



**04/15 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT SESSION  
FOCUS: HOUSING SOLUTIONS  
DCHA, DHCD, & DHS**

Issued: 23 April 2024

<b>Purpose</b>	Opportunities for Engaging ICH Member Agencies on the Mayor’s Proposed Budget.		
<b>Details</b>	<b>Date:</b> 15 April 2024	<b>Time:</b> 2 – 3:30 pm	<b>Location:</b> <a href="#">Webex Link</a>
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Participants:</b> 76	<b>Organizations:</b> 41	Detailed list below meeting notes
<b>Key</b>	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Budget & Funding	<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Priorities, Policies, Procedures	<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Performance Management

**I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW**

Theresa Silla (Executive Director, ICH) officially opened the meeting by recording to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act requirements. She greeted participants and reviewed the meeting agenda, introducing the purpose – the legislative mandate to comment on the Mayor’s Proposed Budget.

The government representatives of the ICH Full Council presenting the details of the Mayor’s Proposed budget introduced themselves. They included:

- Hammere Gebreyes (Director of External Affairs & Senior Advisory, DCHA),
- Colleen Green (Director, DHCD), and
- Laura Zeilinger (Director, DHS).

Director Silla also acknowledged the Community Representatives from the ICH Full Council in attendance. Finally, she highlighted comments about the budget captured from prior Executive and Full Council meetings in anticipation of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget. Slide details are included below.

Reference Materials		
<b>PPT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Agenda</li> <li>• Level Setting</li> <li>• ICH Full Council – DC Gov &amp; Community Representatives</li> <li>• Comments – Compiling &amp; Received To Date</li> <li>• Notes on Welcome &amp; Agenda Review</li> </ul>	2-11

## II. DC HOUSING AUTHORITY (DCHA)

Hammere Gebreyes (Director of External Affairs & Senior Advisor, DCHA) presented an overview of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget specific to DCHA. She started by outlining the mission and programs under DCHA and then covered the proposed operating and capital budgets.

Comments and questions are captured on slides 19-20. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Interest in the reform process for DHCA.
- Interest in public safety initiatives.
- Interest in confirming that the LRSP budget amounts are annual allocations.
- Interest in confirming what happens to unused voucher funds.
- Concern that there is no new funding/allocation for LRSP vouchers.
- Recommendation for a CAHP system for DCHA resources.
- Interest in understanding the current capacity for vouchers.
- Concern about staffing infrastructure and available resources for right-sizing staffing.
- Total budget, including Federal funding.
- Confusion around the Budget Supplement Act Changes.
- Concern about ineffective/inefficient housing process, especially time to lease up.
- Inadequate support on unit maintenance, utility payments, and tenant portion of the rent.
- Definition of affordable housing.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title slide – DCHA FY25 Budget Overview</li> <li>• DC Housing Authority Overview</li> <li>• Programs and Services</li> <li>• Programs Funded in HY0</li> <li>• FY25 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget</li> <li>• BSA Changes</li> </ul>	13 – 18

## III. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DHCD)






Colleen Green (Director, DHCD) presented the budget. She also highlighted units under construction, the home purpose assistance program, and a strategic approach for funding as federal pandemic funds expire. Slide details below.

Comments and questions are captured on slide 30. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

- Interest in number of units in pipeline for PSH, LRSP and/or 0 - 30% AMI.
- Confusion on where Employer-Assisted Housing Program (EAHP) is included in the budget.
- Interest in number of projects and timeline for units under construction.

Additional comments and questions captured but not discussed due to scope and timing – for further deliberation at the appropriate forum:

- Reminder to avoid use of jargon and present details in layperson’s terms.
- Observed lack of collaboration.








-   Interest in expansion of EAHP to high-need workforces.
-   Understanding metrics for affordable housing units and process for filling vacant units.
-  Concern on the level of unit repairs needed and unacceptable living conditions.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title slide – Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Briefing</li> <li>• Building on 10 years of Success in Housing Production and Preservation</li> <li>• Permanent Supportive Housing units in Construction or Underwriting as of 4/9/24</li> <li>• Home Purchase Assistance Program</li> <li>• Institutionalizing the HEIRS Property Program</li> <li>• Strategic Approach as Federal Pandemic Funds Expire</li> <li>• Working to Secure New Resources in FY25 and Beyond</li> </ul>	22-29
















#### IV. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)

Laura Zeilinger (Director, DHS) presented an overview of the FY25 DHS Budget focusing on shifts, reductions, and enhancements as well as the difference between local, ARPA and Capital funds.

