



Interagency Council on Homelessness

ERSO Committee



January 31, 2024



Convention for Recording ICH Committee & Full Council Meetings:

- ❖ Recording for purposes of complying with the Open Meeting Act requirements
- ❖ Available for anyone who requests a copy at ich.info@dc.gov.

Meeting Agenda



- I. **Welcome & Agenda Review (10 mins, includes 5 min icebreaker)**
 - a) Icebreaker
 - b) Intros & Call for Announcements
 - c) Adopting Meeting Notes & Managing the Listserv
- II. **Partner Update: Intro to HSEMA Initiatives on EDI & DAFN (20 mins)**
- III. **System-wide Check-In (30 mins)**
 - a) Emerging/New Concerns (15 mins)
 - b) Hypothermia Check-In (15 mins)
- IV. **Discussion Items (25 mins)**
 - a) Annual Priorities & Projects
 - b) Annual Calendar
- V. **Announcements & Reminders (as needed)**
- VI. **Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
 - a) Next Meeting: February 28, 2024: 1pm-2:30pm

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

❖ **Callers:**

- Use *3 to raise your hands so we can see you
- Use *6 to unmute and introduce yourself
- Allows us to check that your audio works and that you can hear us!

❖ **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

Notes on Welcome & Agenda Review



Introductions:

- ❖ **ICH Lead: Synina Pugh & Theresa Silla**
- ❖ **Co-chairs: Reginald Black & Tony Newman**
- ❖ **Callers: Ms. Umi**

Feedback/Comments/Q&A:

- ❖ **Birthday shout outs to Synina & Ms. Umi!**



INTRODUCTION TO HSEMA INITIATIVES



DC HSEMA

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) & Disability, Access, and Functional Needs (DAFN) Programs

