

NOTE: THIS FILE IS NO LONGER BEING UPDATED.

SEE [HERE](#) FOR LATEST VERSION.

A Master Directory to UBI

This is [our](#) formulation of a master directory to Universal Basic Income which has been called the most important advance in human [freedom](#) since the abolition of slavery and suffrage for women. Our goal is to provide a link to every significant article, book, or resource on UBI on the web. We imagine a moment in the future when someone influential (perhaps Kamala Harris?) discovers an interest in UBI and asks for more information. All that is needed is to provide a link to this directory. It covers the waterfront.

The Master Directory is not complete (will never be complete), but there is a lot here already. (See [State of Development](#).) Assistance would be greatly appreciated. (See [How to Help](#).) All feedback is desired and appreciated.

How to Use the Directory

What follows is a directory to much that is known and discussed about Universal Basic Income, an index to UBI thought and debate. The editors have sought to keep the top-level presentation short and dense while enabling the reader to drill down to an expanse of detail. Web links will lead to the many excellent articles, media, FAQs, tools, and groups that already exist.

The directory is organized into sections, topics, and summaries. Most sections contain a maximum of nine topics. Each topic is linked to a summary page which contains a summary (14 to 1000+ words) of the topic area and a list of relevant publications with links.

For example click or tap on topic (VPV) below and it will take you to a summary of Philippe Van Parijs's ideas on UBI. Following the summary there is a list of publications with links such as this: PV1-AA. PV1 (tan) is the author code for Van Parijs. (See [Author Codes](#).) If you click or tap on it you will be taken to a biographical sketch of Van Parijs (in this case a Wikipedia article). If you click on the -AA suffix (blue), you are taken to the publication: a 2004 journal article on UBI. A second publication by the same author will have the suffix -AB. This scheme enables unique references to as many as 676 publications per author. Practically this should be sufficient though perhaps not theoretically: "Karl Widerquist has written 983 articles".

If you click on topic (VCM) you will see information on Charles Murray's vision with links like this: CM1-AA. CM1 (tan) is the author code for Charles Murray. Click on the -AA part (blue) for his 2006 book on UBI. For another example (M2) leads to a robust summary of the problem of Technological Unemployment.

Karl Wilderquist has developed a similar [list](#) of positive and negative claims that is quite useful for [comparison](#). Another excellent reference is Malcolm Torry's [book](#) "101 Reasons for a Citizen's Income".

A style note: Braces {} indicate quoted material from the source. We use braces in case the material already contains single or double quotation marks. Square brackets [] indicate a paraphrase of the source material. Straight text indicates either the title or the subtitle of the source.

The directory is worded and formatted for easy reading on a smartphone in portrait mode. Think of this directory as a long hallway lined with 140 or more doors. The signs on these doors are terse (the longest has seven words), but with a tap a door swings open to a room with a more complete description. And most of the rooms have doors (links) leading to more information.

The entire top-level directory is only about 1750 words. You can read it straight through in about ten minutes for a fire-hose introduction or refresher to UBI.

This Update

141 topics

69 benefits

0 red links

1 raw links

See [Update History](#).

Universal Basic Income

Universal basic income (UBI) is an answer to an age-old problem: how to distribute income. The earliest human tribes, hunter-gatherer societies, probably did not think about this as a problem. The "economic problem" as Keynes called it was income (food and resources); distributing it was not a problem. When there was food everybody ate. Some may have eaten better than others, but everybody got something.

It is helpful to understand that for many [hunter-gatherers](#) the Earth was a place of incredible bounty. We know this from accounts like this [autobiography](#) of a Sioux boy who became a medical doctor in 1890 in the United States. This fruitful Earth was the natural heritage of all humans before the advent of [cities](#) and civilization. UBI is a modern replacement for that lost bounty.

Over the millennia there have been many changes to the problem of distribution. [Money](#) was invented. Public and private [property](#) replaced the [commons](#). Work and ownership became more rigidly defined. The concept of [debt](#) was created. [Mechanization](#) happened followed by automation and artificial intelligence. But the fundamental problem of how to distribute income is still with us and more pressing than ever. Significantly the oldest answer "everybody gets something" is now the best answer.

For some persons the "U" in "UBI" stands for unconditional which makes sense. You will also see the acronym "BIG": Basic Income Guarantee (not to be confused with a Minimum Income Guarantee). And many believe that "Basic Income" says it all. You may hear "Citizen's Income", "Citizen's Basic Income", "Citizens Dividend", "Demogrant", and more recently Yang's "Freedom Dividend". It's all the same thing though, while proponents will differ on minor details.

Here are five of the most important [definitions](#). The most succinct is this one:

An unconditional, nonwithdrawable income paid to every individual as a right of citizenship.

But there are no disagreements about what is intended. Here are some excellent [quotations](#) to get you started.

Alphabetical Index to Sections

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[Click on title of section and then “bookmark”.]

