



501 3rd Street, NW · 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
T 202.467.4900 · F 202.467.4949
www.childrenslawcenter.org

Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council
Committee on Facilities and Family Services
April 11, 2023

Public Hearing:
FY2024 Budget Oversight
Office of the Ombudsperson for Children and Child and Family Services Agency

Sharra E. Greer
Policy Director
Children's Law Center

Introduction

Good morning, Chairperson Lewis George, and members of the Committee. My name is Sharra E. Greer. I am the Policy Director at Children’s Law Center and a resident of the District. Children’s Law Center believes every child should grow up with a strong foundation of family, health and education and live in a world free from poverty, trauma, racism and other forms of oppression. Our more than 100 staff – together with DC children and families, community partners and pro bono attorneys – use the law to solve children’s urgent problems today and improve the systems that will affect their lives tomorrow. Since our founding in 1996, we have reached more than 50,000 children and families directly and multiplied our impact by advocating for city-wide solutions that benefit hundreds of thousands more.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the Mayor’s proposed FY24 budget for the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children (OFC) and Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA). At any given time, Children’s Law Center represents approximately half of the children involved with CFSA – several hundred children in foster care and protective supervision each year.¹ We are heavily invested in CFSA’s success because, in our view, CFSA succeeding means our clients will have the best opportunities to overcome the traumas they have experienced and achieve positive outcomes in health, education, and family stability. Ensuring CFSA’s budget is sufficient

for effectively meeting the needs of the children and families the agency serves is a high priority for us.

Over the past 10 years, the number of children in care has been reduced from 1542 in 2012 to 537 in 2022.² This dramatic reduction is due in large part to the work of CFSA narrowing the front door and building a system that prioritizes keeping families together over removal. While we believe the agency has more work to do to ensure proper guardrails are in place to protect children's safety, we generally support CFSA's efforts to minimize the number of children entering foster care.³

Although the number of children in foster care has decreased, we must recognize that the children who do enter the system often have experienced high levels of trauma resulting in significant behavioral health needs and challenges in finding stable foster care placements.⁴ CFSA's budget must include sufficient resources to ensure children in foster care receive the physical and behavioral health supports they need, and that the agency is able to maintain a placement array that meets the needs of the children in care (including specialized and supported placements that are often quite expensive). Unfortunately, the Mayor's proposed budget makes a significant cut to Child Placement (line 2066) which could impact the quality and availability of placements for children in foster care.⁵

Further, as the District moves closer to transforming our child neglect system into a "child well-being system,"⁶ sustained investments in prevention programs and services

are critical. Although the Mayor's proposed CFSA budget includes significant new investments in prevention services, it does not include any new funding for home visiting which is a proven prevention model. Additionally, the proposed budget includes a \$413,000 cut to the Grandparent Caregiver Program, which provides financial supports to grandparents caring for children.⁷ We are concerned that reducing and providing no further investment in these important prevention programs will undermine our larger goal of successfully keeping children with their families instead of removing them to foster care.

We urge this Committee to examine these proposed cuts to CFSA's budget carefully and to work with the agency to understand how the proposed cuts will impact services and programs and ensure cuts are not made at the expense of the children and families CFSA serves.

The Proposed Budget Cuts Funding to Placement Which Could Slow CFSA's Momentum in Establishing a Sufficient Placement Array for Children in Care

Although we appreciate the Mayor's proposed investment of \$237,000 into teen services as well as the maintenance of funds for many key programs, we are concerned about the significant cut to placement in the FY24 proposed budget. Fewer children in care, while admirable, does not necessarily mean fewer resources are needed to support them. It is especially concerning to see a cut in an area where CFSA has consistently struggled.⁸

Once a child is removed from their caregiver they must be placed in a supportive home. Ideally, a child would be placed once and stay in that home until they leave foster care. Moving a child from place to place creates instability that leads to further trauma, anxiety, and pain.⁹ Unfortunately, too many children and youth in care experience multiple placements due to an insufficient placement array.¹⁰ We appreciate that CFSA has been investing in specialized treatments as well as widening and improving its placement array to meet the needs of all children in care including a new contractor for intensive foster care, increasing the number of trauma-informed professional foster parents, and partnering with sister agencies to establish a residential treatment facility.¹¹ These are important and significant investments that must be maintained to continue to address the placement crisis.