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

ICH Emergency Response and Shelter Operations (ERSO) Committee

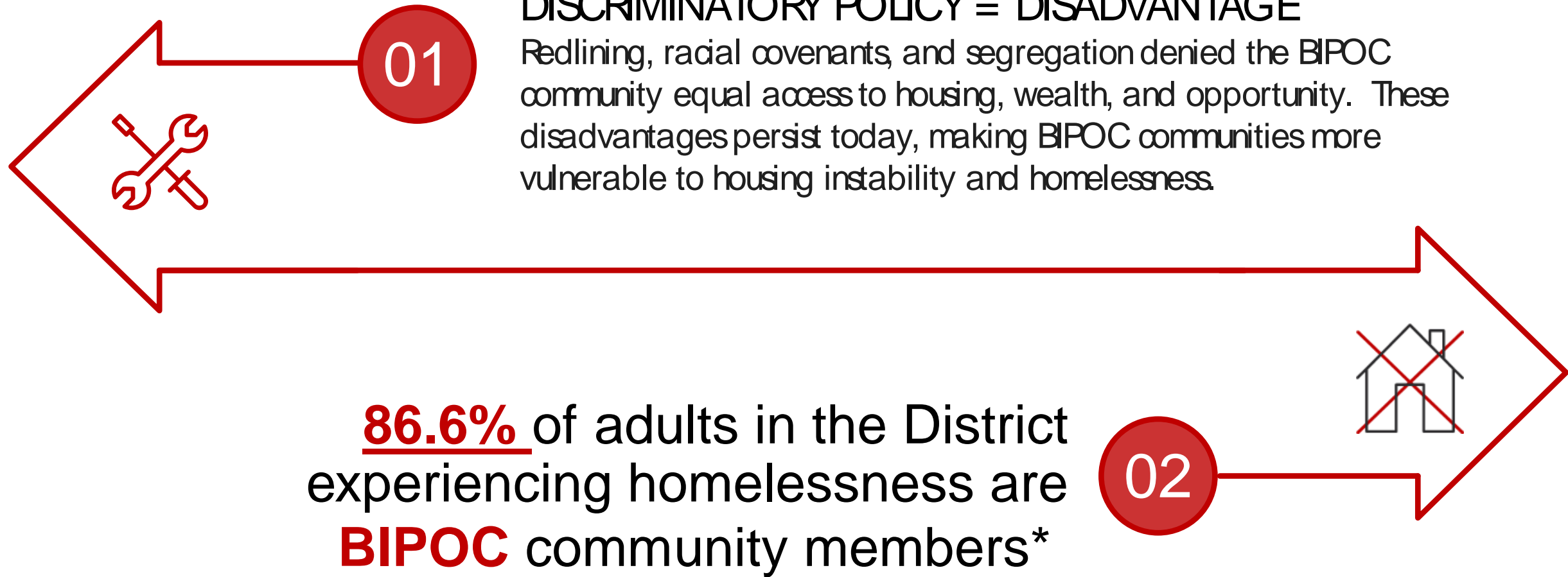
01
Mayoral
Priority

02
Necessity

03
Intention +
Impact

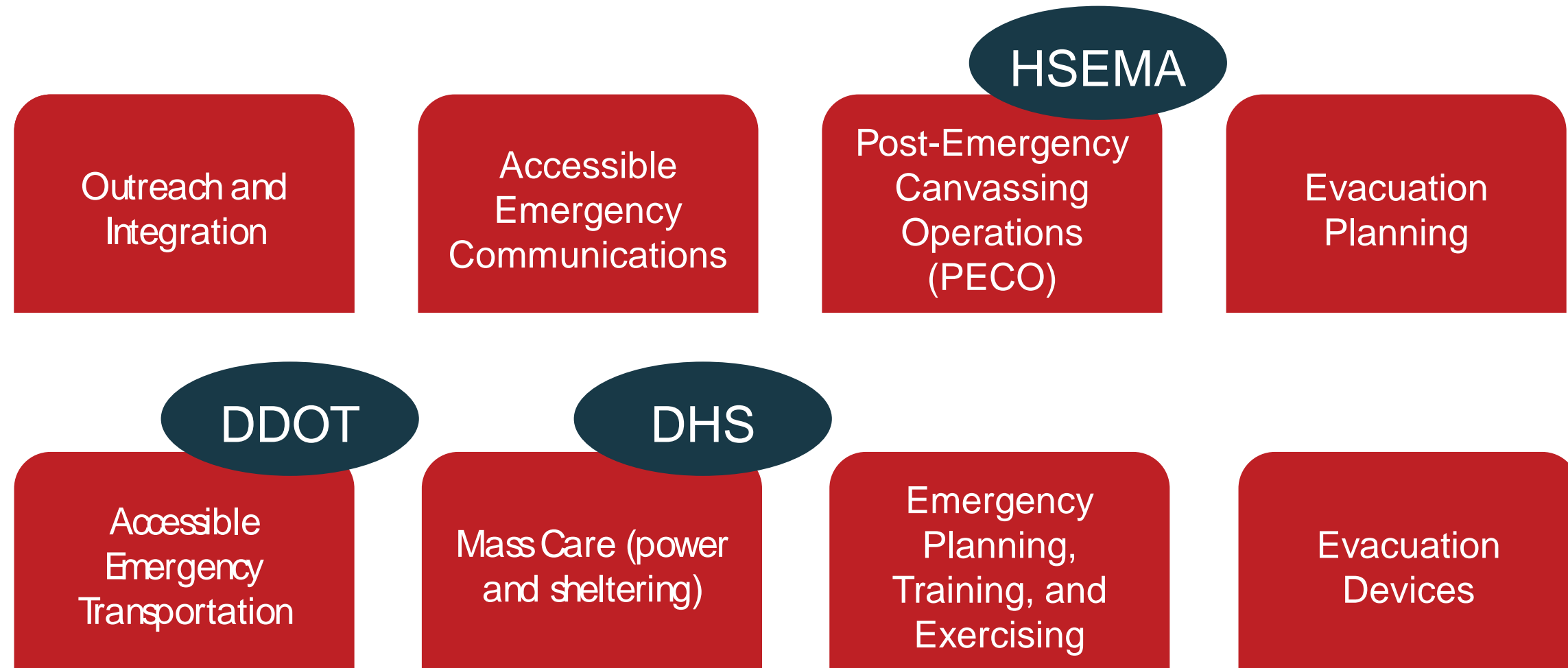
Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are more likely to experience vastly different and often more detrimental outcomes when interacting with institutions, disasters or emergencies.

As the coordinating agency for homeland security and emergency management, HSEMA envisions a District of Columbia that mitigates and minimizes the impacts of threats and hazards to historically underserved and overburdened communities and supports resilience initiatives that address longstanding challenges. HSEMA will collaborate with partners and residents to identify and implement racial equity initiatives that provide measurable and impactful solutions.



*<https://community-partnership.org/homelessness-in-dc/> 2023 Point-In-Count Dashboard

Goal: Ensure the needs of people with disabilities and other access and functional needs are met before, during, and after disasters





Goals

- Provide disability-specific perspective and recommendations on emergency planning efforts
- Advise on the District's Disability, Access, and Functional Needs program



Scope

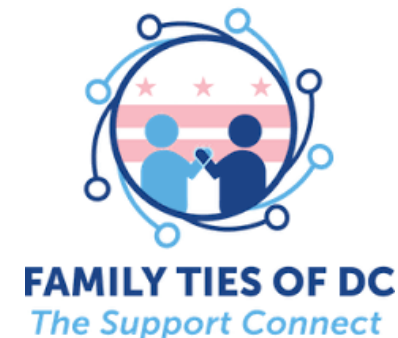
- Review plans, training, and other materials
- Identify resources and subject matter support
- Serve as non-political advocate for DAFN program



The District's population is projected to continue growing, while becoming older and more racially diverse over the next 15 years

More than 8% (1 in 12) of District residents reported themselves as having a disability of some form

