



## COMMENTS ON THE MAYOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET (FY25)

Updated: 02 May 2024

### CONTENTS

Purpose .....	3
Background .....	3
Comments Received Before the Budget Release.....	4
Comments Received in Response to the Proposed Budget.....	5
Office of the City Administrator (OCA).....	5
Comments on Housing Resources .....	5
All Other Comments .....	6
Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA).....	7
Comments on Housing Resources .....	7
All Other Comments .....	7
Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) .....	8
Comments on Housing Resources .....	8
All Other Comments .....	8
DC Housing Authority (DCHA).....	9
Comments on Housing Resources .....	9
All Other Comments .....	9
DC Health .....	10
All Comments.....	10
DC Public Schools (DCPS) .....	10
All Comments.....	10
Department of General Services (DGS).....	11

Comments on Housing Resources .....	11
All Other Comments .....	11
Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) .....	11
Comments on Housing Resources .....	11
All Other Comments .....	12
Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) .....	12
All Comments .....	12
Department of Human Services (DHS).....	13
Comments on Housing Resources .....	13
All Other Comments .....	14
Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) .....	15
All Comments .....	15
Department of Corrections (DOC) .....	15
All Comments .....	15
Department of Employment Services (DOES).....	16
All Comments .....	16
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) .....	16
All Comments .....	16
Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA).....	16
All Comments .....	17
Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs (MOLGBTQA).....	17
Comments on Housing Resources .....	17
All Other Comments .....	17
Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) .....	18
All Comments .....	18
Office of State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).....	18
All Comments .....	18
References/Resources.....	20
Comments Received Outside Budget Engagement Sessions.....	20
Budget Engagement Session Materials.....	20

## PURPOSE

This report documents public comments that the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) received on the Mayor’s Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

This report has three (3) sections:

- **Purpose** includes a brief background explaining why and how the ICH is gathering comments.
- **Comments** are organized alphabetically by the relevant District agency and then sorted into two categories:
  - Housing resources and
  - All other resources, with a focus on resources that support people experiencing homelessness
- **References/Resources** include
  - Links to the meeting materials for the ICH Budget Engagement Sessions and
  - Comments received before the release of the Mayor’s proposed budget

## BACKGROUND

[DC Code § 4–752.02\(c\)](#) legislatively mandates that the ICH comment on the Mayor’s proposed budget for services within the Continuum of Care each year.

*“The Mayor shall, upon release of the proposed annual budget each year, make available to all Interagency Council members the District’s proposed budget breakdown of each agency’s appropriations for services within the Continuum of Care. The Interagency Council shall give comments to the Mayor regarding the proposed budget.”*

To comply with this requirement for the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget, the ICH Team scheduled six ICH Budget Engagement Sessions in April 2024. The goal was to create an opportunity for each District agency member to present the details of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget and for members representing the community to comment on the details presented.

The ICH Team accepted public comments in real-time at the virtual meetings or in writing via email until the Close of Business (5 pm) on Friday, 04/19. The table below provides an overview of the six (6) Budget Engagement Sessions.

Budget Presentations	Date	Time	Attendance
<a href="#">Budget Engagement Session 1:</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on Level Setting &amp; Cross-Cutting Resources</li><li>• ICH Members: OCA, DMHHS, &amp; DOES</li></ul>	04/09	10:30 am – 12 pm	43 Participants 24 Organizations
<a href="#">Budget Engagement Session 2:</a>	04/09	1:30 – 3 pm	45 Participants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Young Adults</li> <li>ICH Member: CFSA, DCPS*, DYRS*, &amp; OSSE</li> </ul>			24 Organizations
<u><a href="#">Budget Engagement Session 3:</a></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Emergency Response &amp; Shelter Operations</li> <li>ICH Members: DHS (Capital Budget), DGS &amp; HSEMA</li> </ul>	04/11	10:30 am – 12 pm	35 Participants 25 Organizations
<u><a href="#">Budget Engagement Session 4:</a></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Special Populations</li> <li>ICH Members: MOLGBTQA, MPD, and DOC</li> </ul>	04/11	1:30 – 3 pm	31 Participants 19 Organizations
<u><a href="#">Budget Engagement Session 5:</a></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Housing Solutions</li> <li>ICH Members: DCHA, DHS, &amp; DHCD</li> </ul>	04/15	2 – 3:30 pm	76 Participants 41 Organizations
<u><a href="#">Budget Engagement Session 6:</a></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on Health Care Resources</li> <li>ICH Members: DBH, DC Health, DHCF</li> </ul>	04/17	3:30 – 5 pm	44 Participants 25 Organizations
*Flag: DCPS and DYRS are members of the Youth Committee per ICH Bylaws			

**COMMENTS RECEIVED BEFORE THE BUDGET RELEASE**

When organizing the April Budget Engagement Sessions, the ICH Team accounted for constituent feedback as the FY25 budget has been top-of-mind for many ICH constituents since December 2023.