Comments and questions are captured on slide 52 - 55. Topic areas are summarized here for easy reference:

-   Scope and impact of \$13.1M to continue PSH vouchers and services and utilization.
-   Clarification on Bridge Housing and Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS)
-  NCS accommodation for exceptional medical vulnerabilities and adult couples/families.
-  Request for breakdown of the proposed \$4.1M to maintain youth homeless services.
-  \$374K cut to youth homeless services

Additional comments and questions captured but not discussed due to scope and timing – for further deliberation at the appropriate forum:

-   Reduction in ERAP and implications for racial equity
-   Housing Voucher utilization
-   Agency coordination and funding for the Poverty Commission
-  Impact of budget and program reductions on system transformation in the single adults' system
-  Program monitoring and performance
-  Clarification on reduction in HPP.
-  Request for delineations of enhancements versus sustained funding.
-  Sufficiency of funding for housing programs to address poverty and end homelessness.
-  LGBTQ+ shelter funding
-  Funding adequate shelter response during other types of severe weather
-   Interest in details of impact and timeline of V St and Naylor Rd renovations

As a follow up to the meeting, DHS provided the following written responses to questions submitted but not able to be answered or addressed during the Budget Engagement Session.

- **Q: HPP – We understand that the reduced funding to HPP reflects the Talbert Street Project ending. Should we expect that HPP program dollars will remain funded at the same level in FY25 as in FY24?**

- A from DHS: Correct. DHS' FY25 HPP budget reflects the removal of \$1.8M in one-time funding that was used to support displaced Talbert Street residents. With \$4.6M HPP budget for FY25, DHS will be able to maintain the same level of services in the program as in FY24.
- **Q: FRSP – Can you share more about the request made to DCHA to prioritize families exiting FRSP for DCHA resources? Is there a timeline for when a decision will be made? Would all families scheduled to exit be referred for DCHA resources? Are you asking for vouchers, public housing, or a combination of both?**
  - A from DHS: We are not aware of a specific timeline. However, DHS is working to identify as many housing resources as possible for families who may be exiting FRSP. Additionally, DHS is conducting multi agency conversations to assess any additional resources that may help support.
- **Q: RRH-I – How will the reduction to RRH-I impact the number of RRH slots available? Should we assume that the resources will be decreased by half?**
  - A from DHS: ARPA funding was used to expand the program by 300 slots, and this funding is no longer available in FY25.
- **Q: Did I understand correctly that DHS is anticipating matching all currently funded vouchers (FY23 and FY24) by the end of FY24? If so, is there any plan to fund new vouchers throughout FY25 for matching purposes?**
  - A from DHS: Yes, DHS is anticipating matching all currently funded vouchers by the end of FY24. While we are not proposing additional voucher funding in FY25, we anticipate some voucher turnovers and will closely monitor the number of additional matches needed to utilize all vouchers.
- **Q: Can you explain any changes to the short-term family housing budget?**
  - A from DHS: The FY25 budget includes a \$3.7M funding shift in the Short-term Family Housing budget as we will be able to utilize Families First federal funding for case management. There is no impact to services.
- **Q: Can you also share whether there is funding for medical respite beds?**
  - A from DHS: The new 801 East facility opened 12 medical respite beds in FY23 Q2. DHS will be better able to assess the need once DHS starts accepting referrals for these beds and will be tracking the number of people who are not able to be served to better anticipate future demand. DHS will expand the number of medical respite beds with the redesign of the New York Avenue shelter as well as other upcoming shelter redesign projects.
- **Q: When is VWFRC moving to its new location? Will there be any changes in services anticipated due to the relocation?**
  - A from DHS: VWFRC will be moving at the end of 2024. The relocation of VWFRC will not impact the residents of the District of Columbia as the service delivery will remain the same. Many customers continue to use online services launched during the pandemic and the volume of in-person assessments has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Q: When will we see the first CMs come in through the peer case management institute?**
  - A from DHS: Case managers will start their internships with providers in June of this year, and graduate from the institute in July.
- **Q: Could you provide clarity on the state of RRH for individuals and families? Will there be terminations? If so, how many? When?**
  - A from DHS Individuals: ARPA funding was used to expand the program by 300 slots, and this funding is no longer available in FY25.
  - A from DHS Families: yes, there will be exits. FRSP is designed as a time-limited program to help families end episodes of homelessness and achieve housing stability. During the pandemic,

exits were paused to ensure families remained in safe housing and there are now over 2,000 families that have been in the program for over 12 months. The agency is in the process of assessing families for alternative housing resources and initiating the exit process for families who are over the time limit.