EASE (Equity & Accessibility Support in Emergencies) DC Email List

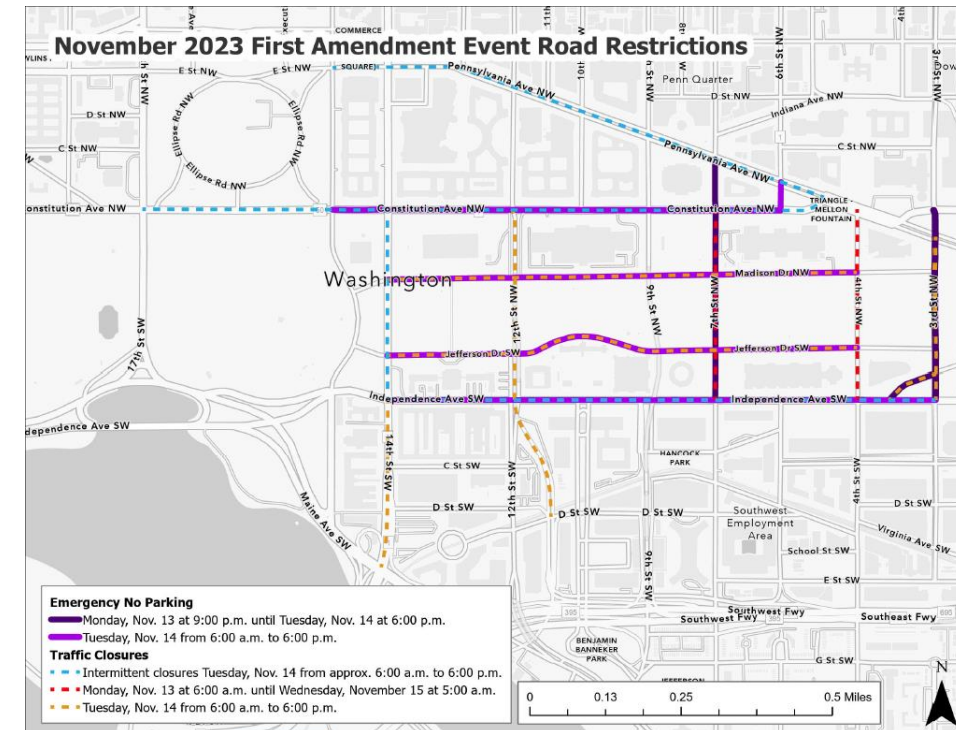


Sample message

Good evening everyone,

MPD has released an updated list of road closures (beginning 6 AM tomorrow) and parking restrictions (beginning 9 PM today) for Tuesday's event on the National Mall. The full press release is available [here](#) and the map is posted below. The primary permitted event on the National Mall is scheduled for 1 PM – 3 PM, with a pre-program event on site at 11:30 and gates scheduled to open at 10 AM. Further updates will be sent out over social media and other platforms.

Please reach out to us if any associated road or sidewalk closures or conditions affect accessible travel for you or your constituents, or if any other issues are experienced as a result of this event.





THANK YOU!

Contact Shawna Parks shawna.parks@dc.gov with any questions about the **HSEMA EDI program**

Contact Rosemary McDonnell rosemary.mcdonnell@dc.gov with any questions about the **HSEMA DAFN program**

Notes on HSEMA Initiatives



Presenters:

- ❖ Rosemary McDonnell, HSEMA Senior Disability, Access, and Functional Needs (DAFN) Program Manager
- ❖ Shawna Parks, HSEMA Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Program Manager

Form for joining Disability Community Advisory Group (DCAG):

- ❖ <https://forms.office.com/g/yacUtmN60B>

Feedback/Comments/Q&A:

- ❖ **Q (Ms. U (PFFC)):** we have accessibility access issues in homeless services. Individuals in wheelchairs, lack of shower rails, and staff that are reluctant to serve individuals with significant mobility challenges...
- ❖ **A (RD, HSEMA):** For day-to-day operations then contact Office of Disability Rights (<https://odr.dc.gov/>). We have assessed specific shelter operations, and we know that your concerns are warranted. This is why we have developed a checklist for supporting shelter operations. Clarification that the HSEMA definition of emergency shelter is different from the definition of emergency shelter used by DHS.
- ❖ **Q (RB, PFFC):** who was the party to the lawsuit and how does the lawsuit impact our efforts to (re)develop shelter locations. Do the recommendations and settlement agreement impact homeless service operations.
- ❖ **A (RD, HSEMA):** the information about the lawsuit is available online <https://dralegal.org/case/d-c-center-independent-living-et-al-v-district-columbia/>
- ❖ **Q (RB, PFFC):** Was the Winter Plan reviewed for the Settlement agreements?
- ❖ **A (RD, HSEMA):** Just service plans were reviewed. So, we did not review the Winter Plan.
- ❖ **Q (D):** Does HSEMA help with motor wheelchair purchasing
- ❖ **A (RD, HSEMA):** Office of Disability Rights. But for every building owned and operated by the District we have installed evacuation chairs.



SYSTEM-WIDE CHECK-IN

Overview of System-Wide Check-In



Purpose:

- ❖ To understand what is top of mind for our government and community reps
- ❖ Reminder that community reps include advocates, business sector partners, constituents with lived experience, and service providers.

Background/Context:

- ❖ Allows us to document shifts in the landscape, identify trends, delegate topics to the appropriate ICH forums, or identify future discussion topics for this forum.

Limitations:

- ❖ For emerging/new concerns, we only have 15 mins, so we kindly request that each person limit their comments to 3 mins so we can hear from at least 5 participants.

