



***Interagency Council on Homelessness
Executive Committee***



August 10, 2021

Meeting Agenda



- I. **Welcome & Call to Order**
 - ❖ **Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting**
 - ❖ **Agenda Review**
- II. **Discussion Items**
 - ❖ **FY22 Budget Update**
 - ❖ **Capacity Building**
- III. **For Approval**
 - ❖ **ICH Executive Committee Workgroup Update and Priorities**
 - ❖ **ICH Executive Committee Community Co-Chair**
- IV. **Governance**
- V. **Partner Updates/Announcements**
- VI. **Adjournment**

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DC Department of Human Services

FY22 Final Budget

August 10, 2021



WE ARE
WASHINGTON
DC

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

WE ARE
WASHINGTON
DC

THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Investing in New Permanent Supportive Housing Units and Program Improvements

Over 3,400 chronically homeless households will have access to a voucher.

Individuals/Singles	
PSH - Site-Based	71
PSH - Emergency Housing Voucher*	532
PSH - Scattered-Site	1924
TOTAL	2527
Families	
PSH - Site-Based	26
PSH - Emergency Housing Voucher*	175
PSH - Scattered-Site	395
TAH	307
TOTAL	903
Youth	
PSH - Scattered-Site	10
TOTAL	3440

**Budget based on original estimated allocation of 707 EHV's; subject to adjustment*



DC | DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Homeward DC: \$109M

Program Type	Final	# of Units
Individuals/Singles		
Diversion (Project Reconnect)	\$ 1,200,000	685
Shelter safety/security	\$ 975,000	System-wide
Streamline singles intake	\$ 270,312	System-wide
Singles shallow subsidy	\$ 1,000,000	200
Outreach	\$ 1,800,000	n/a
RRH Unit	\$ 4,197,600	300
RRH Services	\$ 3,330,000	300
PSH Unit	\$ 41,687,319	1924
PSH Services	\$ 10,414,140	2545
Admin - Program Mgmt	\$ 4,455,345	38
Admin - Vouchers	\$ 2,501,239	6%
TOTAL	\$ 71,830,955	

Homeward DC: \$109M

Program Type	Proposed	# of Units
Families		
Prevention/Diversion	\$ 891,000	500
PSH Unit	\$ 9,935,367	395
PSH Services	\$ 8,140,704	572
PSH Site-Based Operations	\$ 1,563,354	26
TAH	\$ 7,721,971	307
DC Flex (new)	\$ 4,208,400	501
DC Flex (increase)	\$ 157,200	131
Admin - Program Mgmt	\$ 2,120,124	4
Admin - Vouchers	\$ 1,251,573	6%
TOTAL	\$ 35,989,693	

Homeward DC: \$109M

Program Type	Proposed	# of Units
Youth		
Extended Transitional Housing	\$ 1,500,000	Right-size
PSH Unit	\$ 216,671	10
PSH Services	\$ 40,920	10
Admin - Vouchers	\$ 13,000	6%
TOTAL	\$ 1,770,591	

Investments in Rental Assistance and Prevention of Homelessness



- STAY DC – rental + utility assistance
 - ERAP
 - Project Reconnect
 - Diversion support
 - Shallow subsidies for singles
 - Rapid Rehousing for singles
 - Homelessness Prevention Program
 - Rapid Rehousing for families
 - Additional support for DV survivors
- **\$352M** in Federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds available through 2025
 - **STAY DC** provides up to 18 months of support for rent and utility payments



Ending Homelessness for Unaccompanied Adults

\$1.6M: Reform front door
+ **expand** shelter diversion services

PROJECT
RECONNECT

\$150M: Redesign shelter
+ **invest** in shelter alternatives



Over \$59.6M: Scale Rapid Rehousing
+ **invest** in Permanent Supportive
Housing



Other Significant Investments

- Infusion of various federal funds:
 - \$352M for Emergency Rental Assistance
 - Expanded shelter operations
 - ISAQ and PEP-V
 - \$8M for TANF cash assistance
- ERAP - \$6.5M
- Career Map - \$2.7M

QUESTION AND ANSWER

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Capacity Building: Context & Key Qs



❖ Context:

- Given the number of new resources coming in FY22, it is important prepare system and provider capacity to ensure efficient use of new resources
- Handout sent out in advance includes recommendations from ICH Strategic Planning Committee

❖ Opportunity for Executive Committee to provide feedback:

- Is anything missing for the list of recommendations?
- Are there any low hanging fruit to prioritize for immediate action?
- Given that we likely cannot do everything at once, which strategies are the most pivotal/critical to tackle?

