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## **Fund for Guaranteed Income Announces Housing Pledge During Sanders Institute Annual Gathering in Burlington, Vermont**

*Initiative Aims to Revolutionize the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, Commonly Referred to as Section 8, by Providing Direct Rental Assistance to Address Nation's Unprecedented Housing Crisis.*

**Burlington, VT** — The Fund for Guaranteed Income (F4GI) is proud to announce the launch of its [Housing Pledge](#) at the Sanders Institute Annual Gathering on Sunday, June 2nd. The pilot initiative aims to transform the current Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) system by providing direct cash assistance to renters and streamlining the process of securing a lease with a HCC for both tenants and landlords.

F4GI, the [Jain Family Institute](#), and [Center for Public Enterprise](#) in a developing collaboration with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is set to pilot a new approach to housing assistance. By replacing traditional vouchers with direct cash payments to renters, the program seeks to reduce administrative burdens, increase landlord participation, and overhaul the housing bureaucracy.

The Housing Pledge is driven by the principles of Universal Basic Income, focusing on providing direct financial support to individuals. This approach aims to:

- Overhaul the housing bureaucracy by simplifying processes and reducing administrative burdens.
- Provide direct rental assistance to selected households on the HCV waitlist and simplify lease agreements to reduce paperwork.
- Expand the social safety net to offer more comprehensive support to citizens.
- Improve direct services, ensuring timely and effective assistance to those in need.

The pilot program's announcement will be highlighted during the panel "**Ensuring Equitable Housing For All: Reimagining Bureaucracy**" at the Sanders Institute Annual Gathering on **Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM**. The panel, moderated by Dr. Jane Sanders and co-moderated by Nika Soon-Shiong, founder and executive director of F4GI, will feature Brian McCabe from HUD. The discussion will focus on addressing the housing crisis, re-imagining welfare bureaucracy, and exploring direct cash assistance as a solution to improve traditional rental assistance programs.

**Nika Soon-Shiong, founder and executive director of F4GI, stated,** "Our national response to the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the power of direct cash assistance, and we can apply this model to tackle some of our nation's most critical issues. In a time of mass housing insecurity and income inequality, we need bold and comprehensive responses. Homelessness, housing insecurity, and income inequality are pandemics in themselves, and they require targeted solutions. By providing direct rental assistance, we will empower families to secure housing without the burdens of traditional bureaucracy."

**Paul Williams, founder and executive director of Center for Public Enterprise, said,** "We have seen how our public agencies can innovate, even under pressure, to deliver improved services and support to the public. With HUD's invitation for direct rental assistance programs, we have the opportunity to take that innovation with our public agencies a step further."

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