New/Emerging Concerns or Updates



- ❖ Government Reps

- ❖ Community Reps
 - Advocates
 - Business Sector Partners
 - Constituents w/ Lived Experience
 - Service Providers



Notes on System-Wide Check-In



Feedback/Comments/Q&A:

❖ Ms. N (PFFC):

- Data from TCP is incorrect because the numbers of Homelessness is staggering.
- HUD Reports: <https://nlihc.org/resource/hud-releases-2023-annual-homeless-assessment-report#:~:text=Between%202022%20and%202023%2C%20the,about%2015%2C000%2C%20or%207%25>

- ❖ **SB (SMYAL):** Outreach at Union Station. Called Shelter Hotline and they hung up on me. Children didn't have car seats and family had significant language barriers. The family had been at Union Station for 4 days. A lot of confusion about whether this was an OMS or Family System concern. If I had just given the family the number for the Shelter Hotline they would not have been served. I am continuing to work with the family but it's not appropriate. I am a provider for young adults.
- ❖ **AC (Catholic Charities):** agreed - Sierra - we had a similar experience with a migrant family was dropped off by a concerned citizen at our 801 East Men's shelter. It was difficult to figure out how to help a family like this and it should be clearer and easier for providers to figure this out
- ❖ **LB:** I am constantly hearing from families that they are being told the shelter hotline does. it not families that narrative needs to be changed
- ❖ **BH ():** i think this all speaks to the confusion that exists in the homeless system about how to connect migrants to the system that DC set up its all very opaque
- ❖ **D ():** Is OMS checking Union Station regularly? They should. We know migrants are being sent here from southern border states.

Notes on Systemwide Check-In Cont'd



- ❖ **RD, HSEMA:** Regarding language access, use of video and remote interpreting should be used across all District facilities.
- ❖ **D():** Also ASL interpretation .There is an unhoused lady by Epiphany who is deaf. Ask Rev Glenna.
- ❖ **JD (WHLC):** Number of significant issues at Harriet Tubman:
 - Food access: not allowed to bring food inside
 - Dr's Notes were not being observed
 - Staff are extremely unprofessional, and nothing is being done about it.
 - Fire drill in the middle of a hypothermia alert
 - No where to go for hours while it was hypothermia
- ❖ **LB (WHLC):** Additional feedback re Fire Drill and ADA at Harriet Tubman
 - During the fire drill, one of the residents mentioned that ladies with mobility issues could not access one of the accessible exits because it was locked and chained.
- ❖ **D ():** Additional feedback re Food Access at Harriet Tubman
 - The ladies who are diabetic are not being served nutritious meals. They are not able to have sugar (cinnamon buns, donuts, danishes) for breakfast
- ❖ **AC (CC):** I can connect WHLC to the Sr. Manager at Harriet Tubman to get these concerns addressed. We don't have a protocol that prohibits outside food being brought in but there isn't client food storage for clients onsite and lunch service was discontinued last year by DHS/TCP