Capacity Building: Key Areas Identified



- **Staffing Shortages**
 - ✓ How can we support providers as they increase capacity and require additional staff?
- **Onboarding New Staff**
 - ✓ How can we best onboard new staff to quickly get up to speed?
- **Procurement Process**
 - ✓ How can our procurement process improve?
- **Reaching New Providers**
 - ✓ How can we reach new providers to apply for homeless services funds?
- **Onboarding New Providers**
 - ✓ How do we best support new providers as they begin providing services?
- **Expanding Current Providers**
 - ✓ How can we encourage and support current providers to expand?
- **System Efficiencies**
 - ✓ What can the system do to become more efficient to ensure individuals and families are quickly housed?

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- ❖ Currently establishing FY22 priorities & projects for all Committees and Work Groups

- ❖ Executive Committee Work Groups have identified priorities & projects for Committee approval:
 - Consumer Engagement
 - Racial Equity & Inclusion
 - Public Awareness



Consumer Engagement Workgroup

CEWG: FY22 Roles/Responsibilities



1. Provide consumer-driven feedback to inform implementation of strategic plans.
2. Educate ICH stakeholders and members of the larger community on realities of homelessness, suggesting and supporting ways for stakeholders to participate in activities that would help deepen their understanding and awareness.
3. Review and provide feedback on recommendations developed by the ICH to ensure initiatives are informed by consumer perspective.
4. Act as a watchdog to help identify needs of people currently experiencing homelessness, including areas where the system is not working as intended, through the convening of focus groups and other feedback opportunities;
5. Ensure concerns and grievances raised are addressed in a timely manner (or that there is a plan for addressing);
6. Serve as a vehicle for more regular communication between District Departments staff and the end users of their programs and services; and
7. Serve as a vehicle for peer support and mentorship among individuals with lived experience.

CEWG: FY22 Priorities & Projects



1. Finalize new CEWG Membership Protocol
2. Develop CEWG Training Manual:
 - a. What should be included in onboarding
 - b. What should be ongoing for professional development
3. Work with the CAHP Work Group to:
 - a. Improve CAHP System communication with consumers
 - b. Learn how peers could help record engagements with consumers and provide updates back to consumers
4. Decide how the CEWG can assist in the accomplishment of goal 12 “Provide Leadership on Creating a Right to Housing in the United States”
5. As we continue to grapple with COVID-19 and its variants:
 - a. Continue to gain consumer feedback during COVID-19
 - b. Provide feedback on consumer experience during COVID-19
6. Learn how the CEWG can assist with landlord engagement
7. Support the development of park closure protocols, when District closure activities will impact individuals experiencing homelessness, including encampments.
8. Review and provide feedback on Pre-Meeting structure and develop Pre-Meeting protocol.



Racial Equity & Inclusion Workgroup

REI WG: FY22 Responsibilities & Priorities



- ❖ **Roles/Responsibilities:**
 - Implementing REI strategies identified in Homeward DC 2.0
 - Leveraging existing efforts/initiatives underway (i.e., Office of Racial Equity, EOM and Council Office of Racial Equity.)

- ❖ **Priorities: tackling 3 REI objectives/strategies simultaneously**
 - Develop & implement RE impact assessment tool (HDC2.0 Strategy 7.3.2)
 - Review homeless services system operations w/ RE lens (HDC2.0 Strategy 7.5.1)
 - Using RE lens, develop an affordable housing policy statement (HDC2.0 Strategy 12.2.1)



Public Awareness Workgroup

PA WG FY22 Responsibilities & Priorities



- ❖ **Roles/Responsibilities:** Create a communications plan for the ICH
- ❖ **Priorities:**
 - Create high-level messaging for Homeward DC 2.0
 - ✓ **Purpose:** Use messaging to train and share information with CoC staff (to include government, providers, advocates & consumers)
 - ✓ **Reasoning:** CoC staff (at every level) can be ambassadors and actively participate in educating broader community on HDC 2.0.
 - Create messaging and communications plans for each goal in HDC 2.0.

