



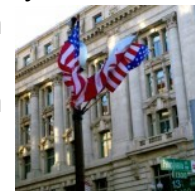
# Good Faith Communities Coalition

Taking action on homelessness and affordable housing with and for the poor in the District of Columbia

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June 1, 2017

**GOOD FAITH'S #1 PRIORITY FOR THE FY2018 DISTRICT BUDGET:** Restructuring Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to function as a flexible safety net that gives priority to children's needs. In the new budget, assistance continues with no rigid time limit as long as families experience economic hardship. Children's benefits (80% of monthly benefit) continue even if parents are not in compliance. Benefits would increase to \$644 per month in FY2019 for a family of 3. This benefit is in line with major urban areas.



Wilson Bldg

## IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS IN FY2018 BUDGET FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES

- Housing for chronically homeless single adults and families: Permanent Supportive Housing (rental assistance with case management) has proven to be a very successful program for the chronically homeless. More than 400 additional vouchers for individuals and families have been funded for FY 2018.
- Moving families out of shelter into permanent housing: Rapid-rehousing (RRH) is the District's one-size-fits-all program that assists families to exit shelter. Added to the budget were 184 new vouchers for single adults and 186 for families who after participation in RRH required additional rental assistance
- Affordable Housing: \$10 million was appropriated for preserving existing low-cost housing and \$19 million to repair public housing units. A \$100 million investment in the Housing Production Trust Fund will support the renovation or construction of approximately 1000 affordable homes. 40% of the expenditures are targeted to address the housing needs of those living in deep poverty.

## HOMELESSNESS IS A COMPLEX ISSUE - CHALLENGES REMAIN:

- The number of Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers funded in the FY2018 budget is about half of what is needed to end chronic homelessness among single adults in the District.
- The number of rental assistance vouchers for chronically homeless single adults will meet less than half the goal set for 2018.
- The Housing Production Trust Fund is legally committed to spending 40% of its funds annually on housing for people living in deep poverty. Without additional project vouchers to support renters, it is unlikely this goal will be met.
- A recent report [Set Up to Fail](#) by the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless questions the effectiveness of the Rapid Rehousing program (RRH) in addressing the needs of families living in deep poverty. Their case as presented is compelling. More discussion on how to successfully address the complex housing challenges facing the most vulnerable population is needed before regulations for RRH are codified.



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