HYPOTHERMIA UPDATES



DC | DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES

DC Department of Human Services

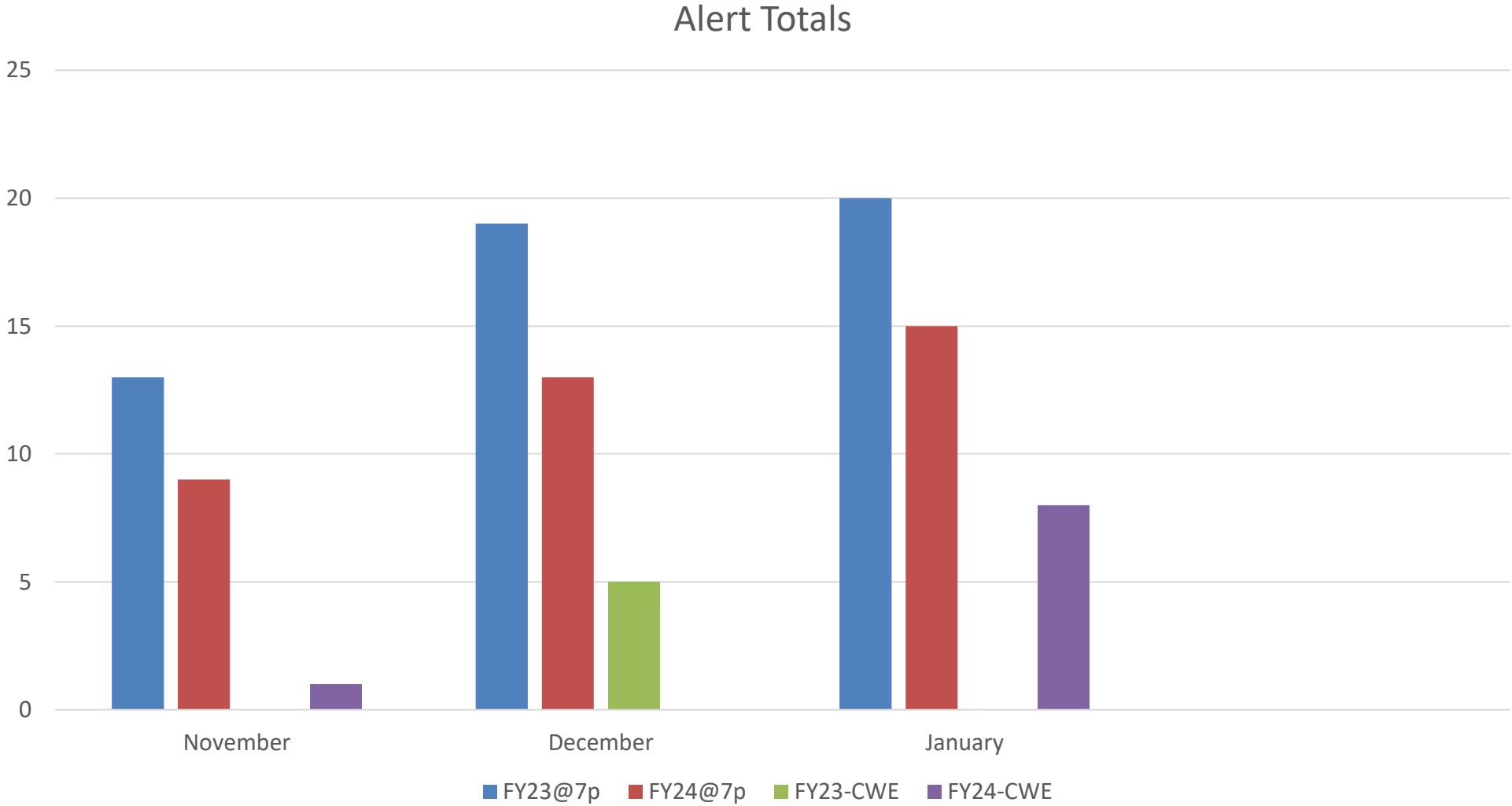
DHS-FSA HYPOTHERMIA UPDATES

General Hypo updates

- 2603 Naylor Rd. now serves women
- 2601 Naylor Rd. now serves men
- Some of the women's sites have yet to reach half or full capacity
- The District experienced a cold weather snap from January 15th- January 22nd
- There has been 9 cold weather emergencies thus far

FY23 & FY24 Alerts Comparison

as of January 26, 2024 for FY24



Cold Weather Emergency Response

Hypothermia sites
operated 24/7

Five WMATA warming
buses were placed
throughout the District
from January 15th-
January 22nd

In collaboration with
UPO, OSSE provided
additional client
transportation support

Safety checks were
conducted at warming
bus's locations by,
outreach teams, MPD
and UPO

Outreach teams alerted
unhoused individuals of
the cold weather ahead
of time and the
duration of the CWE

Thank You & KUDOS!

Hooray!!!



DHS would not have been successful through the CWE without the collaboration of:

- DC HSEMA
- TCP
- ICH
- Providers
- UPO
- WMATA
- OSSE
- DHS Outreach team
- Contracted Outreach teams

Notes on Hypothermia Check-In



Presenters:

- ❖ Quin Grier, DHS Supervisory Housing Coordinator

Feedback/Comments/Q&A:

❖ U (PFFC):

- Thank you for the warming buses.
- Shocked to hear that you are reporting buses were checked. I was there and no one came. Someone was smoking crack on the bus in front of me.
- Please do not send MPD for safety checks! Where is the DBH outreach team? Why are they not partnering for outreach checks.
- UPO brought us food but only after we called because there were about 10 people that were very hungry.
- Can we have scheduled delivery of safety and comfort items, including food and water?
- How do we ensure that buses are cleaned and utilized well.

- ❖ **TN (DHS):** We do not have the capacity to man the buses, but we had the outreach teams checking in on the buses, including looking to monitor if the buses were delivered on time. We also worked with UPO to do rounds and safety checks. We will keep working to improve service delivery.

- ❖ **U (PFFC):** where is DBH and why aren't they supporting the safety checks overnight?





ANNUAL PRIORITIES

Purpose & Background/Context



Purpose

- ❖ Orient the ERSO CMTE to ICH proposed Priorities, Projects, and Annual Calendar.

Background or Context

- ❖ Rooted in the Legislated Mandates relevant to the ERSO CMTE:
 - Winter Plan (annual)
 - Comments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget (annual),
 - Strategic Plan (every 5 years) and Updates (annual),
 - Community-wide assessments and inventories (annual) – including
 - ✓ Key Performance Indicators (KPIs),
 - ✓ Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Counts (HIC), and
 - ✓ Homeless Youth Census
 - Input on federally mandated applications and plans (annual)



Work Advanced by ERSO CMTE



1. Meeting the legislated mandates related to the **Winter Plan**, in partnership with the Executive Committee.
2. Meeting the legislated mandates related to **developing and implementing a performance management framework** for the **Annual Update**, in partnership with Strategic Planning Committee.
3. Supporting **strategic engagement with adjacent systems** that impact all subpopulations, particularly **Domestic Violence, and Justice-Involved Populations**.
4. Reviewing the work Led by the WGs



Meeting Legislated Mandates – Winter Plan



Projects:

- ❖ Reviewing implementation of the Winter Plan to identify key areas of concerns flagged by constituents (memorialized by a Mid-Season FY24 Hypo Season Review and a final FY24 Hypo Season Review),
- ❖ Working with implementing agencies to identify options for addressing the key concerns,
- ❖ Drafting a Winter Plan that integrates the most effective and efficient options for addressing key concerns, and
- ❖ Finalizing the Winter Plan for adoption.