Unfortunately, the Mayor's budget cuts \$4.3 million from CFSA's placement (line 2066).¹² The agency stated during its budget briefing that this cut will not impact the placement array, however, we continue to have concerns. A \$4.3 million cut more than doubles the reductions CFSA has made to placements between FY21 and FY23, and the number of children in care, as of February 2023, has increased from the number of children in FY22 (537 to 541) and only represents a 73-child difference between FY21 and FY23.¹³ Additionally, as stated above the children in care represent some of those with the highest needs. From our clients' own experiences, CFSA still continues to struggle to

find appropriate and stable placements. For example, we continue to see a lack of independent living options for older youth.

We urge this Committee to work with the agency to understand the true impact this large of a cut will have on securing stable, appropriate placements that meet the unique needs of every child in the care and custody of CFSA.

The Proposed FY24 Budget Makes Key Investments to Support Prevention Efforts

Prevention

First and foremost, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge some of the places where the Mayor has proposed key investments to support CFSA's work. We believe CFSA has the right long-term vision focused on targeting and coordinating prevention services to keep families together. This includes a more flexible services array that meets and supports families where they are as well as providing alternatives to removal such as informal family planning arrangements, safety plans, and providing in-home services. We commend CFSA for working to build a nuanced system that prioritizes families and the community while working to keep children safe. Therefore, we appreciate the Mayor's addition of \$926,000 to the prevention services (line 8030 under Community Partnerships) at CFSA.¹⁴

Moreover, we are glad to hear that the Warmline is receiving private funding seeding the startup costs of this important resource. The Warmline is envisioned as an alternative for reporting a family in need to the Child Protective Services (CPS) Hotline.

Instead, a family or a community member may be able to contact the Warmline and be connected with appropriate services or resources instead of having a CPS investigation opened. We are supportive of these efforts and have been active participants on the Keeping DC Families Together Warmline Subgroup (formerly Thriving Families, Safer Children). While we are glad to see this initial investment, the Warmline will require long-term, stable funding to ensure its success.¹⁵ We ask this Committee to work with the agency and the Mayor to ensure there is a secure avenue of funding after the Warmline is established.

Kinship Support, Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy, and Families First DC

Kinship Support, Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy, and Families First DC are three other critical parts to CFSA having a sufficient service array for their prevention efforts. All received increases in the proposed FY24 budget. Both Kinship Support and Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy provide financial and other supports to caregivers who take in children whose parents are unable to care for them, helping prevent entry to foster care.

Last year, we testified to the growing need of the Close Relative Caregiver Subsidy. We advocated for an increase of approximately \$119,500 to minimally meet the increased demand for the program. Therefore, we are pleased to see that the proposed budget almost doubles that and provides for an increase of \$237,000 (line 4013). Ensuring there is sufficient funding in this program will allow for more low-income residents to

access money to help them be able to raise their siblings, nieces, nephews, and cousins. In a similar vein, we support the increased investments in Kinship Supports and Families First DC which help support programs like the kinship navigator and Family Success Centers, both of which act as primary prevention services for families and caregivers when in need of tangible supports like money, food, and clothing. Continuing to invest directly into families is a critical component of CFSA's prevention work.