For example, although the legislation is specific to the “breakdown of agency appropriations for services within the continuum of care,” the ICH community requested a comprehensive presentation of each agency’s proposed appropriations to better understand the impetus for the cuts and ensure that the cuts do not disproportionately impact homeless services. See text box on Key Takeaways from ICH Comments Received Before the Release of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget below.

Except HSEMA, member agencies were diligent in providing the details of the proposed FY25 budget and comparing it to the approved FY24 budget, to highlight cuts and changes to the proposed appropriations.

**Key Takeaways from ICH Comments Received Before the Release of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget**

ICH constituents have been articulating their concerns regarding the FY25 Budget since December 2023. See [Comments Received Before the Budget Release](#) for details. Overall concerns are summarized as follows:

- Need to understand better budget pressures and efforts to raise revenues, including
  - the factors contributing to the fiscal constraints
  - the proportion of the cuts shouldered by homeless services
  - options for raising revenues

- Importance of transparency related to the following
  - Cuts to the FY24 budget and implications for FY25 budget
  - Impact of cuts on services provided and staffing providing the services
- Concern that homeless services will be shouldering a disproportionately more significant share of the cuts, which will ultimately:
  - Undermine racial equity and inclusion goals by cuts to homeless services
  - Exacerbate the existing inequity between the single and family subsystems
  - Harm the most vulnerable District residents

## COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET

This section of the report itemizes the comments on the Mayor’s proposed FY25 budget that ICH received in the following ways:

- Live or via chat during agency presentations at the April ICH Budget Engagement Sessions or
- Via email to ICH staff or [ICH.Info@dc.gov](mailto:ICH.Info@dc.gov) from March 31, 2024, through April 19, 2024.

The comments are organized by agency, starting with the Office of the City Administrator (OCA), which provides a comprehensive overview of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget. Then, all the other presenting agencies are listed alphabetically by their acronym. Comments on housing resources are prioritized and presented first for each agency, followed by comments on all other resources.

### OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR (OCA)

The OCA provided a comprehensive overview of the District’s budget because this presentation was focused on level-setting. It was designed to address the ICH community’s desire to better budget pressures and efforts to raise revenues, including

- the factors contributing to the fiscal constraints
- the proportion of the cuts shouldered by homeless services
- options for raising revenues

The ICH received the following public comments in response to the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) presentation. Comments on housing resources are presented first.

### COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

Public comments related to housing resources are captured here.

- **Concern about Funding Available for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**

- Concern that ERAP cuts will impact the most marginalized populations in the District
- Concern that ERAP cuts work against Racial Equity and Inclusion goals, related to housing

## ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received the following additional public comments.

- **Call to Highlight the Racial Equity Impact of the Proposed Budget**
  - Concern for the continued impact of underfunding and implementation delays on Black households.
- **Reflection that human services and public education comprise a significant portion of the budget**
  - A larger amount of the budget is going to human services and public education
- **Call to reimagine human services and public education programs**
  - Human services and public education are failing us. Over the next few years, poverty will increase, and the middle class will be under a larger strain.
  - I don't see programs that are valuable to our communities. Recommend a change in the types of programming.
- **Importance of performance management/metrics**
  - Importance of holding programs funded accountable for the delivery of high-quality services
  - Getting a good return on programs funded
  - Call for agency accountability related to reporting of incidents, including abuse, budget transparency, and program outcomes with significant concern about perpetuating broken systems and trauma.
  - Concern about the use of people with lived experience to represent vulnerability or advance agendas.
- **Options for increasing revenue**
  - Interest in income tax for higher wage earners.
  - Recommendation to tax capital gains separately from ordinary income and at a higher flat rate of 13 percent, paired with a credit to offset tax increases for families in the bottom 80 percent of incomes.
  - Recommendation to raise property tax rates on homes with a taxable value above \$1.5 million, impacting only 5 percent of homeowners.
- **Vision for the operation of the new Federal City Shelter**
  - Question about the role of CCNV in the shelter system. Will it be a low-barrier shelter?
- **Concern that animal care and control is more effective than homeless services**