Flag: request from DC Council to produce Winter Plan earlier than the current legislated deadline of Sept Full Council Mtg. Winter Plan was approved in October for the last two years, so they are likely interested in ensuring we meet the Sept deadline.



Meeting Legislated Mandates – Annual Update



Projects:

- ❖ Reviewing a proposed outline for:
 - A formal ICH Performance Plan for the Continuum of Care to be utilized by OCA starting FY25 and beyond and
 - Standard Workplans for advancing ICH priorities and projects, complete with deliverables, timelines and metrics, starting CY24 and beyond.
- ❖ Updating the proposed/draft framework or idea by integrating the feedback and
- ❖ Finalizing the proposed/draft framework for adoption



Strategic Engagement w/ Adjacent Systems



Projects:

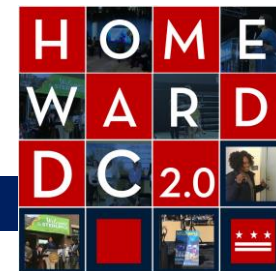
- ❖ Understanding the demand for temporary housing at the intersection of homeless services and these adjacent systems
- ❖ Supporting discharge planning, not to build a pipeline from adjacent systems to homeless services, but to appropriately support people experiencing homelessness but most familiar with these adjacent system navigate to immediate shelter and temporary housing resources and
- ❖ Mapping these adjacent subsystems with a focus on appropriate points of contact and pathways for escalating concerns to support navigation and care coordination

Review the Work Led by the WGs



Front Door Services WG	Shelter Solns WG	Shelter Capacity WG
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving service delivery at the Front Door (particularly Day Centers & Outreach) 2. Addressing safety/security at the Front Door (particularly Day Centers & Outreach) 3. Transforming the Front Door for Single and Young Adults 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving service delivery and operations in temporary housing 2. Addressing safety/security at temporary housing 3. Transforming temporary housing for Single and Young Adults 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting the development of the Winter Plan 2. Addressing gaps in shelter capacity reports reviewed 3. Exploring the short-term potential for expanding shelter capacity during and beyond Hypothermia Season
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Ending/preventing unsheltered homelessness, especially at encampments 		

Priorities for Front Door Services



1. Improving service delivery for all populations (families, singles, veterans, and young adults) at the Front Door (particularly Day Centers & Outreach)
2. Addressing safety/security at the Front Door (particularly Day Centers & Outreach)
3. Transforming the Front Door for Single and Young Adults
4. Ending/preventing unsheltered homelessness, especially at encampments

Improving Service Delivery (FDS)



Projects:

- ❖ Reviewing UIR data regularly to understand constituent concerns related to service delivery and operations.
- ❖ Prioritizing robust housing-focused case management (especially navigation supports/services) and
- ❖ Coordinating care, especially for crisis or complex medical health needs, by mapping the front door of homeless services, identifying appropriate contact points, and establishing protocols/procedures for supporting care coordination that adequately protects our clients from bad actors.

Addressing Safety/Security Concerns (FDS)



Projects:

- ❖ Compiling feedback received to date and identifying priorities for immediate action vs longer-term or transformational efforts
- ❖ Engaging constituents with lived experience to ensure their perspectives are adequately captured and accounted for in the priorities identified related to safety/security concerns and
- ❖ Identifying funding sources and options for implementing priority options

Transforming the Front Door (FDS)



Projects:

- ❖ Developing a robust and data-driven understanding of the population served by Day Centers and Outreach teams, including catchment areas;
- ❖ Identifying the role of day centers and outreach teams and how these interventions at the front door can be configured to meet the demands of the population served and
- ❖ Mapping out a comprehensive vision for a day center and outreach services at the Front Door of the Single Adult and Young Adult subsystems for the ideal system (adequate year-round shelter that is available 24/7), including options for how to get there given the reality of existing constraints.

Ending/Preventing Unsheltered Homelessness (FDS)



Projects:

- ❖ Estimating needs (via back-of-the-envelope calculations) for the level of year-round shelter and permanent housing resources, given the lack of reliable data and
- ❖ Improving HMIS data collection and analysis of housing placement rates amongst unsheltered individuals, especially at encampments.

Priorities for Shelter Solutions WG



1. Improving service delivery and operations for all populations in temporary housing
2. Addressing safety/security at temporary housing (particularly shelter, bridge, and transitional housing)
3. Transforming temporary housing (meaning shelter, bridge, and transitional housing) for Single and Young Adults

Improving Service Delivery and Operations (Shelter Solns)



Projects

- ❖ Reviewing UIR data regularly to understand constituent concerns related to service delivery and operations;
- ❖ Prioritizing case management and robust housing navigation supports/services, and
- ❖ Coordinating care, especially during a crisis or for complex medical health needs, by
 - mapping the front door of homeless services,
 - identifying appropriate contact points, and
 - establishing protocols/procedures for supporting care coordination that adequately protects our clients from bad actors.

