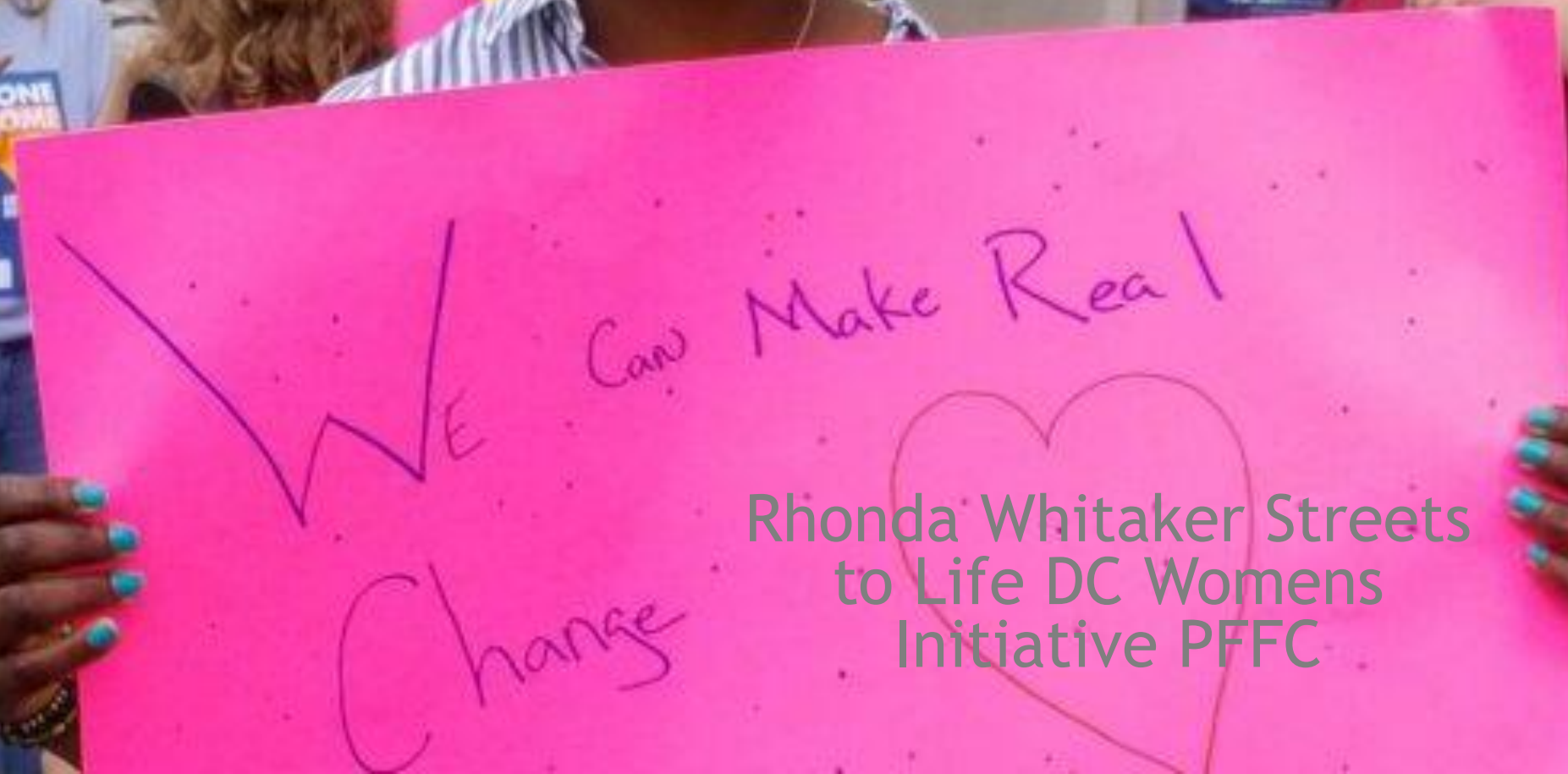
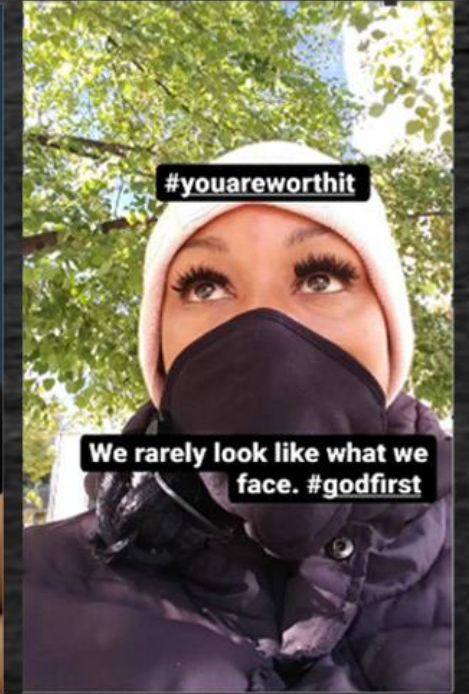


Rhonda Whitaker Tribute



Rhonda Whitaker Streets
to Life DC Womens
Initiative PFFC





- ▶ Rhonda Whitaker went in and out of homelessness for two decades before stabilizing her life and turning her energies to helping others find housing. The Way Home D.C.
- ▶ Whitaker was an advocate for ending homelessness in Washington, D.C. Whitaker had two boys and she experiences homelessness for nearly 27 years.