PA WG Road Map & Tool



- ❖ **Step 1:** Create overall communication plan for the ICH strategic plans
 - Focus: Homeward DC 2.0 as Solid Foundations will be updated this year
 - Tool: [Smart Chart 4.0 by Spitfire Strategies](#)

- ❖ **Step 2:** Create communication plan for each goal within HDC 2.0
 - a) Prioritize 3 goals in the plan
 - b) Apply tool to priority goals, with support of Committees & WGs responsible for implementing goals
 - c) Repeat **steps 2a & 2b** until WG has applied the tool to all the goals in Homeward DC 2.0

- ❖ **Step 3:** Regularly
 - synthesize products (messaging and communications plans) from Steps 1 & 2 to ensure everything works well together &
 - report up to Executive Committee to share progress and ensure overall alignment!

Note re Combating NIMBYism



- ❖ Referral from Housing Solutions Committee to PA WG to prioritize Combating NIMBYism
 - Note: combating NIMBYism was a FY20-21 Priorities for the Housing Solutions Committee
- ❖ HDC 2.0 has two strategies associated with combating NIMBYism

Objective 1.3: Identify Strategies to Address “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) Challenges		
1.3.1	Work with OP to identify potential changes to existing laws and procedures that allow residents to block or substantially slow the development of affordable and supportive housing projects in their neighborhoods that otherwise comply with threshold requirements.	OP DHCD, DHS
1.3.2	Support efforts of the PTEH to raise public awareness about homelessness and its connection to structural racism and housing insecurity through targeted communications campaign.	ICH/ PTEH DHS

Combating NIMBYism continued



- ❖ Public Awareness WG determinations:
 - agrees that Strategy 1.3.2 is part of its priorities
 - Not clear that 1.3.1 is appropriate for the WG to tackle
- ❖ ICH needs support from Executive Committee on:
 - whether HDC2.0 strategy 1.3.1 is a priority for FY22 and
 - appropriate body for working on HDC2.0 Strategy 1.3.1
 - ✓ Housing Solutions Committee?
 - ✓ Executive Committee?
 - ✓ Other?

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- ❖ Thank you to **Amanda S. Chesney, Christy Respress,** and **Andrea Bernad Barnola** for submitted their names for consideration to serve as the ICH Executive Committee Co-Chair
- ❖ Vote will be held during September's Executive Committee Meeting
 - In accordance with ICH By-Laws, if vote is not unanimous, ICH staff will hold a virtual vote with ICH Executive Committee Voting members

Amanda S. Chesney, Catholic Charities



- ❖ **Most Important ICH strategic opportunity:** Coordination between singles service providers to connect residents to needed resources (i.e. behavioral health) and rapidly exit singles from shelter. Build greater partnerships with employment services and resources to improve resident income and employment outcomes for singles and families experiencing homelessness in the district.
- ❖ **Role in advancing racial equity in ICH and across the District:** We must have difficult and productive conversations within our community of providers and service recipients to ensure we are aware of and addressing any blind spots in our system which perpetuate bias or disadvantage one group over another across our system. We are analyzing our own agency data regarding our workforce, company policies or structures to ensure equity within as well as the data for those we serve to ensure no one is being unintentionally disadvantaged by a process or policy in our programs or service approach.
- ❖ **Two ways to the ICH can work with employment:** Host monthly housing and employment fairs at shelters, facilitate monthly work readiness and entrepreneur workshops for residents experiencing or recently experiencing homelessness at our shelters or elsewhere in the community i.e day centers. These regular events must become a known focus in our community to our residents not a twice a year event. Also, broker a formal agreement with specific employee assistance and job placement entities including a strategic set of goals to achieve. Be bold and take a chance in these goals and hold DOES accountable for their partnership responsibilities with the ICH; we need their assistance to succeed.

