

May 7th, 2021

The Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser,

We, the undersigned 77 organizations, believe that the American Rescue Plan (ARP) is an unprecedented opportunity for the District to truly “build back better.” The District will receive at least \$3.3 billion in direct federal relief funds, some targeted to specific needs like child care or schools, but most of it flexible dollars that can be used to address the deep harms of the pandemic. The ARP also provides substantial direct assistance to DC residents struggling to meet their basic needs. Rebuilding DC communities requires targeted and sustainable investments as well as efforts to connect residents to these new resources. Even better, paired with new local funding to sustain investments, federal relief can help DC build a just recovery and an antiracist, equitable future that all our neighbors urgently need and deserve.

This year’s budget choices—both to supplement the current Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget and to adopt a budget for FY 2022—will be critical. By targeting resources to those most in need, making programmatic shifts to address long-standing systemic racism, and planning to sustain these investments in the long-term with local revenues, the District can reduce its deepest inequities and build a stronger future for all residents and businesses. We encourage you to make these decisions by engaging DC residents and providing clear information on how federal relief funds are being used. Specifically, we urge you to:

- **Target Aid to Those Most in Need:** The first priority should be to address the deep immediate harms of the pandemic on the health and economic security of DC residents. You should work with the Council to reverse budget cuts made early in the pandemic, in mental health services and other areas. This is not only the right thing to do but also will help disrupt worsening conditions.
- **Promote Racial Equity by Addressing Long-standing Inequities:** Racism and other structural barriers to opportunity created underlying inequities that have left people of color, especially Black people, women, and immigrants at risk of coronavirus infection, unemployment, or both. The District should make investments to repair the racial harm of the pandemic, which will take years to undo, and also use federal resources for bold and creative investments to address long-standing inequities in income, wealth, jobs, education, health and more.
- **Plan Now to Sustain Investments:** DC needs a forward-looking spending plan that addresses immediate harm and initiates long-term investments in equity and a strong economy. A lack of investment after the Great Recession led to an incomplete recovery, with Black unemployment failing to recover after a decade of overall economic growth.¹ Research shows that if DC were to eliminate income inequality in innovation, more than 5 times more children—likely from more diverse backgrounds—would grow up to be inventors and build our future economy.² To ensure a better outcome and stronger future, DC must include new local revenue for continuing investments when the federal funds expire, such as through better use of reserves and raising taxes on wealthy residents.
- **Engage and Inform DC Residents:** The possibility of investing billions of dollars calls for special efforts to include DC residents in budget decisions on how funds are spent, and why. We applaud you for your administration’s recent announcement to host Resident Roundtables to

solicit community input on the best use of funds in May. And, to increase transparency, we urge you to also report on a regular basis—monthly for the next few years—on decisions made and spending that occurs with these funds.

The recommendations below reflect our ideas on ways your Administration can prioritize and invest the federal funds to advance a just recovery and future.

Make Game-Changing Investments to Address Longstanding Inequities

In this pivotal moment, DC policymakers must spend and add to federal rescue funds in a timely way, with a laser focus on addressing the racial inequities that have excluded Black and brown communities from economic gains and left them more vulnerable to the COVID-19 crisis. Racism and structural barriers to opportunity have created high rates of economic hardship and homelessness among people of color, such as the exclusion of immigrants and certain kind of workers from the unemployment system and redlining that prevented Black residents from building equity through homeownership. It will take intentional investments and interventions to reverse course and pursue an antiracist, equitable future. We urge you to:

- **Invest \$200 million in cash assistance to support excluded workers.** The District should follow the lead of other states that have used federal or a combination of federal and local dollars to fund cash assistance for workers who are excluded from regular unemployment benefits and federal stimulus payments. This investment would provide \$12,000 per person to the 13,000 workers who qualified for the first round of funding—equivalent to \$1,000 per month for the first year of the pandemic. It would also provide support for 1,900 new excluded workers who have yet to receive cash assistance, plus support program administration.
- **Allocate approximately \$54 million to increase Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits by 50 percent to help families better meet their needs.** TANF provides cash assistance, subsidized child care, and employment resources to help families with children facing economic hardship. Benefits are incredibly low given DC's high cost of living. A family of three receives just \$658 per month, which is less than half of the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom apartment.³ Increasing benefits by 50 percent would provide a family of three an additional \$329. The District should use the \$14.7 million that it will receive through the Pandemic Emergency Fund and supplement this funding with flexible federal funds to pay for this increase.
- **Invest \$120 million in affordable housing vouchers and services.** ARP funding for federal emergency vouchers can partially fill this need. But to make significant progress to reducing homelessness—particularly after the eviction moratorium expires—the District should use flexible federal funding to create new permanent housing vouchers and allocate local funding to sustain them permanently. Vouchers can then be paired with federally-funded or locally-funded wrap-around services to create Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). The District should create at least: 432 PSH vouchers for families, 2,761 PSH vouchers for individuals, 10 PSH vouchers for youth aging out of the youth system, 928 Targeted Affordable Housing for families, and 800 Local Rent Supplement Program vouchers for families on the Housing Authority waitlist.
- **Invest in the Housing Production Trust Fund and Project/Sponsor-Based Local Rent Supplement Program.** The District should also invest in core affordable housing production and preservation programs to ensure that we leave the pandemic with the tools needed to prevent widespread displacement and to preserve long-term affordability and stability for DC families. This investment should be paired with project-based rental assistance from DC's Local Rent Supplement Program to ensure housing will be available for families with extremely low-incomes.

Strengthen Safety Net Programs

During recessions DC residents turn to safety net programs to make ends meet. The pandemic led to a sharp increase in joblessness, higher than at any point in the Great Recession, as well as hunger and other hardships.⁴ Programs designed to provide help people struggling to make ends meet are proving insufficient, as long-term job uncertainty and deep need persists. The District should:

- **Use \$5.2 million to restore three small TANF programs that lawmakers cut in the FY 2021 budget**—the Family to Family program, the University of the District of Columbia Paving Access Trails for Higher Security (PATHS) program, and Tuition Assistance Program Initiative for TANF (TAPIT). Family to Family is a mentoring program where a TANF family receives mentoring from another family who received TANF in the past. PATHS offers a sixteen-week job skills experience—eight weeks of intensive instruction in workplace-oriented math and English followed by an eight-week career-specific internship program. TAPIT is a scholarship program for a two- or four-year degree. Given the pandemic, parents need as many programmatic options as possible.
- **Expand the Interim Disability Assistance (IDA) program to all who need it.** IDA serves residents with disabilities who cannot work and have no other income. It provides modest, temporary cash benefits to adults who have applied for federal disability benefits and are awaiting an eligibility determination. The wait time for federal benefit determination has skyrocketed recently, from 350 days in 2012 to nearly 600 days in 2017.⁵ It appears that wait times have increased by up to an additional 60 days due to COVID.⁶ Whereas more residents need local IDA as they wait for federal approval, the program currently serves only 673 people compared to 2,750 people when the program was fully funded in 2009.
- **Give SNAP a raise by investing \$70 million to increase Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits by 30 percent.** Benefits are based on the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), which was originally created as an emergency restricted diet and does not provide enough nutrition. TFP is also based on national cost averages, but food in DC is more expensive than much of the country. A family of four receives just \$800 per month. Raising benefits by 30 percent would set benefits to the Low-Cost Food Plan, a more realistic estimate of a family's actual food costs. This funding will also ensure that recipients do not face a benefits cliff when the federal temporary increase in benefits expires in September 2021.
- **Allocate funding to increase food access in underserved areas, particularly Wards 5, 7, and 8.** Also, provide seed money to grow the Nourish DC Fund to a sizeable loan and grant fund for businesses in Wards 7 and 8, helping to address the District's persistent grocery gap and preserve small businesses owned by District residents.