Mayor's Proposed FY2024 Budget Needs Additional Investment to Continue to Support Prevention

CFSA's home visiting programs are designed for unique populations who are drawn to and benefit from the programs' ability to address their specific needs. These include families experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, a parent returning home from incarceration, as well as programs that focus on fathers, parents of children 0-5, and young Latino (or immigrant) mothers (ages 17-25 with children 0-5).¹⁶ These programs help parents access services, learn parenting skills, and support them to raise their children in nurturing, caring, and supportive environments.¹⁷

Home visiting has a strong evidence base for promoting positive outcomes for parents and young children across different types of families and settings. Studies have demonstrated that high-quality home visiting has led to a decrease in childhood abuse and neglect.¹⁸ Home visitors can provide screening for maternal depression, education about parent-child interaction, and connect parents to community-based supports that address challenges that might impact their parenting.¹⁹

In 2021, the DC Home Visiting Council (HV Council), a coalition of home visiting providers, local government representatives, early childhood advocates, and community-based programs, surveyed home visitors in the District of Columbia to understand the landscape of home visiting. This culminated in the *Voices from the Field* report which found, “too many home visitors leave the field due to low compensation and high administrative workload, disrupting the care and relationship between the home visitor and the families they support, diminishing the positive effects of home visiting on family, child, and community outcomes.”²⁰

Many home visitors report having highly rewarding relationships with the families they work with and enjoy the work they do but do not feel there is appeal or longevity to a career in home visiting due to duplicative reporting requirements, heavy administrative workloads, and the lack of a salary that is in line with the cost of living in the District.²¹

Despite the desire and need for more funding to support the home visiting workforce, the program funding has remained primarily flat. The grants for home visiting have not been adjusted for inflation since 2019.²² The total local funding for CFSA home visiting programs in FY21 and FY22 stayed consistent at \$470,471.²³ In the FY23 budget, the Council added a \$70,500 recurring enhancement to CFSA home visiting programs as part of the overall Community Partnership funding in the CFSA budget.²⁴

We appreciate this additional investment into this critical program but know more is needed.

Therefore, we are glad to see there are no apparent cuts to home visiting in CFSA's proposed FY24 budget. However, we believe additional money is needed to support this program and grow its workforce. We are, therefore, asking for an additional \$300,000 to be added to CFSA's home visiting program to stabilize home visitors' salaries and sustain the program.

Mayor's Proposed FY24 Budget Makes Cuts to A Critical Prevention Service - Grandparent Caregiver Subsidy

Grandparent Caregiver Subsidy

This year during performance oversight CFSA reported there were no families on the waiting list for the Grandparent Caregiver Program (GCP) for FY22. This is a significant improvement as compared to FY20 and FY21 when there were 53 and 68 families on the GCP wait list, respectively.²⁵ We want to ensure that every year going forward is like FY22 - no waiting list. It is our understanding that CFSA cut funding of \$413,000 to the program due to the projected demand for GCP not materializing in FY23.²⁶ We, however, do not believe it is prudent to make an immediate cut to the program because of a one-year decrease. Minimally, the funding level should remain at FY23 levels to ensure the program has enough money to meet the need and we do not see a return of families being turned away and put on the waitlist.²⁷

Funding was Maintained in the Proposed FY24 Budget for the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children

The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children (OFC) has a critical role to play in the shared goal of moving from a child-welfare to a child well-being system. Over the current fiscal year, the OFC has worked to build a strong foundation focused on collaboration, service, and accountability to foster improved outcomes for CFSA-involved children and families. The OFC is still in the early stages of building this new agency, including hiring staff and establishing the necessary practices and procedures to best serve CFSA-involved children and families. We, however, believe the OFC has made a strong start and are glad to see funding maintained at FY23 levels.²⁸

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I welcome any questions.

¹ Children’s Law Center attorneys represent children who are the subject of abuse and neglect cases in DC’s Family Court. CLC attorneys fight to find safe homes and ensure that children receive the services they need to overcome the trauma that first brought them into the child welfare system. DC Children’s Law Center, About Us, available at: <https://www.childrenslawcenter.org/content/about-us>. The term “protective supervision” means a legal status created by Division order in neglect cases whereby a minor is permitted to remain in his home under supervision, subject to return to the Division during the period of protective supervision. D.C. Code § 16-2301(19).