Christy Respress, Pathways to Housing DC



- ❖ **Most Important ICH strategic opportunity:** Ending singles homelessness.
- ❖ **Role in advancing racial equity in ICH and across the District:** I'm eager to continue advancing ICH's race equity work- specifically as it impacts our decision making on resource distribution, assessment of needs (our current VI-SPDAT tool is not adequate), and policies related to housing access that disproportionately affect people of color (the unnecessary requirement for mitigation letters for LRSP/locally funded vouchers, credit check requirements on voucher holders, etc.). I'm participating in the ICH Racial Equity & Inclusion Workgroup and am eager to see where our recommendations as a group take us. Pathways' internal work includes centering our Advocacy work on race equity (recent examples include our street homeless voter registration & voting campaign, internal values statement on encampments, focused advocacy on eliminating mitigation letters, and a successful campaign to engage people living on the street in budget and oversight hearings). We are now launching our internal REI Workgroup. We have made updates to our hiring practices such as posting all salaries and are now reviewing our hiring practices- all with a goal to ensure equity. We have a lot of work to do - both internally and externally in the homeless services system to ensure we truly have an equitable society. I am personally committed to this work, as is Pathways to Housing DC as a whole.
- ❖ **Two ways to the ICH can work with employment:** 1.) Conduct in depth surveys, focus groups, and other data gathering to better understand the specific employment desires, goals, and needs of people experiencing homelessness both in shelter and on the street. I hear a lot of conversation about the types of careers/jobs we (gov't and CBOs) think people want/need, but I've heard little directly from the people we serve. I'm eager to move forward with a Peer Certification program (outside of DBH) for people with lived experience of homelessness/incarceration/etc. 2.) Bring the services to the people. I know that we will be adding more employment services onsite with the shelter redesigns for single men, but we shouldn't wait for that to happen to bring the employment programs to the people. Employment providers can & should be embedded in our current shelters at drop-in centers, etc. Unfortunately, even when they are there, many barriers remain. We need to also work with DOES and our other partners to find creative ways to find employment opportunities for people who are not able to pass a drug screen and for those who are not interested in traditional full time jobs.

Andrea Bernad Barnola, Latin American Youth Center



- ❖ **Most Important ICH strategic opportunity:** After the COVID pandemic, ICH has a challenging but exciting opportunity to help singles and families recover from the losses (personal and financial) caused by the global pandemic in the DC community. One of the most devastating consequences of the pandemic has been the exacerbation of an affordable housing crisis that was already present before 2020 in the DC area. The ICH has the opportunity to develop emergency rental assistance programs, transitional housing, and other community resources to help singles and families meet the most fundamental of their rights: the right to shelter. Moreover, with the rates of COVID cases on the rise, the ICH needs to put efforts towards vaccination campaigns and education, debunking vaccination myths and fears that are keeping vaccination rates low. Only 34.24% of young people under 25 years old have been fully vaccinated in the US. However, many of those vaccinated youth can serve as allies to push the government's vaccination efforts. Groups like the Youth Action Board can serve, outreach, and educate other youth and the overall DC community, bridging the gap between providers and those who they serve.
- ❖ **Role in advancing racial equity in ICH and across the District:** It is not a secret that homelessness prevalence is higher for some members of society. For years, I have witnessed economic disparity affect communities and people of all marginalized origins and ages. In 2019, D.C. had the highest rate of homelessness in the U.S., with an estimated 94 homeless individuals per 10,000 residents. This number corresponds to a predominantly affluent area of a developed country. Then, how do we explain such high numbers in the homeless population? Largely due to systemic and racial inequity combined with significant disparities in home and business ownership amongst the Latino, black and LBGTQ population. I believe that the number of Latino people experiencing homelessness is frequently underestimated (at the yearly PIT count, for example) given common misconceptions of what constitutes homelessness amongst the Latino community. There are other factors that play a role in this issue such as the differential types of community resources and living arrangements chosen by Latinos compared to other DC populations. At LAYC, we put a special focus on outreaching and providing services to that Latino population as well to other marginalized sectors of the community. I believe that my experience working with the young homeless population in DC could contribute to the work of ICH to advance in the matter of race equity and social rights. Moreover, I have a special interest in creating opportunities to close that gap in home and business ownership amongst low-income populations.
- ❖ **Two ways to the ICH can work with employment:** PIT survey data points at lack of employment and income as a primary cause of homelessness (51%). ICH can collaborate with community partners to create strategic employment partnerships/job training programs to hire homeless individuals. In the same way, those partners would benefit from specific psychoeducation to help them manage employees who have suffered negative and traumatic experiences and/or homelessness. In addition to this idea, I believe that there is a need to create more per-diem work opportunities. A few agencies and religious institutions across the country have established work programs in which members of the community can earn a daily wage for helping the agency complete small work tasks. Some of the DC residents I work with might not be able to sustain a long-term job, but they have "good days" in which they can work to earn some money to sustain themselves or their families. These short-term job opportunities can give an individual the motivation and skills they need to grow professionally and eventually move to a long-term job.

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