- Comment highlighting the successes of animal-related care in the District as demonstrated by the relative lack of unsheltered animals in the District.
- Contrast to homeless services implied by reference to unsheltered individuals and encampments.
- **Recommendation to Engage in the Budget Process Earlier**
  - Request to hold ICH Budget Engagement Sessions and produce analysis earlier in the budget formulation
  - Request to hold Budget Engagement Sessions as part of the Budget Formulation process to support the Mayor considering options for the Proposed Budget

## CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY (CFSA)

CFSA presented the details of its FY25 Proposed Budget, focusing first on the agency's overall mission and vision and then on housing support. The ICH received the following public comments in response to the CFSA presentation. Public comments on housing resources are presented first.

### COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

Public comments related to housing resources are captured here.

- **Family Unification Program (FUP) Resource Utilization**
  - Improving utilization of FUP vouchers to access Foster Youth to Independence vouchers.
  - Interest in understanding eligibility requirements for FUP vouchers.
- **Availability of Housing Opportunities at Wayne's Place**
  - Questions about funding for Wayne's Place.
  - Concern about the loss of CFSA funding and impact on the viability of Wayne's Place.

### ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received the following additional public comments.

- **Funding**
  - Increasing resources towards vetting and training of foster parents.
- **Performance Metrics for Staff and Program, including Data Collection and Training**
  - Adopting, tracking, and reporting protection measures against predatory staff.
  - Prioritizing reunification programs and outcomes, leaning on adoption as a last resort.
  - Tracking exits from foster care that result in homelessness.
  - Transparency and reporting around fatalities.
  - Increasing resources towards vetting and training of foster parents.

- **Racial Equity**
  - Concern that poverty and systemic racism are critical factors in interactions/involvement with CFSA.
- **Support for Unhoused Students in Low Barrier Shelters**

## DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DBH)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Public comments on housing resources are presented first, followed by all other comments.

### COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

Public comments related to housing resources are captured here.

- **DBH Vouchers**
  - There is funding targeted for housing; is this related to services while in housing or specific housing dollars? We need to increase mental health services in housing.
  - Importance of funding utilization to maintain supportive housing and need to evaluate the housing supportive services. People are still dying in housing.

### ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received three additional DBH-related public comments.

- **Urgent Care Clinic**
  - Concerns about proposed cuts to the Urgent Care Clinic.
  - Concerns about connecting court-involved clients to services.
  - Concerns about potential increases in people cycling through the court system.
- **Interest in Understanding Staffing**
  - Are the FTEs connected to the Community Response Team all responders or distributed among other functions?
- **Interest in Understanding School-Based Behavioral Health Funding**
- **Medicaid Waiver Expansion of Behavioral Health Services**
  - How will the Medicaid waiver expansion increase capacity and services?
  - Have there been cost savings as a result of the rehab option?
  - If there have been cost savings, how were those savings reinvested in program services?



## DC HOUSING AUTHORITY (DCHA)

DCHA provided an overview of its mission and programs before covering the operating and capital budget proposed by the Mayor for FY25. The ICH received the following public comments in response to the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) presentation. Public comments on housing resources are presented first.

### COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

Public comments related to housing resources are captured here.

- **Confirming Funding for Vouchers**
  - Are the LRSP budget amounts annual allocations?
  - What happens to unused voucher funds?
  - Concern that there is no new funding/allocation for LRSP vouchers
  - Interest in understanding the current capacity for vouchers
- **Concerns about Staffing to Adequately Administer Vouchers**
  - Does the current staffing capacity meet the need for administering vouchers?
- **Inadequate Support to Voucher program participants**
  - Concern about adequately supporting program participants with unit maintenance, utility payments, and tenant portion of the rent.

### ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received the following additional public comments.

- **Interest in Reform Efforts**
  - Including efforts to improve operations and staffing infrastructure.
- **Interest in Public Safety Initiatives**
  - What does Public Safety mean? How does that play out for residents?
- **Confusion around the Budget Supplement Act Changes**
  - How will unused voucher funds change based on the updates to the BSA?
  - Can you clarify the rationale behind the new RRH subtitle?
- **Performance Metrics and Accountability**
  - Concerns with the overall leasing process, especially the time to lease up in housing.
  - Concern with the status of recovery/reform underway.