² Child and Family Services Agency, *Annual Public Report*, p. 25, (2012), available at: https://cfsa.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cfsa/publication/attachments/CFSA_2012_Annual_Public_Report.pdf; FY22 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q101, available at:

https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CFSA-FY22-Performance-Oversight-Hearing-Pre-Hearing-Responses-to-Questions_2-17-2023-FINAL-1.pdf.

³ Sharra E. Greer, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Facilities & Family Services, (February 24, 2023), available at: https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sharra-E.-Greer_Childrens-Law-Center_Performance-Oversight_FY2022-23-CFSA_final.pdf; Tami Weerasingha-Cote, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Human Services, (February 17, 2022), available at: https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/TWeerasingha-Cote_Childrens-Law-Center-Testimony-for-Feb.-17-2022-CFSA-Oversight-Hearing_FINAL.pdf; Tami Weerasingha-Cote, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Human Services, (February 25, 2021), available at: https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/TWeerasingha-Cote_Childrens-Law-Center-Testimony-for-Feb.-25-2021-CFSA-Oversight-Hearing_FINAL.pdf.

⁴ See, e.g., Sharra E. Greer, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Facilities & Family Services, (February 24, 2023), available at: https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sharra-E.-Greer_Childrens-Law-Center_Performance-Oversight_FY2022-23-CFSA_final.pdf; *Mental and Behavioral Health Needs of Children in Foster Care*, American Academy of Pediatrics, (July 21, 2021), available at: <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/foster-care/mental-and-behavioral-health-needs-of-children-in-foster-care/>; *Child Welfare and Foster Care Statistics*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, (May 16, 2022) available at: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/child-welfare-and-foster-care-statistics>; Peter J. Pecora et al., *Mental Health Services for Children Placed in Foster Care: An Overview of Current Challenges*, National Library of Medicine, (March 21, 2011), available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3061347/>.

⁵ Mayor’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Child and Family Services Agency, Table RL0-4, line 2066, available at: https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/rl_cfsa_chapter_2024m1.pdf.

⁶ CFSA created a plan to transform DC’s child welfare system into the “child well-being system that strengthens families in their homes and communities by ensuring they have access to supports and resources that are available to them.” See Robert Matthews, Director of Child and Family Service Agency, Oral Testimony, Committee of the Human Services, Roundtable, “The Implementation of the Child and Family Services Agency’s Safety Planning and Informal Family Planning Arrangement Policies,” (December 13, 2022), available at: http://dc.granicus.com/viewpublisher.php?view_id=2.

⁷ Child and Family Services Agency, *Grandparent Caregivers Program and Close Relative Caregivers Program: Annual Status Report 2022*, p. 1, (February 28, 2023), available at: <https://cfsa.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cfsa/publication/attachments/CFSA%20Grandparent%20Caregivers%20Program%20%20Close%20Relative%20Caregivers%20Program%20Annual%20Status%20Report%202022%20%28FINAL%29.pdf>.

⁸ Sharra E. Greer, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Facilities & Family Services, (February 24, 2023), available at: https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sharra-E.-Greer_Childrens-Law-Center_Performance-Oversight_FY2022-23-CFSA_final.pdf; Tami Weerasingha-Cote, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Human Services, (February 17, 2022), available at: https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/TWeerasingha-Cote_Childrens-Law-Center-Testimony-for-Feb.-17-2022-CFSA-Oversight-Hearing_FINAL.pdf; Tami Weerasingha-Cote, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Human Services, (February 25, 2021), available at: <https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2021/07/TWeerasingha-Cote_Childrens-Law-Center-Testimony-for-Feb.-25-2021-CFSA-Oversight-Hearing_FINAL.pdf](#).

