

"...religious Americans have a 'transformative voice' that could alter the nation's trajectory on poverty...."

Barack Obama, Georgetown University, 5/13/15



June 4, 2015

The DC Council unanimously passed the FY 2016 budget on May 27, 2015. The budget is much more than a first step in addressing homelessness and affordable housing deficits. It is a leap forward:

- Capital funds that will support the replacement of DC General shelter.
- Assistance for more than 450 families to leave shelter for transitional housing.
- A Daytime Services Center for homeless individuals.
- Housing for 365 individuals and 110 families who have significant disabling conditions.
- Assistance for homeless pregnant/parenting teens under 18.
- \$100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund to build and renovate affordable housing.
- Income and employment assistance for one additional year for families aging out of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

The Mayor and the Council said "yes" to investment in opportunities, support and pathways for our neighbors who have long been poor and marginalized. Our neighbors, all children of God.

Now the challenge and difficult work of making the vision of a community where everyone has what they need a reality is front and center! There has never been a better time to undertake this work. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now.

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Challenge going forward for faith communities:

What roles must faith communities take on, over and above the charity already done, so that this budget will be truly transformative for our neighbors who are poor and marginalized? Watch for a summer conversation on this issue.

Good Faith Speaks:

The voice of the people makes a difference when political decisions are being made. Good Faith, along with other advocates and community activists, made sure that the Council knew that the community supported and even demanded investment in opportunities, support and pathways for our neighbors who have long been poor and marginalized. Messages in all formats, including Good Faith's almost 300 email messages in a single day, made a difference.

Let us hear from you!
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