- **Q: How much is the Project Reconnect Budget?**
  - A from DHS: In FY25, the Project Reconnect budget is \$1.2M
- **Q: How much is the Street Outreach budget?**
  - A from DHS: In FY25, the Street Outreach budget is \$3.7M which includes PS
- **Q: Can you explain the changes to Homeless Services Continuum for Families?**
  - A from DHS: Changes to the Homeless Services Continuum for Families Activity include the following:
    - Reductions/Funding Shifts:
      - \$3.7M shift of STFH case management funding to Families First federal funding
      - \$2.39M general reductions to grants/contracts
      - \$5.245M DC Flex program reduction
    - End of ARPA funding:
      - \$880k for LGBTQ+ Low Barrier Shelter (this was restored as an enhancement and is now budgeted under the HOMELESS SERVICES CONTINUUM-INDIVIDUALS Activity)
      - \$1M DC Flex
- **Q: Can you explain the changes to PSH for families?**
  - A from DHS: Reductions to the PSH Families budget reflect:
    - Continued leverage of Medicaid for the Housing Support services for PSH services. DHS does not anticipate that the reduction in services would affect the level or the quality of the services of the program.
    - Aligning the LRSP budget to reflect pace of lease ups. The reduction will not result in fewer vouchers in our system; rather, it can be absorbed because of the delays in lease ups.
- **Q: Explain how the decrease in the DC Flex budget will affect the number of slots for families? And for individuals?**
  - A from DHS: We will be unable to enroll any new families, however we will be able to maintain the current families until FY27. We will be able to enroll the 25 individuals that were connected.
- **Q: I would like some information about the closing/transition of VWFRC.**
  - A from DHS: Many customers continue to use online services launched during the pandemic and the volume of in-person assessments has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. DHS will be able to reconfigure space at DHS headquarters to maintain a physical location for families who opt for in-person services. DHS will be working closely with community stakeholders and partners in advance of the move to keep everyone updated as we prepare for this transition.
- **Q: Will there be any decrease/consolidation of staff? will there be any changes to hours or availability of services or programs?**
  - A from DHS: Service delivery will remain the same. We will continue to provide the same level and quality of service delivery we are currently providing.
- **Q: Can you comment on the family Homelessness Prevention Program? I read that there was a decrease in funding, but this presentation did not address it.**
  - A from DHS: DHS' FY25 HPP budget reflects the removal of \$1.8M in one-time funding that was used to support displaced Talbert Street residents. With a \$4.6M HPP budget for FY25, DHS will be able to maintain the same level of services in the program as in FY24.

- **Q: And what is the timing of the move for VWFRC?**
  - A from DHS: We are planning to transition VWFRC operations to DHS headquarters in late 2024.
- **Q: Can you share what the decrease of \$374K in the youth homelessness continuum line item in the budget represents?**
  - A from DHS: This decrease is a reduction in personnel (3 vacant positions were eliminated).
  - Q: What is the impact on youth and service providers?
  - Clarification provided by DHS that prompted the question:
    - The \$4.1M Youth Enhancement breakdown replaces ARPA (federal pandemic relief) and one-time local funding, which ends in FY24.
    - FY25 continues to fund: \$1.9m drop-in center, \$1.55M for transitional housing, \$280k for youth vouchers, and \$370k for staffing.

Reference Materials		
<b>PPT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title slide – DC Department of Human Services FY25 Proposed Budget</li> <li>• This Years Budget Challenges</li> <li>• DHS Pillars of Growth &amp; Recovery</li> <li>• Budget Shifts and Reductions</li> <li>• Budget Enhancements</li> <li>• FY24 One-Time Local and APRA Funds</li> <li>• Emergency Rental Assistance Funding</li> <li>• FY24 One-Time Local and APRA Funds</li> <li>• Vouchers</li> <li>• Rapid Rehousing for Families</li> <li>• Career MAP</li> <li>• ACE and PASS Expansion</li> <li>• Singles System Approach and Investments</li> <li>• Additional Slides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operating and Capital Shelter Investments</li> <li>○ Office of Migrant Services</li> <li>○ Planned Shelter Capacity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	32-51

## V. ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Director Silla quickly scanned the variety of announcements included in the PPT deck. Slide details below.