“Both Rhonda and Waldon were longtime members of the Miriam’s Kitchen family, and tireless advocates for ending homelessness in D.C.,”

The Miriam’s Kitchen community, ICH and PFFC mourns this tragic loss.

We will honor their memories by continuing to fight for housing justice in D.C.

Before she died, Whitaker said she remembered the day when she entered Miriam's Kitchen.

"I can remember that day I walked into that dining hall, and I saw all those people sitting in that dining hall that were just like me," said Whitaker. In a video that was posted in May 2020, Whitaker said she joined Miriam's Kitchen Speaker's Bureau.

"I started to let my voice be heard on the steps of the Wilson Building," said Whitaker. "Not only was my voice heard at the Wilson Building, but my voice was also heard inside the Wilson Building. Miriam's Kitchen paved the way for me and others to be housed."

In December 2019, Whitaker participated in the Washington Community Foundation panel on "The Truth About Chronic Homelessness and The Solution."

"We have families. We are people," she said. "I lost my job and became homeless. I got another job but couldn't afford a home no one knew. I took later shifts to have a place to be warm."

"After nearly 27 years on the street, I have peace of mind today," Whitaker said in May 2020. "It was hard. Yes, it was hard, but I never gave up, and Miriam's Kitchen never gave up on me."

Today the Rhonda Whitaker Streets to Life DC Women's Initiative PFFC
Is honored to be a part of her Tribute and We will stand in the Gap and never give
up on another human being that needs our advocacy, or our voice.
We remember the extraordinary advocate Rhonda Whitaker was and will humbly
continue the work and keep her memory alive.. Rest in peace our sister, You will
never be forgotten. We are our Sister's Keeper ..

Rachelle Ellison PFFC

Lead of the Rhonda Whitaker Streets to Life DC / Senior Mentor Advisor

Nikila Smith PFFC

Co -Lead of the Rhonda Whitaker Streets to life DC

Queenie Featherstone PFFC

Senior Organizer Mentor

Christina Cole PFFC

Secretary

Naomi Carthens PFFC

Mayalla MuQaddim Abdulla Al Saud PFFC

Jakia Carroll ICH





Interagency Council on Homelessness

ERSO Committee



May 26, 2023



Convention for Recording ICH Committee Meetings:

- ❖ Recording for purposes of complying with the open meeting act requirements
- ❖ Available for anyone who requests a copy at ich.info@dc.gov.

Agenda Review



- I. **Welcome & Agenda Review (10 mins)**
 - a) Intros & Call for Announcements
 - b) Adopting Prior Meeting Notes & Managing the Listserv
- II. **Hypothermia Close-Out (15 mins)**
 - a) April Alerts/Operational Shifts
 - b) Transition Plan for Overflow Locations
- III. **Discussion Items (60 mins)**
 - a) National Weather Service Presentation (30 mins)
 - b) Proposed Heat Emergency Plan-HSEMA Presentation(30 mins)
- IV. **Announcements & Reminders (as needed)**
- V. **Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
 - a) Next Meeting: 5/24 from 1-2:30 pm

Agenda Review



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Intro & Call for Announcements



❖ Intros:

- Chat intros for attendees: name, pronouns, org, title/role
- Quick round of hellos from Co-Chairs and ICH staff with formal roles leading or supporting meeting

❖ Call for Partner Announcements/Reminders:

- Please “chat” any significant partner announcements, especially those changes/updates that impact the system
- We will make time on the agenda, as appropriate, or include in the notes

Adopting Notes & Managing the Listserv



❖ Adopting Prior Meeting Notes:

- Automatically adopted unless meeting attendees flag issues
- Generally, ICH team sends out meeting notes within a week
- Please review as soon as possible and flag any errors/issues
- If we don't hear back within a week, assuming good to adopt

❖ Managing the Listserv:

- Meeting materials are only distributed to listserv members
- If you are **not** on the listserv, you will **not** receive materials
- To join the listserv, email ich.info@dc.gov

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Quick Hypothermia summary

- The **first** hypothermia alert was activated **Sunday, November 13, 2022**.
- The **first** Cold Weather Emergency was activated **Monday, December 12, 2022**.
- The **last** hypothermia alert was activated **Sunday, April 9, 2023**.
- total number of alerts for the season at 7pm=80
- total number of alerts on after 7am =55
- Total Cold Weather Emergencies =5
- Men's beds =1,031
- Women's beds= 449
- LGBTQ beds =40
- Total beds available during hypo season =1,520

Hypothermia/Cold Weather Alert Totals

Month/ Year	Total # of alerts @ 7pm	Total # of alerts after 7am	Total # of Cold Weather Emergencies
November 2022	13	5	0
December 2022	19	17	5
January 2023	20	12	0
February 2023	13	9	0
March 2023	14	12	0
April 2023	1	0	0

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2022-2023 Hypothermia Close Out Chart and Overflow Sites