Addressing Safety/Security (Shelter Solns)



Projects:

- ❖ Compiling feedback received to date and identifying priorities for immediate action vs longer-term or transformational efforts
- ❖ Engaging constituents with lived experience to ensure their perspectives are adequately captured and accounted for in the priorities identified related to safety/security concerns and
- ❖ Identifying funding sources and options for implementing priority options

Transforming Temporary Housing (Shelter Solns)



Projects:

- ❖ Understanding the populations experiencing homelessness and served by temporary housing programs, particularly relative to the vulnerabilities that drive demand for necessary or critical accommodations and services;
- ❖ Identifying the role(s) of different temporary housing programs and how temporary housing interventions can be configured to meet the demands of the populations served; and
- ❖ Mapping out a comprehensive vision for temporary housing serving Single and Young Adults

Priorities for Shelter Capacity



1. Supporting the development of the Winter Plan
2. Addressing gaps in shelter capacity reports reviewed
3. Exploring the short-term potential for expanding shelter capacity during and beyond Hypothermia Season

Supporting Winter Planning (Shelter Capacity)



Projects:

- ❖ Reviewing shelter utilization during hypothermia season and
- ❖ Recommending appropriate shelter capacity for the Winter Plan

- ❖ *Flag: request from DC Council to produce Winter Plan earlier than the current legislated deadline of Sept Full Council Mtg. Winter Plan was approved in October for the last two years, so they are likely interested in ensuring we meet the Sept deadline.*

Addressing Gaps in Reports Reviewed (Shelter Capacity)



Projects:

- ❖ Monthly reports for emergency shelter for young adults – including utilization and turnaways
- ❖ Shelter utilization beyond Hypothermia Season – especially for singles and young adults.
- ❖ *Flag: do we need to think about tracking ADA bed capacity & case management capacity for singles and young adults?*

Expanding Shelter Capacity (Shelter Capacity)



Projects:

- ❖ Exploring the short-term potential for expanding shelter capacity during and beyond Hypothermia Season, particularly as it relates to
 - Leveraging under-utilized shelter inventory/resources,
 - Partnership with mission-driven organizations,
 - Retail spaces and
 - Hotel/motel conversions

Notes on Annual Priorities



Feedback/Comments/Q&A:

- ❖ **SB (SMYAL):** I would be interested in the data or measurement tools we use to see how often language access is utilized in low barrier shelter/drop ins



ANNUAL CALENDAR

Proposed Schedule for 2024: ERSO



- Standard meeting recurrence is 4th Wednesday every month from 1 – 2:30 pm.
- Strategic breaks throughout the year allow for ICH to finalize reports to meet legislated mandates and document shifts in the landscape throughout the year.

Month	Date	Notes
January	01/31	Logistics flag: January meeting pushed to 5th Wednesday due to new year and holiday schedule adjustments.
February	02/28	
March	03/27	
April	04/24	
May	05/22	
June	06/26	Proposed break.
July	07/24	
August	08/28	
September	09/25	Proposed break. ICH Full Council Meeting for approval of Winter Plan.
October	10/23	
November	11/27	Logistics flag: Move back one week to 12/04 so do not conflict with week of Thanksgiving.
December	12/25	Break: Christmas Day.

Proposed Schedule for 2024: FDS



- Standard meeting recurrence is 1st Tuesday every month from 1 – 2:30 pm.
- Strategic breaks throughout the year allow for ICH to finalize reports to meet legislated mandates and document shifts in the landscape throughout the year.

Month	Date	Notes
January	01/02	<i>Break due to New Year holiday.</i>
February	02/06	
March	03/05	
April	04/02	<i>Proposed break.</i>
May	05/07	
June	06/04	
July	07/02	<i>Proposed break.</i>
August	08/06	
September	09/03	<i>Logistics flag: Recommend break in Sept. instead of Oct. due to proximity to Labor Day and Sept. Full Council meeting.</i>
October	10/01	<i>Proposed break.</i>
November	11/05	<i>Logistics flag: Election Day (US Presidential).</i>
December	12/03	

Proposed Schedule for 2024: Shelter Solns



- Standard meeting recurrence is 2nd Thursday every month from 10:30 am - 12 pm.
- Strategic breaks throughout the year allow for ICH to finalize reports to meet legislated mandates and document shifts in the landscape throughout the year.

Month	Date	Notes
January	01/11	Break due to New Year holiday.
February	02/08	
March	03/14	
April	04/11	Proposed break.
May	05/09	Logistics flag: 5 Thursdays in May, potential shift back one week to 05/16.
June	06/13	
July	07/11	Proposed break.
August	08/08	Logistics flag: 5 Thursdays in August, potential shift back one week to 08/15.
September	09/12	
October	10/10	Proposed break.
November	11/14	
December	12/12	

Schedule for 2024: Shelter Capacity



- Standard meeting recurrence is 4th Wednesday every month from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.
- Strategic breaks throughout the year allow for ICH to finalize reports to meet legislated mandates and document shifts in the landscape throughout the year.

Month	Date	Notes
January	01/31	Logistics flag: January meeting pushed to 5th Wednesday due to new year and holiday schedule adjustments.
February	02/28	
March	03/27	
April	04/24	Break
May	05/22	Goal: Hypothermia Utilization Reports
June	06/26	Goal: Analysis and Recommendations to ERSO CMTE
July	07/24	
August	08/28	Break
September	09/25	ICH Full Council Meeting for approval of Winter Plan.
October	10/23	
November	11/27	Move Lock Step with ERSO Logistics flag: Move to 12/04 avoid Thanksgiving Holiday
December	12/25	Move Lock Step with ERSO Logistics flag: Move to 01/08 so do not conflict with Xmas & New Year's Day.

