



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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April 12, 2018

Progress, YES but the GAP between Need and Investment is DAUNTING.

The Mayor's proposed budget makes [important investments](#) in human services and capital projects that address the needs of the poor and marginalized:

- \$10 million for vulnerable families living in extreme poverty.
- \$9.5 million for chronically homeless individuals.
- \$3.1 million for homeless youth.
- \$16.7 million to fully fund increased benefits and eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.
- **\$66 million in capital expenses** for upgrading the low barrier shelters for individuals, rehabilitation of the NY Ave. Men's Shelter and replacement of the 801 East men's shelter.

This investment of over \$1 million plus full support for continuing services and an investment of \$1 million in housing production and preservation are positive steps for which the Mayor should be applauded. However, [a new report from the DC Fiscal Policy Institute](#) details the true investment in construction and subsidies needed to address the severe rent burden of DC's 27,000 households whose income is \$33,000 or less annually for a family of four:



"The full subsidy cost to the District would be \$2.6 billion in construction subsidies over ten years, with \$732 million per year for ongoing operating assistance once all affordable units have been created and occupied."

Progress in this budget, YES! But the gap is DAUNTING! The city is moving in the right direction, but only slowly and incrementally. The magnitude of the problem demands:

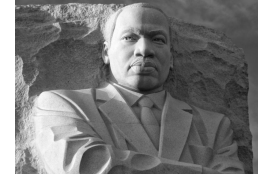
- serious conversation in the community on resource allocation with a commitment to meeting the needs of our neighbors living in extreme poverty.
- rigorous management of city resources - seek operating efficiencies, evaluate programs for effectiveness, build internal capacity, preserve public land for public needs and implement innovative programs such as the [Flexible Rent Subsidy](#) pilot and the [Landlord Partnership Initiative](#)!

Housing and Assistance for Families and the Chronically Homeless

- Over 800 District families and over 5000 individuals became homeless for the first time in FY 2017.

- 30,000 subsidized affordable rental units for extremely poor, low income DC households will be needed over the next 10 years.
 - The average cost to build a unit in a subsidized affordable building in the District is nearly \$400 thousand per unit - demanding multiple funding streams, commercial, private and public.
 - The limited availability and high cost of land contributes to the high unit cost
 - The monthly cost of a rent-reasonable 2 BR apartment in FY 2017 was \$1306.
- [More](#) details.

"We are tied together in a single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. That is the way God's universe is made."



Rev. Martin Luther King Jr



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