Location	# of Beds and Population	Closure Date	Opening Date
CCNV	24 beds for Women	March 31, 2023	N/A
CCNV	67 beds for Men	March 31, 2023	N/A
Church of Epiphany	30 beds for Men	March 31, 2023	N/A
Salvation Army	40 beds for Men	March 31, 2023	N/A
Sherwood	60 beds for Women	April 14, 2023	N/A
Trinidad	60 beds for Women	April 14, 2023	N/A
Patricia Handy- Legacy	130 beds for Men	May 15, 2023	N/A
Adam's Place → Eve's Place	40 beds for Women	Hypo Site → Overflow site	N/A
801 East Day Center	40 beds for Men	Hypo site → Overflow site	N/A
Emery	100 beds for Men	N/A	May 15, 2023
Blair	72 beds for Men	September 2023	N/A

Agenda Review



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NWS Comments & Feedback



Agenda Review



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2023 Heat Emergency Plan

Agenda

- **Background**
 - Activation Recap and Outlook
 - Heat Sensitivity-Exposure
- **Policies**
- **Concept of Operations**
 - Implementation
 - Communications
 - Cooling Centers
 - Transportation
- **Next Steps**
- **Appendix**
 - Roles and Responsibilities



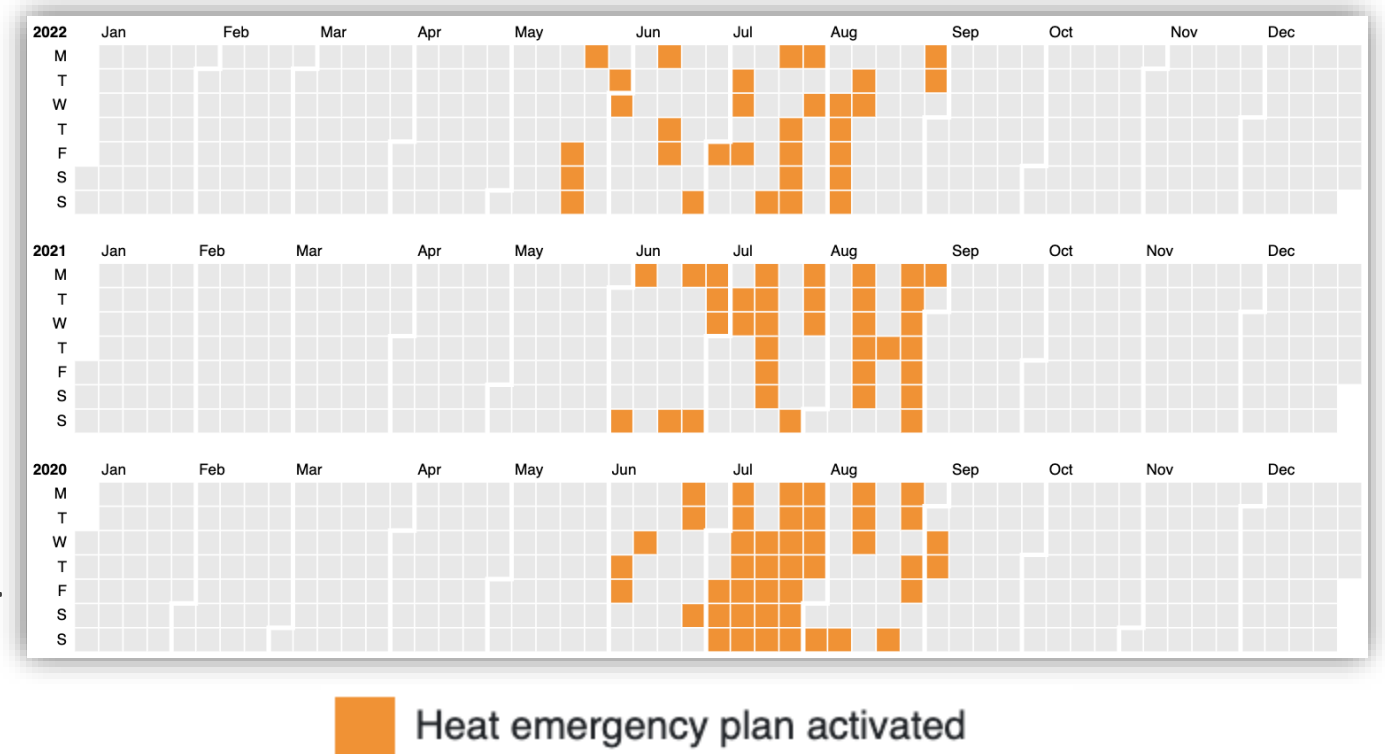
Background

■ 2022 Heat Emergency Plan Recap

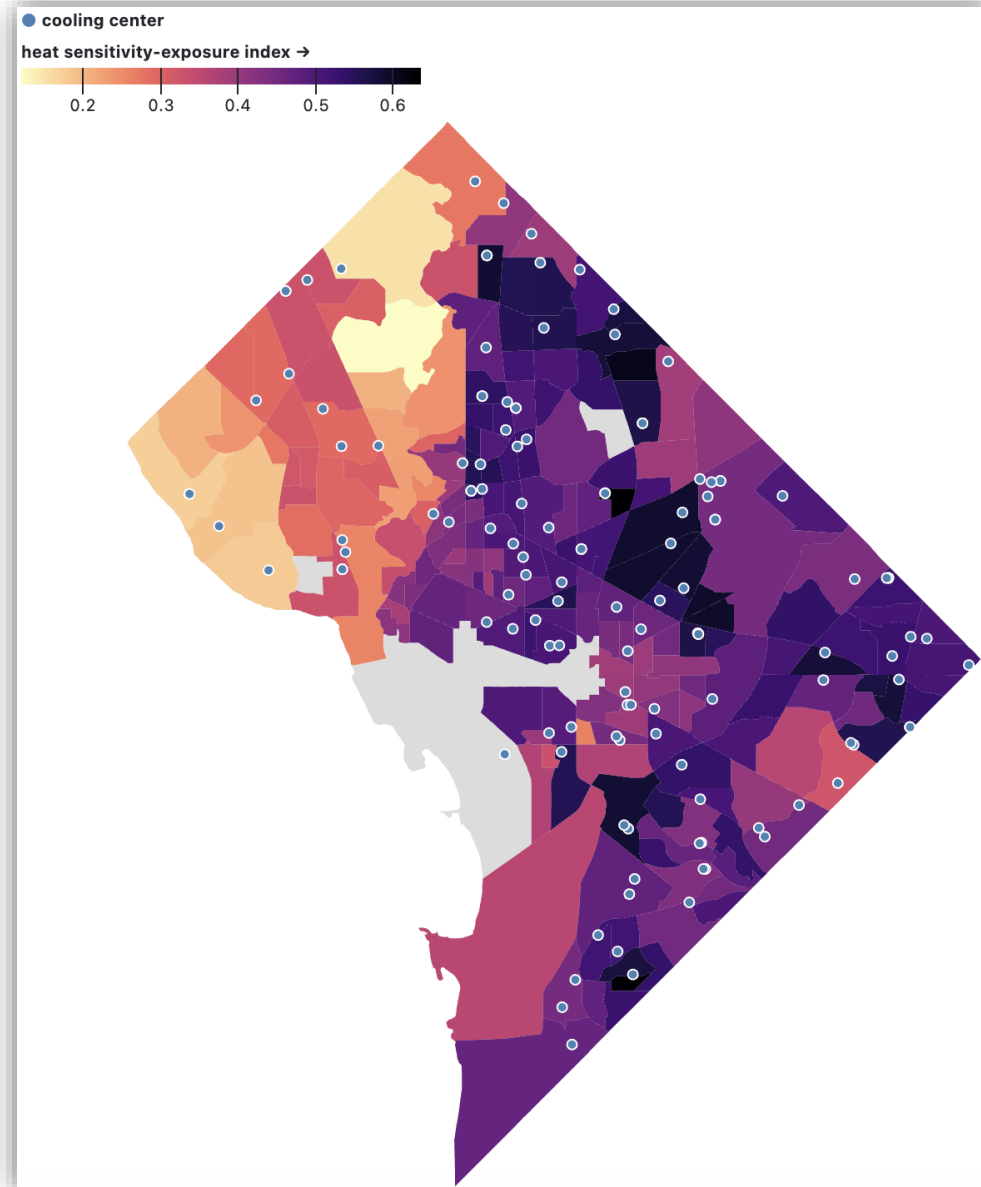
- Focused on expanding access to all cooling centers and cooling parks in a post-COVID environment.
- Restored most facilities and services to pre-pandemic levels (caveats were closures for phased maintenance).

■ 2023 Outlook

- Full accessibility of cooling centers, low-barrier shelters, and emergency shelters.
- Availability of pools and splash parks.



Heat Sensitivity-Exposure