Reference Materials		
<b>PPT</b>	<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DBH: Notice of Funding Opportunity for DC Opioid Responses</li> <li>• DC Council Budget Hearings</li> <li>• DHCD: Fair Housing Fridays</li> <li>• DHCF: 1115 Renewal Application Public Comments</li> <li>• DHS-FSA: Funding Opportunity: Youth Transitional Housing</li> <li>• DOC: READY Center</li> <li>• DPR: Summer Jobs</li> </ul>	56-67

- H3: First Aid & CPR Training and Health Fair
- ICH: Budget Engagement Sessions
- NHL: Housing Not Handcuffs: Johnson v. Grants Pass Supreme Court Rally
- Youth Homelessness Matters Day Event: Save the Date

## VI. SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT

Director Silla adjourned the meeting after reminding participants of upcoming Budget Engagement Sessions.

### Participant List (76 Attendees, 41 Orgs)

#### ICH Full Council – Govt Reps

Alison Burdo (DCHA)  
 Ciana Creighton (DMHHS)  
 Eileen Rosa (ICH)  
 Erin Given (DHS)  
 Gina (DHS)  
 Hammere Gebreyes (DCHA)  
 Heather (DCHA)  
 Jill Carmichael (ICH)  
 Lauren Kinard (DBH)  
 Laura Zeilinger (DHS)  
 Lindsay Curtain (DHS)  
 Nicole Lee-Mwandha (OSSE)  
 Sean Cuddihy (DC Council)  
 Shameka Jones (DHS)  
 Synina Pugh (ICH)  
 Theresa Silla (ICH)  
 Valerie Piper (DHCD)  
 Colleen Green (DHCD)  
 Kiros Gebremariam (DHS)  
 Carmen Hernandez (DHS)

#### ICH Full Council – Community Reps

Adam Rocab (Miriam’s Kitchen)  
 Amanda Chesney (Catholic Charities)  
 Angela Jones Hackley (Covenant House)  
 Christy Respress (Pathways)  
 Daniel Rico (Sasha Bruce)  
 Karen Cunningham (Everyone Home DC)  
 Kate Coventry (DCFPI)  
 Kelly Sweeney McShane (COH)  
 Lynn Amano (Friendship Place)  
 Nikkie Smith (Street Sense Vendor)  
 Qadir (PFFC)  
 Robert Warren (PFFC)  
 Rachele Ellison (PFFC)  
 Roxanne Murray (Echelon)  
 Reggie Black (Serve Your City)  
 Rico Harris (CCNV)

#### Stakeholders

Abby Sypek (Everyone Home DC)  
 Abike Mohammed (US Vets)  
 Adam Maier (Pathways)  
 Beth Johnson (PFFC)  
 Blair Copeland (Catholic Charities)  
 Chris Cole (PFFC)  
 Chibundo Egwuatu (DCCADV)  
 Corey Mendez (Housing Up)  
 Cybele Yadiberet (Healthy Babies Project)  
 Cydnea Shearlds (COH)  
 Erin Whelan (SMYAL)  
 Gary Hines (Thrive DC)  
 Ginger Cabrera (Woodley House)  
 Heidi Ellis (HME Consulting)  
 Jakia Carroll (PFFC)  
 Jamey Burden (COH)  
 Joshua Drumming (WLCH)  
 Juanita Carey (Access Housing)  
 June Crenshaw (Wanda Alston)  
 Kelly Andreae (GMCGT)  
 Lauren Markovich (TCP)  
 Lara Pukatch (Miriam’s Kitchen)  
 Luis Vasquez (Housing Up)  
 Makenna Osborn (Children's Law Center)  
 Makyla Wallace (Access Housing)  
 Micaela Deming (DCCADV)  
 Philip Hecht (Housing Up)  
 Rachel White (DC Kids)  
 Regine Elie (Healthy Babies Project)  
 Ryan Trout (CNHED)  
 Samantha LeBlanc (TCP)  
 Sharlene Castle (Jaydot)  
 Shiri Yadlin (CSH)  
 Will Doyle (Pathways)  
 Chapman Todd (Jaydot)

		Charisse Lue (WLCH) Donte (Concerned Citizen) Ms. Naomi (PFFC) Queenie Featherstone (PFFC)
--	--	---