Tackle Housing Instability, Homelessness and Poor Public Housing Conditions

Housing is healthcare. Every day individuals experiencing homelessness die from preventable and manageable diseases. The connection between housing and healthcare is even more evident during the pandemic when one of the keys to staying healthy is staying at home. To help residents currently suffering from homelessness, housing instability, or poor housing conditions as well as make investments that will lead to long lasting improvements to services, the District should:

- **Buy hotels and other buildings and convert them into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).** This is already taking place in other cities. DC must act quickly before these properties are purchased by developers and turned into luxury buildings. The District will receive \$19 million in HOME funds that can be used for this purpose. If opportunities to purchase exceed the

dedicated HOME funds, the District should use flexible federal funds and/or the funding particularly dedicated to capital needs.

- **Expand Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable People (PEP-V) motel sites to serve all those deemed high risk for COVID-19.** These sites act as non-congregate shelter to reduce exposure to COVID-19. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay 96 percent of the costs associated with PEP-V sites through September 30th.⁷
- **Repair DC's dilapidated homeless shelters for single adults** and use federal funding, if needed, to maintain some of the improvements made to shelter operations during the pandemic, such as 24-hour operation, provision of three meals per day, and ability to store belongings 24 hours per day. The District can use flexible federal funding and/or the funding particularly dedicated to capital needs to finance these repairs.
- **Use flexible federal funding to supplement dedicated Emergency Rental Assistance funds, as needed.** It is not yet clear to DC officials and advocates if the \$352 million in dedicated funding for rental assistance is sufficient to meet the need. It is also likely that some residents may not qualify for these funds because of a lack of documentation or a need that predates the pandemic. The District should allocate flexible federal funding to ensure that no DC resident experiences an eviction because of unpaid rent or utilities.
- **Invest in Project Reconnect and short-term rental assistance for individuals** to prevent individuals from entering long-term homelessness. Some residents may need assistance to stay with friends or family or to set up a new household. The short-term rental assistance must include high-quality, client-centered case management, rental, and other forms of financial assistance and income supports and support with the housing search. The funding must be well-targeted, preserve client choice, and only end when the client has enough income to sustain housing.
- **Extend Rapid ReHousing for families who qualify for long term housing vouchers** that will start in FY 2022. Extending RRH will ensure that families do not have a gap in rental assistance that could lead to eviction and homelessness once the eviction moratorium expires.
- **Use \$60 million or more in flexible federal funding and/or the funding particularly dedicated to capital needs to make critical repairs to public housing, if that is an allowable use.** Due to continuing federal and local divestment, public housing residents are forced to live in substandard conditions that are neither safe nor humane. The influx of federal funding provides DC with an unprecedented opportunity to not only repair public housing but also ensure it remains a safe, viable option for housing for decades to come.
- **Allocate \$983,000 for homeless youth programs including a robust cost analysis, a mentoring program, and a mobile behavioral health team.** Due to procurement processes, funding levels vary greatly depending on the provider. This creates inconsistency in the quality and depth of services. A cost analysis will help the Department of Human Services and service providers set budgets, ensure adherence to program models, improve program consistency and quality, and ultimately, strengthen youth outcomes. Second, youth experiencing homelessness have requested a mentoring program. A pilot will serve 70 homeless youth. Access to mentors and supportive adults is critical to long-term success, but homeless youth face unique barriers to cultivating these kinds of connections. Finally, timely access to prescriptions and regular participation in therapy can be challenging for homeless youth who often lack funds for transportation and must wait for months for appointments. A mobile behavioral health unit can visit youth sites to ensure easier and regular access.
- **Invest \$1.8 million to continue the Re-entry Housing pilot for returning citizens** who make up one-third of the city's individuals experiencing homelessness.⁸