Major Problems UBI Addresses

- (M1) Lack of real freedom
- (M2) Technological unemployment
- (M3) Poverty
- (M4) Income inequality
- (M5) Welfare and bureaucratic tyranny
- (M6) Damaging effects of welfare

Benefits for Individuals

- (I1) Ensures an income base or floor
- (I2) Provides dignity and reduces fear
- (I3) Improves health & well-being
- (I4) Raises cognitive ability
- (I5) Need not fall down to get help
- (I6) Provides multiple chances in life
- (I7) Helps college and grad students
- (I8) Helps interns, RAs, and artists
- (I9) Permanent help for disabled persons

Benefits for Women

- (W1) Promotes liberation of women
- (W2) Supports women independently
- (W3) More financial agency for women
- (W4) Shrinks the gender wage gap
- (W5) Aids women in abusive relationships
- (W6) Enables cost sharing

Helps Moms, Kids, & Families

- (F1) Revolutionizes mothers' lives
- (F2) Helps mothers at work or home
- (F3) Better family relationships
- (F4) Improves family outcomes
- (F5) Ensures support by deadbeat dads
- (F6) Helps children who lose parents

Aids Workers, Jobs, & Leisure

- (J1) Anchors the changing nature of work

- (J2) Increases job satisfaction
- (J3) Avoids forcing workers into bad jobs
- (J4) Boosts bargaining power of workers
- (J5) Permanent strike fund for unions
- (J6) Eliminates need for minimum wage
- (J7) Supports charitable and unpaid work
- (J8) Recognizes the importance of leisure

Economic Benefits

- (E1) Economic and racial justice
- (E2) Redistribution from capital to labor
- (E3) Trickle-up, not trickle-down
- (E4) Leverages the multiplier effect
- (E5) Maintains consumption in downturns
- (E6) Inflationary effect during deflation
- (E7) Increases labor productivity
- (E8) Increases number of small businesses
- (E9) Provides unearned income for all

Governing Benefits

- (G1) Avoids government intrusion
- (G2) Eliminates errors of eligibility
- (G3) Greater payment and aid efficiency
- (G4) Less capture of aid money
- (G5) Reduces government bureaucracy
- (G6) Reduces fraud, waste, & corruption
- (G7) Decisions by citizens not bureaucrats
- (G8) Can simplify the tax code
- (G9) Stabilizes cost of entitlements

Political Benefits

- (P1) Unifies groups thru equal treatment
- (P2) Connects workers of all kinds
- (P3) Empowers disadvantaged persons
- (P4) Easy to explain and understand
- (P5) Narrows divides between factions
- (P6) Emphasizes benefit of citizenship
- (P7) Prevents generational theft

Societal Benefits

- (S1) Removes disincentives to work
- (S2) Decreases desperation and crime rate
- (S3) No stigma for recipients
- (S4) Lessens illegal immigration
- (S5) Less resentment of immigrants
- (S6) Aids relocation to depopulated areas
- (S7) Greater social mobility
- (S8) Hastens demographic transition
- (S9) Can transform human society

Resources and Guides

- (R1) Meta sites
- (R2) Academic & research centers
- (R3) Frequently-asked-question sites
- (R4) Bibliographies
- (R5) Blogs
- (R6) Podcasts
- (R7) Videos
- (R8) Mainstream media coverage

History of Basic Income

- (H1) History of basic income
- (H2) Historical advocates
- (H3) Modern supporters

Debate and Discussion

- (D1) Arguments for basic income
- (D2) Debates and disagreements
- (D3) UBI and children
- (D4) UBI and housing
- (D5) UBI and welfare
- (D6) UBI and pandemics
- (D7) UBI and complementary systems

Action and Implementation

- (A1) How to implement UBI
- (A2) Amount of the basic income
- (A3) Welfare that could be eliminated

- (A4) How to pay the cost
- (A5) How to hand out money
- (A6) UBI advocacy and action groups

Theoretical Perspectives

- (TAA) Philosophical support for UBI
- (TEM) UBI and environmental movement
- (TFT) UBI and feminist political theory
- (TFW) UBI: Not left, not right, but forward
- (TGM) UBI and the green movement
- (THR) UBI and human rights
- (TLM) UBI and the labor movement
- (TLP) UBI and libertarian philosophy
- (TMM) UBI and modern monetary theory
- (TNL) UBI and neoliberal ideology
- (TSD) UBI and spiritual development
- (TSP) UBI and socialist philosophy

Visions, Models, and Proposals

- (VAA) Lists of basic income models
- (VPV) Philippe Van Parijs's vision (2004)
- (VCM) Charles Murray's vision (2006)
- (VSS) Scott Santens's vision (2013)
- (VAS) Andy Stern's vision (2016)
- (VAY) Andrew Yang's vision (2017)
- (VAE) AEI budget-neutral model (2017)
- (VAL) Annie Lowrey's vision (2018)
- (VCH) Hughes's guaranteed income (2018)
- (VFH) Fleischer & Hemel proposal (2019)

Experiments, Trials, and Pilots

- (XAA) UBI case directories
- (XBR) UBI cases in Brazil
- (XCA) UBI cases in Canada
- (XCH) UBI cases in Switzerland
- (XDE) UBI cases in Germany
- (XFI) UBI cases in Finland
- (XIN) UBI cases in India
- (XIR) UBI cases in Iran
- (XKE) UBI cases in Kenya
- (XNA) UBI cases in Namibia

(XNL) UBI cases in the Netherlands

(XUS) UBI cases in the USA

Alternatives with Rebuttals

(YG1) Negative income tax

(YG2) Public realm investment

(YJ1) Job guarantee

(YJ2) Education and job training

(YJ3) Minimum wage

Critiques with Rebuttals

(ZC1) UBI general critiques

(ZC2) UBI won't work

(ZE1) UBI would increase poverty

(ZE2) UBI will cause hyperinflation

(ZG1) UBI costs too much

(ZI1) UBI would be used for vices

(ZJ1) UBI would increase unemployment

(ZJ2) Without work life will lack purpose

(ZS1) UBI is morally wrong

Note on middle letters above:

C - critique

E - economics

G - government

I - individuals

J - jobs and work

S - society