- **Some neighborhoods are more *exposed* to heat.** Some residents are more *sensitive* to heat, meaning they may face greater difficulty coping with, adapting to, or recovering from the heat.
- This map shows the areas of the District that are most heat exposed *and* are home to heat sensitive residents. Link: [Keep Cool DC](#).

Policies

- **Activation (Threshold/Trigger):**
 - Mayor Bowser activates the Heat Emergency Plan when the National Weather Service forecasts a temperature or *heat index of 95°F or above*.
- **Use of Fire Hydrants:**
 - The public use of fire hydrants is unlawful and prohibited in the District.

A poster with a yellow and orange wavy background. On the left is a thermometer with a red liquid level reaching the 95°F mark. To the right of the thermometer, the text reads: "HEAT EMERGENCY ACTIVATION". Below this, it says: "On days when the District observes a heat index forecast of 95 degrees, DC Government will open Cooling Centers." Further down: "To find a cooling center, visit heat.dc.gov". Then: "If you see someone struggling with the heat, please call the shelter hotline at 202-399-7093 or 311." At the bottom: "For all animal emergencies, call the Humane Rescue Alliance: 202-576-6664." The bottom of the poster features a dark bar with logos for heat.dc.gov, READY DC, DC DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, and the GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA with Mayor Muriel Bowser's name.

HEAT EMERGENCY ACTIVATION

On days when the District observes a heat index forecast of 95 degrees, DC Government will open Cooling Centers.

To find a cooling center, visit heat.dc.gov

If you see someone struggling with the heat, please call the shelter hotline at 202-399-7093 or 311.