Save Our Child Care System

Our early education and care community—which has long operated on razor-thin margins and inadequate pay—has been one of the industries most heavily harmed by the pandemic. Our child care providers, largely Black and brown women vastly underpaid even before the pandemic, are in crisis as they struggle to stay open due to low enrollment and increased pandemic-related safety costs. For parents, especially women and those in low-wage jobs, the consequences of failing to fund a robust stabilization plan for child care would be devastating. DC cannot have an economic recovery without significant public investments in child care.⁹

The ARP package provides DC nearly \$40 million for “stabilization grants” to early childhood education centers and homes and \$26 million to enhance our care subsidy program. To stabilize DC’s child care sector and make long-term early learning systems improvements, the District should:

- **Urgently increase the amount and reach of relief grants for all types of child care programs.** As families continue to navigate fears about COVID-19 and barriers to work due to the impact of the pandemic, child care enrollment remains low. This, along with the decrease in families making private tuition payments, has left many programs that were already barely making it without sufficient revenue to sustain their businesses.
- **Pay programs participating in the child care subsidy program based on enrollment.** DC’s current model of payments based on in-person child attendance is an outdated practice with programs shorted funds meant to cover the cost of care when a child is absent through no fault of the program. When a child stays home, programs must still cover the cost of their teacher’s salary, the rent, and other overhead costs that do not change whether or not a child attends.
- **Provide wage supplements to early educators and child care staff.** Early education is among the worst paid of all professions, often paying just over minimum wage. These salaries are much lower than those of PreK3-12 educators, with an entry level DC kindergarten teacher making more than double what an experienced early educator in a child care setting earns. Their salaries also fail to compensate the skills and credentials required of the job, disincentivizing the pursuit of further education and credentialing that is associated with higher quality instruction and is required by licensing regulation. Efforts to increase wages using federal funds should tie into long-term efforts.
- **Pay early learning programs to cover the true cost of high-quality early learning during the pandemic and beyond.** OSSE’s public health emergency subsidy rate has been an important business-sustaining tool for partially filling budget gaps due to COVID-19’s increased costs and decreased revenue. Continuing to provide an emergency rate similar to or higher than the current emergency rate will be needed to protect the viability of these important businesses. We ask that the emergency rate continue until the end of FY 2021, and for at least 90 days after the end of the public health emergency. Beyond the public health emergency, there is a need to improve subsidy payment rates to cover the true cost of high-quality child care.

Reduce Maternal and Infant Morbidity Rates

The District should work to reduce maternal and infant morbidity rates by expanding maternal health services for expectant families. The maternal mortality rate in D.C. was 35.6 per 100,000 live births in 2019, compared with 29.6 nationally, according to data from the United Health Foundation. The rate of maternal mortality for African American women living in our nation's capital is 59.7 deaths per 100,000 live births.¹¹⁰ The District should expand access to doulas and birth

educators as well as community health workers with focus on Black families who are most impacted and Brown and immigrant families who are not far behind by creating a pilot program in at least two areas of DC.

Tackle Education Inequities that the Pandemic Has Worsened

The city has long failed to fund public schools adequately and equitably. With the District receiving \$386 million in federal funds for PreK-12 education—nearly \$4,100 per student—DC has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make substantial efforts to reduce longstanding educational inequities that the pandemic has now worsened. The District should:

- **Stabilize and increase DC Public School (DCPS) budgets, including by restoring staff cut in FY 2022 individual school budgets.** We applaud DCPS for its plans to stabilize budgets for all individual schools using some of its federal funds, yet questions remain. DCPS should recognize that flat funding means less purchasing power and ensure that schools are also able to preserve staff. At a time when thousands of students' academic needs have grown, this unprecedented federal relief presents a historic opportunity for DC to lay the groundwork to reimagine, build, and fortify a more equitable education system.
- **Allow schools (both DCPS and public charters) to create their own diverse academic recovery strategies for students most harmed by the pandemic.** DC already has unacceptable racial and income gaps in student learning outcomes. We have early evidence that the pandemic is making these gaps worse, yet DC can reverse this trend by ramping up and targeting investments for the city's most vulnerable students. Local education agency (LEAs) central offices or heads should provide guidance to individual schools within their LEAs, but schools should have the flexibility to invest their federal dollars in strategies that can best meet the unique needs of their student populations. Some strategies that LEAs and schools can invest in include in-school one-on-one or small group tutoring, extended day, summer or Saturday school, outdoor education, and work-based learning programs and alternative credit pathways for older, disengaged students. Ensure that federal dollars are, as mandated, used for trained educators providing tutoring or other academic support.
- **Extend eligibility of academic and other services, including transition services, for students who are aging out or graduating from school and were not provided these services during distance learning.** OSSE should make available academic support services over the summer for students who have missed out on essential college and career resources during virtual learning. Students with disabilities have especially missed out on these opportunities, as it has been difficult to deliver Individualized Education Plan services in a remote, pandemic learning environment.
- **Allocate \$9.3 million over three years to implement the “Addressing Dyslexia and Other Reading Difficulties Amendment Act of 2020,”** which aims to improve outcomes for students with reading difficulties, including dyslexia. Low-income children and students of color who face the most barriers to reading in DC will especially benefit from having access to expanded screenings and well-trained educators. The District will be receiving funds for students with disabilities that could possibly be used for this program. Or the District can use some of the funds for PreK-12 Education.
- **Allocate \$1.2 million in FY 2022 to establish the Representation in Education Pipeline Project in OSSE to boost teacher diversity in DCPS and public charter schools.** DC currently has a wide gap in representation between Latinx students and Latinx educators, particularly in Wards 1 and 4, where Latinx students make up a large percentage of the public

school population. Black male educators are also underrepresented. In the District. Establishing a “Grow Your Own” teacher diversity program as part of the city’s COVID-19 educational equity strategy is valuable and could help improve teacher retention, increased student re-engagement, and boost educational outcomes of low-income, Black students, and English Learners (many of whom are Latinx).

- **Meet the social-emotional needs of students by funding initiatives that promote student re-engagement and help students feel safe and ready to learn.** We know that in order for schools to successfully get students back on track, they will need to be innovative and expansive in how they re-connect with and welcome students back after a year of disrupted and distance learning. The District and LEAs should target investments in trauma-informed care training for educators, mentorship programs, Out-of-School-Time programs, and other similar resources that can help students re-engage, re-build relationships with trusted adults in their schools, and renew their curiosity for learning.
- **Provide emergency pandemic funding to community-based behavioral health organizations (CBOs) to cover higher costs of providing virtual school-based mental health (SBMH) services** during the pandemic and remote learning. This will ensure that CBOs can provide ongoing mental health services to students amid a behavioral health crisis brought on by the pandemic and unprecedented disruption and loss for students. We believe at least \$1.5 million is needed to increase the value of the contracts that the Department of Behavioral Health awards to partnering CBOs.
- **Pilot innovative programs to increase awareness of the SBMH program** including a district-wide awareness/outreach campaign in Fall 2021 to ensure families returning to school in the fall know about the SBMH and how to connect to services; stipends for SBMH coordinators in schools who are an integral, yet unpaid part of the school behavioral health and wellness team; and a family support liaison program in which a trusted caregiver from a school community would be responsible for helping families at their school understand how the SBMH program works, what kinds of services are available, and how to access them.

Closing the Digital Divide

Closing the digital divide will ensure all residents have home internet and the digital tools for fully participating in employment, educational, and civic opportunities, many of which are now only available online. ARP-funded programs, including the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund, Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, and Broadband Expansion to Underserved Communities, can be used for emergency internet service and broadband infrastructure.

