and how do they have different economic and social meaning for different populations? Short versus long term effects? During vs end of cash transfer receipt?
- *Panel 2* – Implementation, cash transfer design (amount, frequency, predictability):
 - Assess and take stock of different designs and target populations
 - Distribution channels, uptake
 - Should we refine hypotheses considering type/format of cash transfer?
 - Related dynamics of inclusion or exclusion of access and receipt incorporating the role of local community-based organizations and partners
 - In kind vs unconditional transfers
- *Early career scholar 5-7 minutes flash talks:*
 - *The Effect of Income on Health Care Utilization: Evidence from a Randomized Study of Cash Benefits* - Sumit Agarwal, PhD Candidate in Health Policy, Harvard University
 - *Unconditional Cash Transfers and Dietary Intake during COVID-19* - Mathew Lee, PhD student in the Population Health Sciences, Harvard University
 - *Housing & Unconditional Cash Transfers* - Laura Stilwell, MD/PhD Candidate in Public Policy, Duke University
 - *Impacts of Unconditional Cash on Family Structure* - Hema Shah, PhD student in economics at Duke University, Duke University
- *Panel 3* – Validity
 - External validity; selection into studies; selection of receipt
 - Representation of people and contexts;
 - Public facing representation of findings
- *Panel 4* – The Politics and Future of cash as direct poverty alleviation in the U.S.: next steps for science?
 - Cash transfer policy objectives
 - Role/perspectives of communities and individuals
 - Discuss and debate the role of direct cash support as a means of achieving and maintaining economic and racial justice