



DC | DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES

## MAYOR BOWSER'S FY 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

# A FAIR SHOT

Mayor Bowser's FY 2019 Budget demonstrates her leadership and commitment to ensuring all DC residents have a fair shot, making continued investments in the solutions we know work to end homelessness, support at-risk youth, improve customer service, and provide critical TANF assistance to families. Below is a summary of proposed enhancements to the Department of Human Services' (DHS) FY 2019 Budget.

### **Continuing to invest in the housing solutions that we know work to end homelessness**

In alignment with our strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, *Homeward DC*, the Mayor's Budget provides more than \$23 million for new housing solutions to continue our efforts to transform the homeless services system. These new investments build on prior year's investments, which total more than \$100 million.

#### **Families: \$10.5 million**

- \$6.6 million for 100 new Rapid Rehousing units and to account for revised cost modeling
- \$1.6 million for 50 new Permanent Supportive Housing units with services
- \$2 million for 100 new Targeted Affordable Housing units

#### **Individuals: \$9.5M**

- \$875,000 to provide prevention and diversion services to approximately 500 clients
- \$1 million for 100 new Rapid Rehousing units
- \$6 million for 250 new Permanent Supportive Housing units with services
- \$1.3 million for 70 new Targeted Affordable Housing units

#### **Youth: \$3.1M**

- \$500,000 for a 24-Hour Drop-In Center
- \$660,000 for 30 new crisis shelter beds for Transition-Aged Youth
- \$1.35 million to continue FY18 investments: 5 transitional housing beds, 42 units of aftercare services and 10 shelter beds
- \$250,000 for 5 additional transitional housing beds
- \$300,000 for 10 new Permanent Supportive Housing units with services

The Mayor's Capital Budget also include \$28 million to support the construction of 50 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for senior women. This site-based Permanent Supportive Housing will provide housing to a cohort of women who are long-stayers at Harriet Tubman Shelter, and who have preferred not to enter scattered-site housing.

### **Transforming our emergency family shelter response system**

Delivering on a promise to close and replace DC General Family Shelter, the Mayor's Budget includes \$10.2 million to support operating costs associated with providing service-enriched Short-term Family Housing. The Capital Budget also includes an additional \$22 million to complete Short-term Family Housing buildings in Wards 1, 3, 5 and 6. The Ward 1 site also includes 15 units of Permanent Supportive Housing for seniors and upgrades to the Rita Bright Youth and Family Center.

### **Transforming our emergency shelter response system for individuals**

The Mayor's Capital Budget includes \$66 million to upgrade, rehabilitate and replace the District's emergency shelter capacity for individuals. This includes:

- \$17.5 million for critical upgrades to low barrier shelters;
- \$8.5 million for the rehabilitation of NY Avenue Men's Shelter; and
- \$40 million to replace the 801 East Men's Shelter.

### **Improving day time services and shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness**

The Mayor's Budget includes \$2.5 million to improve the emergency crisis response system for individuals. The Budget includes \$2 million for a new daytime services center, ideally including case management, housing navigation, meals, bathrooms/showers, laundry and a safe indoor space. It also includes \$200,000 for improvements to low barrier shelters, including piloting a bed reservation system and additional specialized shelter beds – and \$300,000 for outreach staff dedicated to supporting individuals residing in encampments.

### **Expanding capacity to serve youth most at-risk of entering the juvenile justice or child welfare systems**

The Mayor's Budget includes \$1.4 million for ten full-time employees to support the Strengthening Teens Enriching Parents (STEP) program to increase DHS' capacity to serve young people at-risk of entering the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. For the fourth consecutive year, DHS will aggressively expand its youth-serving programs while maintaining program fidelity and extraordinary outcomes for youth and families. With this enhancement, DHS expects to be able to serve more than 200 additional young people.

### **Improving customer service at Service Centers**

The Mayor's Budget includes \$715,000 for 25 additional full-time employees in the Economic Security Administration (ESA) Service Centers. Service center hours will also be adjusted to open at 7:30am instead of 8:15am to better meet customer demand. This will allow DHS to improve customer service, increase the number of customers who receive same-day service and decrease the length of time customers wait in line.

### **Advancing a TANF policy that builds economic security and protects the wellbeing of children**

The Mayor's Budget includes \$16.7 million to support a blended TANF grant to eligible families to keep cash in the household to protect and enrich children, while also incentivizing parents to continue to increase their economic stability and independence through meaningful employment.