For all animal emergencies, call the Humane Rescue Alliance: 202-576-6664.

heat.dc.gov

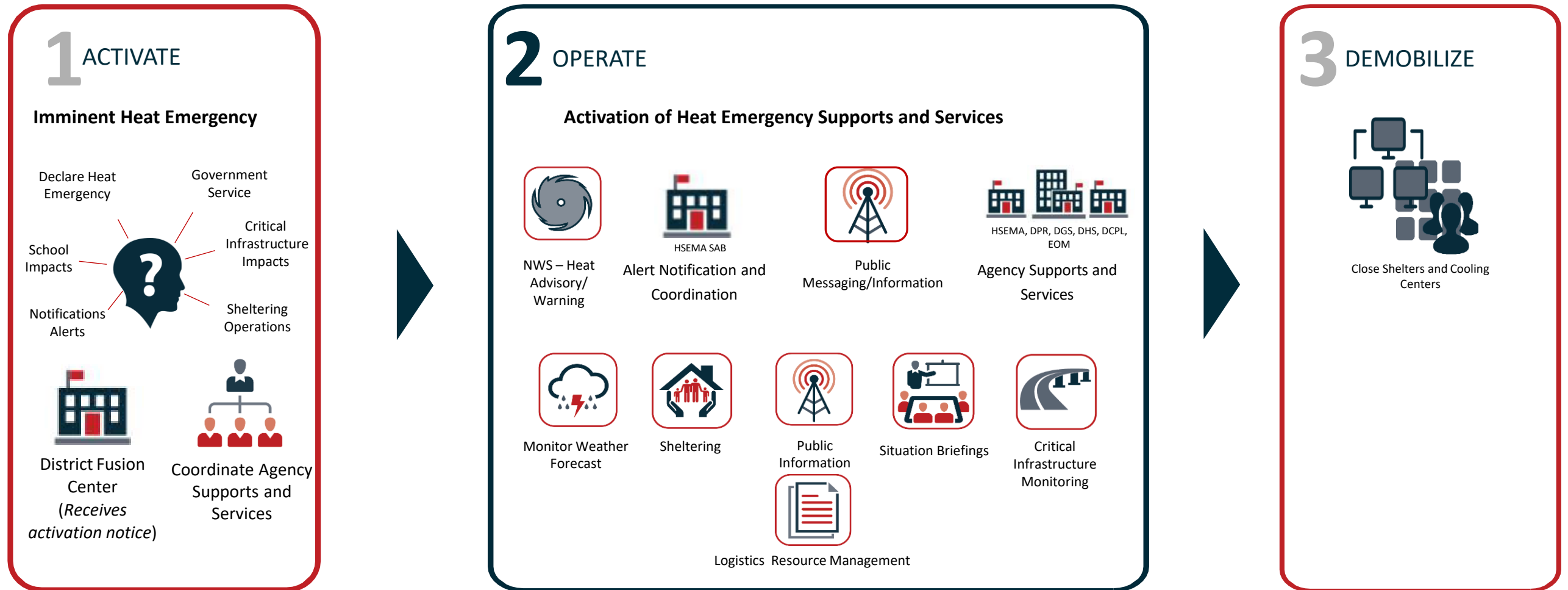
READY DC

DC DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

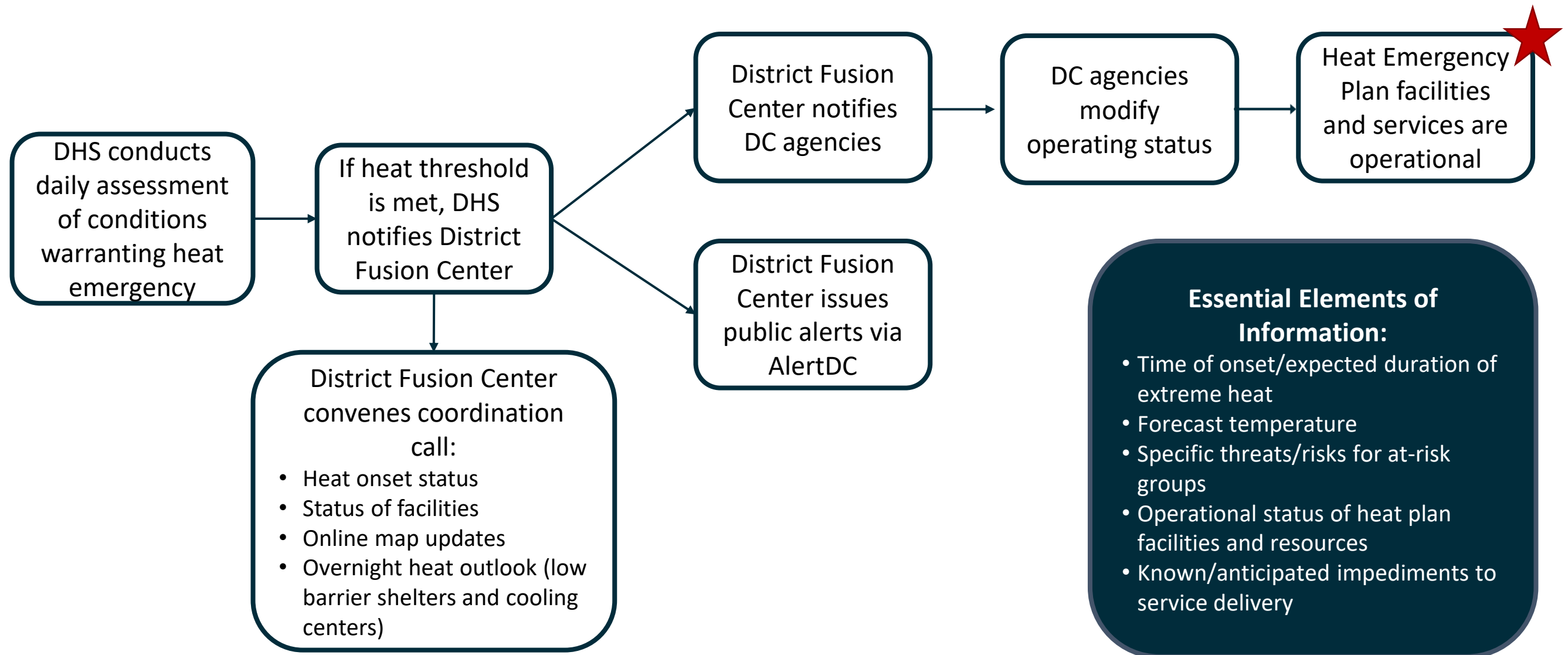
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Concept of Operations