Notes on Annual Calendar



Feedback/Comments/Q&A:

- ❖ Appreciation for breaks in the chat when SP (ICH) asked whether ERSO Committee Members were ok with breaking at least twice



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Overview



- ❖ DSLBD: The Dream Pitch Project
- ❖ DSLBD: The Aspire Incubator Program
- ❖ MWCOCG: Regional Fair Housing Plan
- ❖ Study on Housing Insecurity in DC

DSLBD: The Dream Pitch Program ***NEW***

Overview

- ❖ The 2024 Dream Grant Program is part of the Bowser Administration’s continued investment in and support of local businesses.
- ❖ The Dream Grant Pitch Program provides financial and technical assistance to entrepreneurs from Wards 7 and 8 and provides a platform to develop the skills needed to run a successful business; over the past three years, local entrepreneurs have received approximately \$1.5 million in Dream grants.

Dream Pitch Grant Program Overview:

- ❖ At the heart of the program is the Dream Pitch Competition, offering participants a platform to present their businesses to a panel of judges. The competition includes pitch awards of up to \$7,500. The program spans seven years and focuses on business pitching, accounting and bookkeeping, marketing and branding, and mentorship opportunities.
- ❖ **Apply by March 1st at dslbd.dc.gov/dreampitch**



DSLBD: The Aspire Incubator Program *NEW*

Overview

- ❖ The 2024 Aspire Incubator Program is a part of the Bowser Administration’s continued investment in and support of local businesses.
- ❖ Through the Aspire Incubator Program, which has awarded approximately \$750,000 over the past three years, entrepreneurs have access to a comprehensive range of resources, including mentorship, guidance, and educational training to help turn their business ideas into reality.

Aspire Incubator Program Overview:

- ❖ The 2024 Aspire Incubator Program will support 20 DC residents who are returning citizens or justice-impacted individuals looking to start or grow a business.
- ❖ Participants in the Aspire Incubator Program will benefit from a community of support, and up to \$5,000 in stipends for completing various business development milestones, covering planning, regulatory compliance, finance, and public speaking.
- ❖ **Apply by March 1, 2024 at dslbd.dc.gov/weaspire**



MWCOG: Regional Fair Housing Plan *NEW*



Eight Area Governments Finalize Regional Fair Housing Plan

- ❖ COG announced the completion of the Regional Fair Housing Plan, with the eight participating jurisdictions submitting their portions of the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in December.
- ❖ The plan includes:
 - Analysis of impediments to fair housing choice across the region and provides
 - Strategies to increase access to safe and affordable housing,
 - Increase investment and resources in priority areas, and
 - Create more inclusive communities.
- ❖ COG will now support jurisdictions as they seek to implement the strategies identified in the plan to prevent housing discrimination and address the root causes of housing inequity in the region.
- ❖ Link to the plan - [Regional Fair Housing Plan](#)



Study on Housing Insecurity in DC ***NEW***

- The Community Partnership would like to announce new research from the Urban Institute on housing insecurity in the District. The study was a collaboration between The Community Partnership and the Urban Institute and is among the first to attempt to define and measure the scope of housing insecurity in the District.

Goal

- The Community Partnership sought the assistance of the Urban Institute to conduct the research to better understand housing insecurity and to inform our approach in delivering resources to households in need of stabilization to prevent an experience of homelessness. The Urban Institute conducted a representative survey of District households using a comprehensive definition of housing insecurity to estimate the number of people facing different forms of insecurity.

Findings

- The research finds that 12% of the District's population – or an estimated 82,452 residents – do not have stable housing, the majority of whom are in Black and Hispanic households. Black residents make up 41% of the city's population but 68% of those facing housing insecurity, and Hispanic residents represent 7% of the city's population but 14% of the housing insecure population. In contrast, while white residents comprise 40% of District's population, only 9% of people experiencing housing insecurity are white. Additionally, the study found an estimated one in four children under the age of 17 who are accompanied by at least one adult are experiencing housing insecurity (24%) even though they make up just 15% of the population. And an estimated one in five transition age youth ages 18 to 24 are experiencing housing insecurity (12%) even though they represent 7% of the population of the District overall.

Acknowledgement

- The Community Partnership would like to thank the D.C. Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), the ICH Consumer Engagement Work Group, the ICH Youth Advisory Board, staff from the D.C. Department of Human Services, and others from our provider community who participated in focus groups that helped to shape the study.
- We invite you to [read the research report](#) and we look forward to our continued partnership in working to ensure that all District residents have safe, stable, and affordable housing!

Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Agenda Review (10 mins)
- II. Partner Update: Intro to HSEMA Initiatives on EDI & DAFN (20 mins)
- III. System Check-In (30 mins)
- IV. Discussion Items (25 mins)
- V. Announcements & Reminders (as needed)
- VI. **Summary & Adjournment (5 mins)**
 - a) Next Meeting: February 28, 2024: 1pm-2:30pm