## DC HEALTH

DC Health provided an overview of the FY25 Proposed Budget before highlighting budget increases. The ICH received the following public comments in response to the DC Health presentation. Since there were no public comments on housing resources, all comments related to DC Health are presented here.

### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Importance of Prioritizing Maternal Health**
  - Is the \$3.8 million for maternal care the total budget for the year for maternal health?
  - Interest in confirming that additional funding is available for maternal health in the base budget.
  
- **Importance of providing healthcare services to unsheltered clients**
  - Concern about the health of unsheltered residents.
  - Feedback to prioritize outreach to public transportation.
  - Call to partner with the homeless community and provide sanitation and health training.

## DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS (DCPS)

DCPS presented an overview of its Strategic Plan and budget engagement process before diving deeper into how DCPS works with homeless and transitional youth. In response to the DC Public Schools (DCPS) presentation, the ICH received the following public comments. Since none of the comments were specific to housing resources, all comments related to DCPS are presented here.

### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Importance of Maintaining an Updated Listing of Charter and Public Schools Liaisons.**
  
- **Importance of Prioritizing Racial Equity & Inclusion**
  - Prioritizing funding/programming for black and brown children.
  
- **Interest in Understanding the Impact of Medicaid Revenue Funding.**
  
- **Interest in Data**
  - Definition and count of children experiencing homelessness maintained by OSSE and DCPS.

## DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES (DGS)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Department of General Services (DGS). Public comments related to housing resources are listed first.

### COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

There was one comment related to Housing Resources.

- **Excitement for Investment in CCNV, Downtown Access to Shelter and Permanent Supportive Housing.**
  - Flag to ensure funding for CCNV Shelter Replacement meets the need.

### ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received the following additional public comments.

- **Funding**
  - Identifying and budgeting for maintenance activities versus renovation or redevelopment efforts.
  - Procurement and Section 3 outcomes to emergency response and shelter operations funding and capital investment.
  - Scope of funding available versus amount of work to address critical constituent concerns.
  - Scope and vision (eligibility, targeting, access, and services) for shelter redevelopment.
  - Recommendation to add funds to continue the standalone public restroom pilot fundamental to promotion of human dignity and health.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DHCD)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Public comments related to housing resources are listed first.

### COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

Public comments related to housing resources are captured here.

- **LRSP Vouchers and Affordable Housing Units**
  - With new units coming online is affordability set at 0-30% AMI or higher? Are LRSP vouchers being used?
  - Ensuring Project and Sponsor Based Local Rent Supplement Budget (PS LRSP) is sufficient to meet the needs of pipeline projects.
- **Funding for Homeownership**
  - Confusion on where Employer-Assisted Housing Program (EAHP) is included in the budget.

- Interest in expansion of EAHP to high-need workforces.
- Recommendation to allocate \$30 million for the First Right Purchase Program (FRPP).
- **Housing Production**
  - Interest in understanding the number of units in pipeline for PSH, LRSP and/or 0 - 30% AMI.
  - Recommendation to add an additional \$41 million to the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) for a total of \$100 million to mitigate affordable housing crisis.

#### ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received the following additional public comments.

- **Interest in Understanding Metrics for Affordable Housing Units**
  - Including the process for filling vacant units
- **Construction**
  - Interest in number of projects and timeline for units under construction.
- **Unit Conditions**
  - Concern on the level of unit repairs needed and unacceptable living conditions.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE (DHCF)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF). There were no comments related to housing resources.

#### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Performance Management & Training**
  - Interest in evaluating the performance of behavioral health in the District, especially for homeless services clients.
  - Overall concerns about the quality of programs and quality of staff delivering services. The need to evaluate programs and staffing. Ensuring that staff is there to support people experiencing homelessness.
  - Concerns about the quality of programs and staff delivering services and the need for evaluation, adequate training, and performance measures.
- **Staff Compensation**
  - Suggestion to explore incentives for staff and programs providing high-quality services.

- **Medicaid Renewals**

- Concerns about the process for Medicaid renewals/recertifications and options for streamlining the process.
- Are strategies being requested for approval via CMS?

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)

The ICH received the following public comments related to DHS. Public comments on housing resources are presented first.

### COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

Public comments related to housing resources are captured here.

- **Concern on Reduction to Rapid ReHousing for Individuals**

- Specifically, proposed 50% reduction in RRH for single adults and not adding any new participants to the programming, impact on programming.
- Recommendation to restore RRH funding for individuals and add \$2.5 million for an additional 100 slots for individuals and promote system flow.

- **PSH Vouchers**

- Is DHS anticipating matching all currently funded vouchers (FY23 and FY24) by the end of FY24?
- Clarification on scope of \$13.1 million to continue PSH vouchers and services and impact of means in terms of voucher distribution and process.
- Recommendation to add funding to meet the need for individuals and families, given the proposed cuts to FRSP and otherwise lack of new resources once all FY23 and FY24 PSH resources have been utilized.

- **Project Reconnect**

- What are the funding changes and therefore the service changes?
- Recommendation for minimum budget of \$1.75 million for addition of diversion specialists.

- **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**

- Reductions in ERAP do not enhance racial equity.
- Specific recommendation to add at least an additional \$80 million to ERAP.

- **Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) for Families**

- Clarification on reduction in HPP and impact on families and services.

- **DC Flex**

- Request for details on proposed reductions to DC Flex for families and individuals.
- **Family ReHousing and Stabilization Program (FRSP)**
  - Interest in details and status of the request made to DCHA to prioritize families exiting FRSP, including timeline, communication to families, and type of resource.
  - Concern on proposed cuts and the impact on families and service providers.
- **Understanding Funding for Youth Homeless Services**
  - Including breakdown of the proposed \$4.1 million to maintain youth homeless services
  - Question on what is included in the proposed \$374,000 cut and impact on youth and service providers
- **Continued Investments**
  - Appreciation for preservation of and continued investments in Career MAP and shelter for single adults, especially continuation of 24/7 low barrier shelter.

ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received the following additional public comments.

- **Shelters, including renovations, case management, and funding**
  - Ensuring enough funding for redevelopment and renovations, including addressing repairs and infestations.
  - Right to shelter during severe inclement weather such as air quality, tornados, snow, or flooding.
  - Need for housing-focused case management
  - Interest in details of V St and Naylor Rd renovations on services, including ETA and vision for reopening
- **Street Outreach**
  - Recommendation to add \$2.9 million to proposed FY25 budget to make up lost capacity from the CARE pilot and expand coverage of encampment and specific neighborhood outreach such as U Street and Georgia Avenue.
- **Interest in Understanding Funding and Programs Dedicated to Migrant Services**
- **Virginia Williams Family Resource Center (VWFRC)**
  - Will there be any decrease/consolidation of staff? will there be any changes to hours or availability of services or programs?
- **Advancing Racial Equity**

- Concern with proposed cut to funding for Poverty Commission
- Employment and continuation of the DHS Peer Case Management Institute.
- How do we advance Racial Equity & Inclusion while cutting ERAP (marginalized) programs work?

- **Interest in Funding for Medical Respite**

- **Performance Measures & System Transformation**

- How are we monitoring the performance of programs?
- Concern about utilization of housing vouchers
- Impact of budget and program reductions on system transformation progress for single adults.

#### DEPUTY MAYOR FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DMHHS)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS). There were no comments on housing resources.

#### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Interest in Age-Friendly given the aging population amongst single adults.**

- **Performance Metrics and Accountability**

- Housing affordability is a critical metric for whether a city is age-friendly for retirement.
- Call to address harms caused by agency operations.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Department of Corrections (DOC). There were no public comments specific to housing resources.

#### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Importance of Leveraging Partnerships to Support Comprehensive Services to Incarcerated Citizens**

- Recommendations to coordinate with behavioral health services, substance use services, workforce development and comprehensive discharge planning.

- **Interest in Understanding Efforts to Combat Drug Use**

- How much of the FY25 budget is being used to combat drug use in Department of Corrections?
- **Funding and Capacity to Deliver Needed Services and Performance**
  - Is the budget sufficient to assist a returning citizen and the proper training and programming?
  - How is personnel services defined in the budget?
- **Individuals with Ankle Monitors**
  - Concern from outreach about people experiencing homelessness discharged with ankle monitors to the street or shelter and need for coordination.

#### DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (DOES)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Department of Employment Services (DOES). There were no public comments related to housing resources.

#### ALL COMMENTS

There were two additional DCHA-related public comments received by the ICH.