- HSEMA Situational Awareness Bureau leads the coordination effort



Plan Implementation



Communications



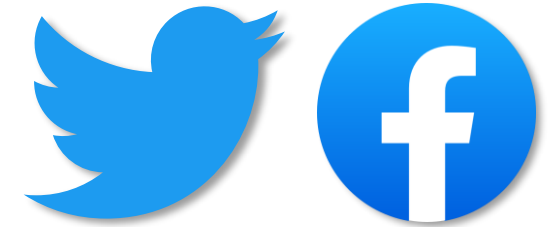
HSEMA issues heat emergency alert through AlertDC to all registered users.



Alert messaging to shelters for heat emergency and coordination to public notification on specific cooling center operations.



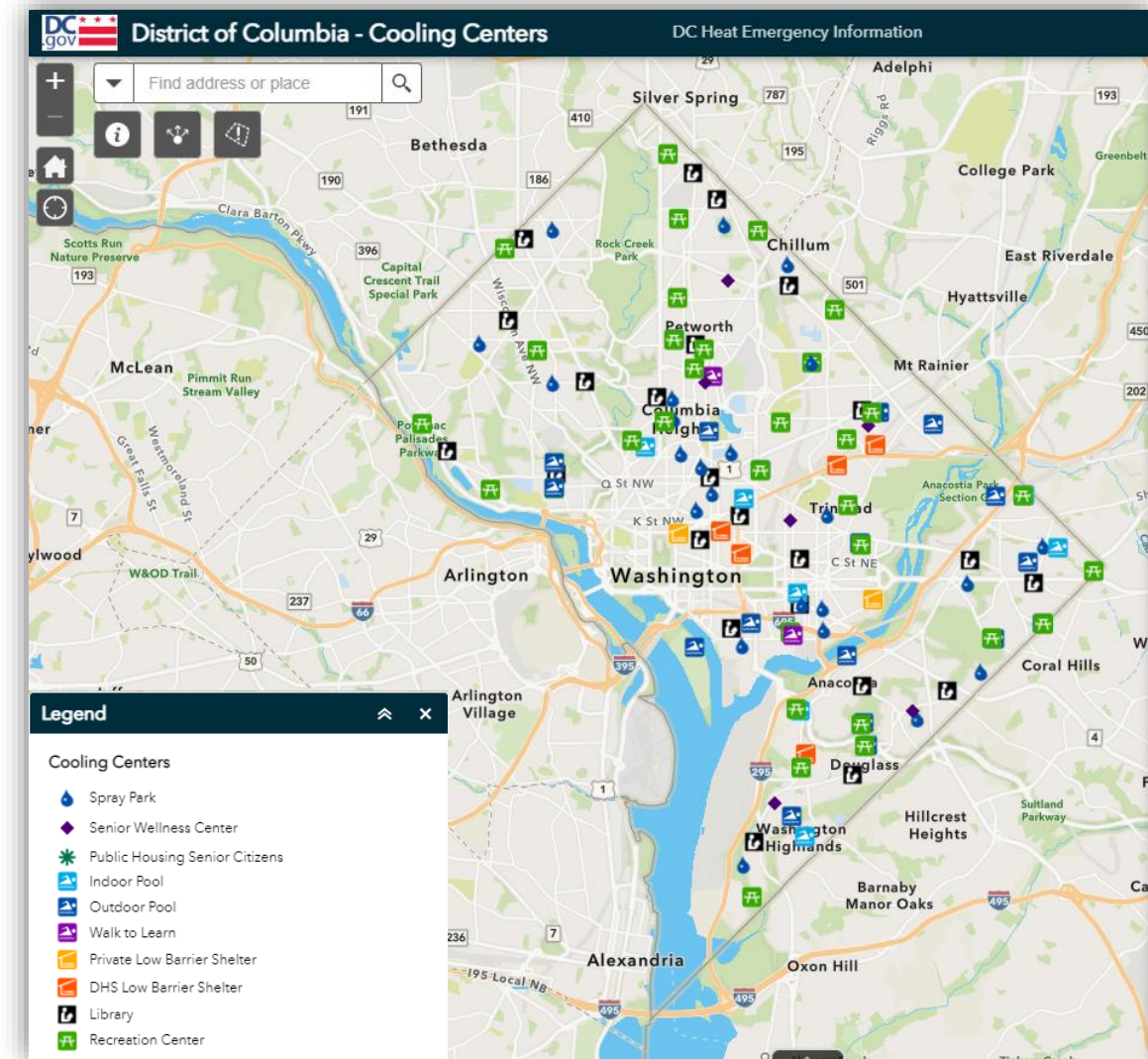
Application that allows District agencies to send text messages to registered user regarding weather conditions, shelter availability and other services.