- **Release a plan with concrete dates for accessing federal funding to expand broadband access** and begin development of a longer-term plan for ensuring home internet access and digital equity for all residents, as proposed by the “Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2021.”
- **Support the passage of and implement the “District of Columbia Public Schools Technology Equity Act of 2021,”** which requires the development of a multi-year comprehensive technology plan for DC Public Schools that is informed by a committee of parents, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence

The incidence of domestic violence has spiked during the pandemic, leaving many survivors without services. It is also one of the leading causes of homelessness, but there is not enough housing dedicated for survivors. To support domestic violence survivors, the District should:

- **Invest \$25 million for an additional 1,100 units dedicated for survivors over the next three years.** Of the 29,000 beds available for individuals and families, only 484 are for survivors of domestic violence. Eight hundred of these units will serve individuals and 300 hundred will serve families with children.
- **Invest in trauma counseling and culturally specific therapists** because domestic violence is traumatic for survivors and their families. It also has especially been difficult during the Pandemic. This funding would assist existing domestic violence service providers with helping to provide counselors or group sessions for survivors and their families.
- **Invest in alternatives to police response** such as community-led restorative justice programs and more domestic violence advocates. Many survivors do not want to involve the police or legal system in domestic violence situations, and alongside advocates the Police Commission, they are asking for increased funding for community-led, alternatives to police.

Improve Healthcare Access by Removing Barriers in the Healthcare Alliance

Healthcare is a human right and truly vital during the pandemic. The District should be doing all it can to ensure that as many residents as possible have access to insurance and that access is as easy as possible. DC should do this by removing onerous recertification requirements in the Healthcare Alliance, the program that provides critical health care coverage to residents with low incomes who do not qualify for Medicaid, most of whom are immigrants. Given their shared purpose, the DC Healthcare Alliance and Medicaid program should have identical, low-barrier application and recertification requirements. But the DC Healthcare Alliance requires participants to recertify every 6 months and requires participants to do at least one recertification annually in person. Medicaid only requires annual recertification and allows participants to do so online. These barriers contribute to both poor health outcomes and unnecessarily high program costs.¹¹

Fund Hazard Pay and Protections for Essential Workers

It is critical that Mayor Bowser use ARP funds to improve the lives of the workers who risked their lives to keep DC communities safe. The budget should create a hazard pay program that grants money to DC based employers to provide hazard pay of \$3 per hour to essential workers who earn less than \$100,000 per year. All employers of essentials workers would be required to apply for the grant and pay out hazard pay. Funding should be set aside to ensure that essential workers receive other basic protections for the remainder of the pandemic and any future emergencies.

Ensure Nonprofit Agencies Can Continue Providing Critical Services

Nonprofit organizations have suffered during the pandemic, with many incurring significant costs related to the pandemic and/or service shutdowns while receiving less money through donations, government contracts, and fee-for-service.¹² To ensure that nonprofit agencies survive the pandemic and can continue to provide critical services, using flexible federal funding, the District should:

- **Reimburse non-profit organizations that contract with the District for COVID-19-related administrative and operational expenses.**
- **Allocate funds for the District’s “Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020”** which requires that grants and contracts between District government and nonprofits include compensation for the organization’s indirect costs. These costs can be factored at the same rate the organization **has** previously negotiated to receive on federal grants or contracts or established by the nonprofit directly with the District.

- **Fund technical and material assistance** for organizations that contract with the District and are struggling around human resource planning and fundraising, scaling services up or down, and modifications to their technology.

Together, we can use federal relief funds to avoid the austerity and budget cuts that deepened the harm of prior recessions and made it harder to recover. By strategically leveraging federal relief, DC can chart a course to recover quickly as a community, begin to undo the deep damage of systemic racism, and create a city that is more resilient and better prepared for future challenges.