⁹ See, e.g., Sharra E. Greer, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Facilities & Family Services, (February 24, 2023), *available at*:

https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sharra-E.-Greer_Childrens-Law-Center_Performance-Oversight_FY2022-23-CFSA_final.pdf; *Mental and Behavioral Health Needs of Children in Foster Care*, American Academy of Pediatrics, (July 21, 2021), *available at*:

<https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/foster-care/mental-and-behavioral-health-needs-of-children-in-foster-care/>; *Child Welfare and Foster Care Statistics*, Annie E. Casey Foundation, (May 16, 2022) *available at*:

<https://www.aecf.org/blog/child-welfare-and-foster-care-statistics>; Peter J. Pecora et al., *Mental Health Services for Children Placed in Foster Care: An Overview of Current Challenges*, National Library of Medicine, (March 21, 2011), *available at*: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3061347/>.

¹⁰ We shared during performance oversight regarding the consistent struggles our clients face. In our review of over 400 of our most recent guardian-ad litem cases, we found that approximately one-fourth of our clients experienced some form of placement instability within the last year or so. Some particularized forms of placement instability included the inability to find a placement due to juvenile justice involvement, placements that are not supportive of their specific behavioral health or educational needs, and placements that are unstable due to conflicts with other residents of the home. Sharra E. Greer, Children’s Law Center, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Facilities & Family Services, (February 24, 2023), *available at*: https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Sharra-E.-Greer_Childrens-Law-Center_Performance-Oversight_FY2022-23-CFSA_final.pdf.

¹¹ CFSA Budget Stakeholders Forum, April 6, 2023, slides on file with Children’s Law Center. See Child and Family Services Agency, Annual Needs Assessment, (2022), p. 25, *available at*:

https://cfsa.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cfsa/publication/attachments/FY22_Needs_Assessment_FY24_Resource_Development_Plan_FINAL.pdf.

¹² Mayor’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Child and Family Services Agency, Table RL0-4, line 4012, *available at*:

https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/rl_cfsa_chapter_2024m1.pdf.

¹³ In FY21 the actual budget for Child Placement was \$48,614,000, in FY22 the actual budget for Child Placement was \$46,704,000, and in FY23 the approved budget for Child Placement was \$45,694,000. These changes respectively represent a \$1.9 million and a \$1 million decrease. See Mayor’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Child and Family Services Agency, Table RL0-4, line 2066, *available at*:

https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/rl_cfsa_chapter_2024m1.pdf. In

FY2021 there were 614 kids in care. See FY21 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q109, *available at*: <https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FY21-22-CFSA-Performance-Oversight-Prehearing-Questions-Responses-Final.pdf>.

In FY22 there were 537 kids in care, and in FY23, to date (February 2023), there were 541 kids in care. See FY22 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q101, *available at*: https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CFSA-FY22-Performance-Oversight-Hearing-Pre-Hearing-Responses-to-Questions_2-17-2023-FINAL-1.pdf.

¹⁴ As reported by CFSA during the CFSA Stakeholder Budget Forum, they moved some of the money from the In-Home budget line (8020) to Prevention Services (line 8030). We ask this Committee to confirm this is not in fact a cut that will impact the capacity for CFSA in-home care services that allow the agency to work collaboratively with families so that children can remain safely in their homes. See Mayor’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Child and

Family Services Agency, Table RL0-4 *available at:*

https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/rl_cfsa_chapter_2024m1.pdf;

Child and Family Service Agency (CFSA), In-home Services, (May 27, 2022), *available at:*

https://cfsa.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cfsa/publication/attachments/Program_Policy_In-Home_Services_Update_%282022%29.pdf.

¹⁵ CFSA Budget Stakeholders Forum, April 6, 2023, slides on file with Children’s Law Center.

¹⁶ FY22 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q53, *available at:* https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CFSA-FY22-Performance-Oversight-Hearing-Pre-Hearing-Responses-to-Questions_2-17-2023-FINAL-1.pdf.