EOM Comms, HSEMA, and other District departments and agencies communicate information via open-source media platforms.

Cooling Centers

- Low-Barrier Shelters
- Recreation, Community, and Municipal Cooling Centers
- Public Libraries
- Senior Wellness Centers
- Indoor, Outdoor, and Walk to Learn Swimming Pools
- Splash and Spray Parks



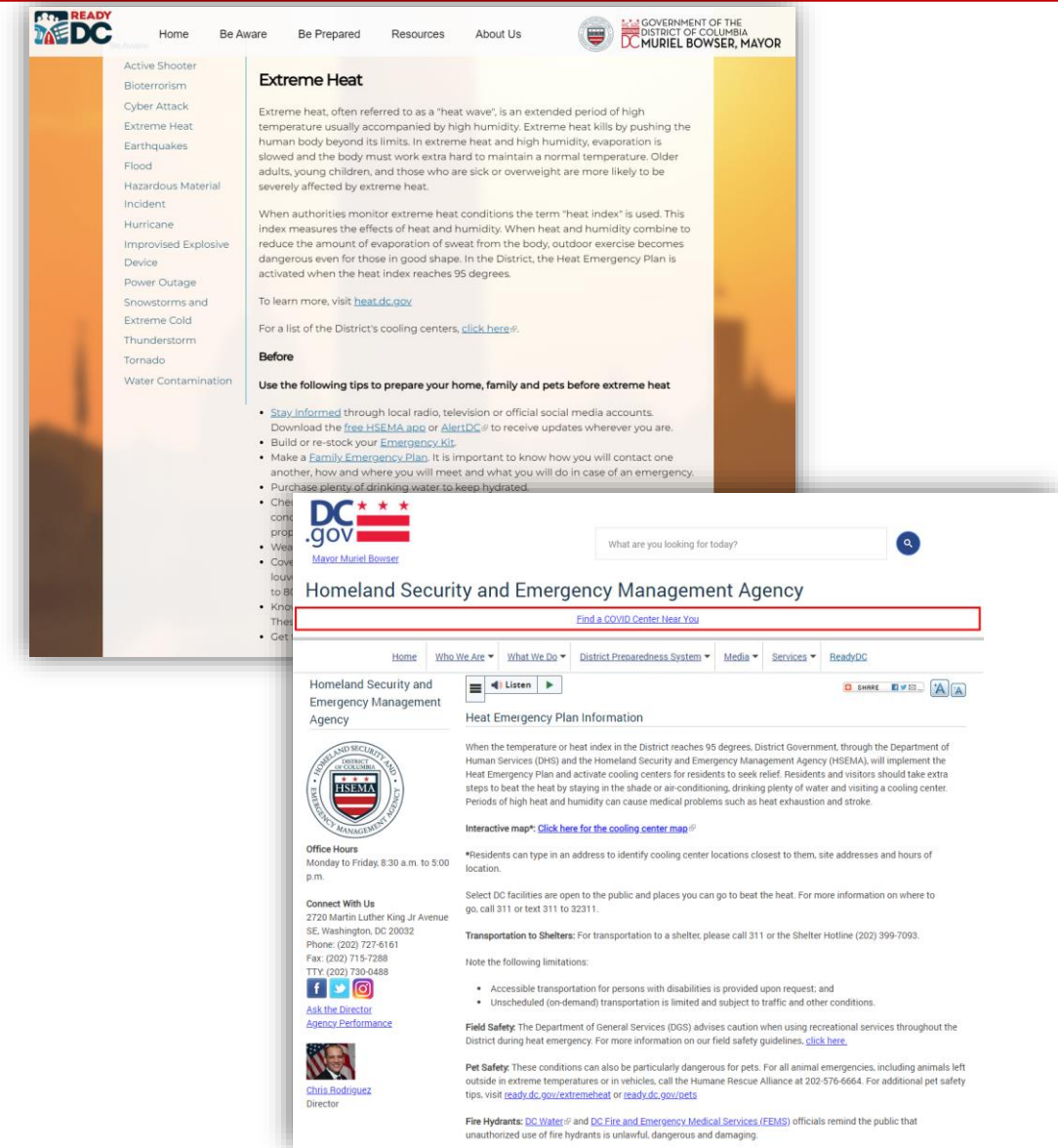
Transportation

- **Individuals experiencing homelessness**
 - Transportation is coordinated through 311 or the Shelter Hotline at (202) 399-7093.
 - UPO also provides additional transportation services.
 - Accessible transportation for persons with disabilities is available upon request.
- **General Public**
 - The District does not provide transportation for the general public to go to cooling sites.
 - ***For displacements***, DHS and HSEMA coordinate transportation for individuals to overnight shelters, *including other supports and services.*



Next Steps

- **Update and Finalize 2023 District Heat Emergency Plan**
 - **Week of April 24:** Conduct validation meeting w/ agency stakeholders
 - Review draft 2023 Heat Plan updates and operational status of:
 - Cooling Centers (general and low-barrier shelters)
 - Recreation centers, pools, and splash parks
 - Agency roles and responsibilities
 - **May 1:** Anticipated release of 2023 Heat Plan
 - Following plan update, HSEMA to update the [heat emergency website](#) and [Ready DC](#) as required.
- **Questions?**