Sincerely,

21st Century School Fund
Advocates for Justice and Education DC
Beloved Community Incubator
Bread for the City
Browne EC LSAT
Byte Back Inc.
Cancel Rent Coalition
Children's Legacy Theatre, Inc.
Coalition for DC Public Schools and Communities (C4DC)
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Coalition for the Homeless
College Tribe
Community of Hope
D.C. Hunger Solutions
DC Action
DC Chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
DC Coalition for Equitable Outdoor Education
DC Fiscal Policy Institute
DC for Democracy
DC Jobs with Justice
DC KinCare Alliance
DC SCORES
DC Statehood Green Party
Decoding Dyslexia DC
District Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc
Educationdc.net
Education Town Hall
Empower DC
EmpowerEd
Equal Rights Center
Everyone Home DC
Excluded Worker Coalition
Fair Budget Coalition
Friendship Place
Higher Achievement

Horton's Kids
House of Ruth
In the Public Interest
Jews United for Justice
Kid Power Inc.
La Clinica del Pueblo
Latin American Youth Center
Latino Economic Development Center
Life Pieces to Masterpieces
LIFT-DC
Many Languages One Voice
Miriam's Kitchen
N Street Village
One Common Unity
One Fair Wage
One World Education
Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)
Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.
Senior High Alliance of Parents Principals and Educators (S.H.A.P.P.E)
SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat)
SPACES In Action
Teaching for Change
The Father McKenna Center
The Person Center
The Platform of Hope
The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Trabajadores Unidos
United to Rise (Formerly Youth Organizations United to Rise or YOUR)
Unity Health Care
Ward 1 Education Council
Ward 2 Education Council (W2EC)
Ward 4 Education Alliance
Ward 5 Education Equity Committee
Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization (W6PSPO)
Ward 7 Education Council
Ward 8 Education Council
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Ministry
WE ACT RADIO
Youth Sports Collaborative Network
YWCA National Capital Area

cc: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau
Councilmember Brooke Pinto
Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie

Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Vince Gray
Councilmember Trayon White
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember Christina Henderson
Councilmember Elissa Silverman
Councilmember Robert White

¹ Doni Crawford, "[Black Workers in the Grip of the Recession—Declining UI Trust Fund Could Cause More Harm](#)," DC Fiscal Policy Institute, November 20, 2020.

² Wesley Tharpe, Michael Leachman, and Matt Saenz, "[Tapping More People's Capacity to Innovate Can Help States Thrive](#)," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, December 9, 2020.

³ "[Out of Reach 2020: District of Columbia](#)," National Low Income Housing Coalition. Accessed April 23, 2021.

⁴ Chad Stone, "[Robust Unemployment Insurance, Other Relief Needed to Mitigate Racial and Ethnic Unemployment Disparities](#)," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 5, 2020.

⁵ Terrence McCoy, "[597 days. And Still Waiting](#)," *The Washington Post*, November 20, 2021.

⁶ Bobbi Dempsey, "[With COVID delays, You May Die Waiting for Benefits](#)," *In These Times*, February 16, 2021.

⁷ Athiyah Azeem and Kate Santaliz, "[Councilmember considers buying hotels to support PEP-V shelter and convert them to housing](#)," *Street Sense*. March 11, 2011.

⁸ Kate Coventry, "[Coming Home To Homelessness: Policy Solutions for Returning Citizens](#)," DC Fiscal Policy Institute, February 27, 2020.

⁹ Under 3 DC, "[DC Can't Have an Economic Recovery Without Child Care Investments](#)," May 12, 2020.

¹⁰ Summer Sherburne Hawkins, "[Maternal mortality is worse in Washington, D.C. than Syria. Abortion access is one reason why](#)," *NBC News*. February 18, 2020.

¹¹ Ed Lazere, "[No Way to Run a Healthcare Program: DC's Access Barriers for Immigrants Contribute to Poor Outcomes and Higher Costs](#)," DC Fiscal Policy Institute, revised March 17, 2019.

¹² Laura Olson and Alessandra Jerolleman, "[COVID-19's Impact on the Human and Social Services Sector](#)," FEMA Region 3 COVID-19 Interagency Recovery Coordination Task Force, November 13, 2020.