- **Interest in Understanding Adequacy of Training Programs and Demonstrated Outcomes**
- **Concern about Reduction in Funding for Poverty Commission**

#### DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES (DYRS)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). There were no comments on housing resources, so all comments related to DYRS are presented here.

#### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comment.

- **Interest in Gun Violence Prevention**
  - Including credible messenger programs

#### HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (HSEMA)

The ICH received the following public comments related to Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA). There were no public comments on housing resources, all comments related to HSEMA are presented here.



## ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Appreciation for the work of HSEMA.**
- **Options to Support Sheltering in Place for People Experiencing Homelessness**
  - Gaps in options for sheltering-in-place during summer when unhoused residents rely on public spaces, such as libraries, which are subject to close during severe weather.
- **Transportation**
  - Importance of equipping UPO (Shelter Hotline) vans to navigate significant snow and ice.

## MAYOR'S OFFICE OF LGBTQ AFFAIRS (MOLGBTQA)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs (MOLGBTQA). Public comments on housing resources are presented first.

## COMMENTS ON HOUSING RESOURCES

Public comments related to housing resources are captured here.

- **Leveraging CAHP**
  - Opportunity to prioritize people experiencing homelessness for MOLGBTQA housing resources
- **Understanding Demand for Additional LGBTQ-Specific Capacity**
  - Work with transitional housing resources to identify and leverage vacancies/capacity, primarily related to the youth subsystem
- **Evaluating Performance Around Housing Resources and Placement**
  - What goals on housing placement have been met?

## ALL OTHER COMMENTS

The ICH received the following additional public comments.

- **Interest in Understanding Hate Crimes Committed Against the LGBTQIA Community**
- **Interest in Programming Specific to LGBTQ Returning Citizens**
- **Cultural Competency & Training**
  - Request for cultural competency training for individuals experiencing homelessness to understand better and support LGBTQ or transgender peers.

- Resources for cultural competency and awareness training specific to gender identity, gender expression, and issues that the transgender community faces.

## METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MPD)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). Since there were no public comments on housing resources, all comments related to MPD are presented here.

### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Training**
  - Training or guidance to officers to ensure they are not criminalizing or otherwise inappropriately targeting people experiencing homelessness.
  - Continued interest in expanding and supporting CIO training and certifications.
- **Interest in Understanding the Basics of Drug Free Zones**
- **Coordination with Behavioral Health**
  - Efforts to appropriately triage and support behavioral health crisis
  - Interest in reducing the involvement of MPD in the transport of individuals detained involuntarily
- **Personal Experience with MPD**
  - Range of personal experiences with MPD relayed – some positive, some negative – from service providers and consumers with lived experience of homelessness.

## OFFICE OF STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION (OSSE)

The ICH received the following public comments related to the Office of State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). There were no comments on housing resources, all comments related to OSSE are presented here.

### ALL COMMENTS

The ICH received the following public comments.

- **Interest in Understanding High-Impact Tutoring**
  - Including eligibility and selection processes.
- **Racial Equity**
  - Concern that systemic racism is a root factor in youth experiencing homelessness.

- **Interest in Data on the Number of Students Experiencing Homelessness**
  
- **Funding**
  - Request for breakdown of homeless grants, specifically for schools and allowable expenditures for families.
  - Question on parameters for awarding funding to local education agencies.

## REFERENCES/RESOURCES

### COMMENTS RECEIVED OUTSIDE BUDGET ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

[Comments Received Before the Budget Release](#)

[Comments Received via Email](#)

### BUDGET ENGAGEMENT SESSION MATERIALS

#### 04/09 Budget Engagement Session 1, Focus: OCA, DMHHS, & DOES

- [Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Notes](#)

#### 04/09 Budget Engagement Session 2, Focus: CFSA, DCPS, DYRS, & OSSE

- [Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Notes](#)

#### 04/11 Budget Engagement Session 3, Focus: DHS (Capital Budget), DGS, & HSEMA

- [Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Notes](#)

#### 04/11 Budget Engagement Session 4, Focus: MOLGBTQA, MPD, & DOC

- [Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Notes](#)

#### 04/15 Budget Engagement Session 5, Focus: DCHA, DHCD, & DHS

- [Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Notes](#)

#### 04/17 Budget Engagement Session, Focus: DBH, DC Health, & DHCF

- [Recording](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
- [Notes](#)