Appendix

Roles and Responsibilities

Agency	Roles/Responsibilities
Department of Human Services and the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coordinate the opening and staffing of shelters for the homeless ■ Provide water for persons remaining on the street when a Heat Emergency is activated in order to prevent dehydration and heat stroke ■ The United Planning Organization (UPO) command center will make internal notifications when a Heat Emergency is declared
Department of Health (DC Health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DC Health will assess the medical impact of the heat conditions identify/inform the public of appropriate health precautions ■ Monitor hospital emergency room admissions related to heat illnesses ■ Provide HSEMA information related to heat prevention with protective actions to the general public most notably those with health and medical issues
Department of Aging and Community Living (DAACL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coordinate the activation of neighborhood Cooling Centers for senior citizens per the facilities list ■ Provide notifications and alerts to senior service organizations
DC Public Libraries (DCPL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Allow entry to all public libraries for individuals to cool off (all rules and regulations as permitted by each site may be enforced) ■ Notify HSEMA if there are any unexpected facility closures
Department of Buildings (DOB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Inspect and report residential units and buildings that are without air-conditioning ■ Identify those residents that may need fans after normal business hours and report such information to HSEMA
DC Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coordinate with HSEMA, FEMS, and MPD to provide messaging to the public on the prohibition against illegal use of fire hydrants as street showers for the purpose of cooling; operate DC Water Emergency Command Center (DCWECC) and monitor any Fire Hydrant-related issues
Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assist in providing box fans to HSEMA to be used for emergency assistance to citizens after normal business hours ■ During normal business hours DOEE has established several programs designed to assist eligible residents with gas and electric bills as well as box fans

Roles and Responsibilities

Agency	Roles/Responsibilities
Department of General Services (DGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure security personnel in any government building that allows access to the general public for the purpose of cooling has been notified that a Heat Emergency is activated ■ Notify HSEMA of any District Government public facilities that are without air conditioning or power
Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure Spray Park locations and pools are activated per the facilities list and notify HSEMA of closures ■ Open recreation centers in neighborhoods during major power outages if requested by HSEMA
Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Report water pressure problems resulting from illegally activated or opened fire hydrants to the DC Water Emergency Command Center
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coordinate responsible District agencies and organizations to maintain, activate, and implement the Heat Emergency Plan ■ Update Heat.DC.Gov with all pertinent public information ■ Maintain the GIS Cooling Center Map per notifications from agencies of facility availability/closures
Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respond to those areas where fire hydrants are being illegally operated
Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide outreach and information to residents during a Heat Emergency ■ Provide the names of special needs residents who may be impacted by the high temperatures and may need additional resources
Office of Unified Communications (OUC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 311 will provide citizens information on the locations of open cooling facilities
Protective Services Police Department (PSPD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Notify contract officers under their authority when a Heat Emergency is activated
Serve DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide support for mission assignments during a Heat Emergency Activation, when needed

Agenda Review



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 - a) **Next Meeting: 5/24 from 1-2:30 pm**

2 DCHA Announcements

Update Regarding Waiting List for Federal Housing Choice Vouchers

DCHA has contracted with NMA to notify several thousand individuals that they have reached the top of the voucher waiting list, and they will be asked to complete the eligibility process.

We are sharing this information with you because it's different from our typical process – and we know that your organization sometimes supports individuals and families that access our services.

Selected applicants can mail their application to:
District of Columbia Housing Authority
c/o NMA Processing Center
P.O. Box 4090
Frankfort, KY 40604

Or mail it to applicant@dchousing.org.

Applicants who require a Reasonable Accommodation to assist with completing the eligibility packet, or who have other questions, can call the DCHA-NMA Eligibility Customer Service line at (202) 539-8277.

These vouchers are Federal, so we are required to follow Federal verification guidelines, not the local law, which permits self-certification for the Local Rent Supplement Program.



DC HOUSING AUTHORITY

ARE YOU ON THE WAITING LIST FOR **PUBLIC HOUSING?**

Are you still interested in a unit? If you answered yes to both of those questions and you have not attended an eligibility event at MLK Library this year, please join us on Monday, May 1!

For more information about how to RSVP and what to bring with you, visit:
www.dchousing.org/event

Disclaimer: You must be on the public housing waiting list to attend this event. If you are not, you will not be admitted.



MONDAY • MAY 1 • 2023 • 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM
MARTIN LUTHER KING LIBRARY • 901 G STREET NW

DCHA is committed to providing equal access to this event for all participants & residents with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact our ADA/504 Department at ADA504@dchousing.org with your complete request. If you need a sign language or foreign language interpreter, please go to dchousing.org/language or call 202-535-1000. Please allow at least 3 business days to make the necessary arrangements.

DCPL is hiring



- ❖ Peer Specialist (Program Support Assistant)
- ❖ Link to position online [here](#)

Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Agenda Review (5 mins)
- II. Discussion Items (60 mins)
- III. Governance & Updates (20 mins)
- IV. Announcements & Reminders (as needed)
- V. Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
 - a) Next Meeting: 5/24/ 23 1:00-2:30 pm