¹⁷ Child Welfare Information Gateway, Home Visiting Programs, *available at:*

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/prevention-programs/homevisit/homevisitprog/>; Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Are home visiting programs effective in reducing child maltreatment?*, (September 27, 2022), *available at:* <https://www.casey.org/home-visiting-programs/>.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Center for the Study of Social Policy, Strengthening Families, *available at:* <https://cssp.org/our-work/project/strengthening-families/>. Center for the Study of Social Policy, Strengthening Families Through Home Visiting, *available at:* <https://cssp.org/resource/sf-through-home-visiting>; DC Action, DC Home Visiting Council, *available at:* <https://www.wearedcaction.org/our-initiatives/home-visiting#:~:text=Home%20visiting%20helps%20parents%20deepen,to%20meet%20their%20child's%20needs>.

²⁰ DC Action, *Standardizing Wages, Boosting Funding, and Streamlining Reporting Will Strengthen the Home Visiting Profession*, 2023, *available at:* <https://www.wearedcaction.org/standardizing-wages-boosting-funding-and-streamlining-reporting-will-strengthen-home-visiting>.

²¹ *Id.*

²² We are also asking minimally for an additional \$1,200,000 to DC Health and an additional \$300,000 to CFSA for a total of \$1.5 million to address the immediate need to close gaps in home visiting funding in the District. *See* Leah Castelaz, Testimony before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Health, (April 10, 2023), *available at:* <https://childrenslawcenter.org/audience/policy-testimony/>; Sharra E. Greer, Testimony before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Facilities and Family Services, (April 11, 2023), *available at:* <https://childrenslawcenter.org/audience/policy-testimony/>.

²³ FY22 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q53, *available at:* https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CFSA-FY22-Performance-Oversight-Hearing-Pre-Hearing-Responses-to-Questions_2-17-2023-FINAL-1.pdf.

²⁴ Mayor’s Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Child and Family Services Agency, Table RL0-6, *available at:*

<https://app.box.com/s/kabhvjznbplwq1tkwd2gv66187aw37ii/file/1170978161849>.

²⁵ FY20 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q73, *available at:* <https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FY20-21-CFSA-Pre-Hearing->; FY21 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q100, *available at:* <https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FY21-22-CFSA-Performance-Oversight-Prehearing-Questions-Responses-Final.pdf>.

²⁶ In FY20, the GCP served 521 families, in FY21 the GCP served 562 families, and in FY22 GCP served 481 families. FY20 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q73, *available at:*

<https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/FY20-21-CFSA-Pre-Hearing->; FY21 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q100, *available at:* <https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FY21-22-CFSA-Performance-Oversight-Prehearing-Questions-Responses-Final.pdf>; FY22 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q92, *available at:*

https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CFSA-FY22-Performance-Oversight-Hearing-Pre-Hearing-Responses-to-Questions_2-17-2023-FINAL-1.pdf. See also Mayor's Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Child and Family Services Agency, Table RL0-4, line 4012, *available at*:

<https://app.box.com/s/kabhvjznbplwq1tkwd2gv66187aw37ii/file/1170978161849>.

²⁷ In FY2020 and FY2021 CFSA had to invest had additional \$600,000 and \$800,000, respectively, to enroll new families that were on the waitlist for the GCP. See Child and Family Services Agency, *Grandparent Caregivers Program and Close Relative Caregivers Program: Annual Status Report 2021*, p. 4, (February 28, 2022), *available at*:

https://cfsa.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/cfsa/publication/attachments/CFSA_Grandparent%20Caregivers%20Program%20Annual%20Report%202021_2-28-22.pdf. Funding in FY23 was \$6,640,000. See Mayor's Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Child and Family Services Agency, Table RL0-4, line 4012, *available at*:

<https://app.box.com/s/kabhvjznbplwq1tkwd2gv66187aw37ii/file/1170978161849>.

²⁸ Mayor's Proposed FY 2024 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4 Agency Budget Chapters – Part III, Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, Table RO0-1, *available at*:

<https://app.box.com/s/kabhvjznbplwq1tkwd2gv66187aw37ii/file/1170978161849>.