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Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council
Committee on Human Services
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Introduction

Good Morning, Chairperson Frumin and members of the Committee. My name is Makenna Osborn. I am a Policy Attorney at Children's Law Center, resident of the District and tenant in Ward 6. 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 regarding the proposed local Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget for the Department of Human Services (DHS). Housing security — having a safe, healthy, and stable place to call home— has a profound impact on a child's health, development, and ability to learn.¹ Childhood housing insecurity is closely linked to adverse physical, mental, and behavioral health conditions;² developmental delays;³ and lower levels of engagement in school;⁴ all of which can increase a child's use of costly public services over their lifetime.⁵ Adequately funding homelessness prevention services and housing programs that help families consistently afford rent is a cost-effective strategy for preventing childhood housing insecurity.⁶ At a time when the

District faces a challenging financial outlook, adequately funding the DHS programs that help families access and maintain housing security is one of the best investments the District can make for the well-being of DC children and the broader DC community, now and for years to come.

Many of Children's Law Center's clients utilize DHS's housing programs to exit or prevent homelessness and keep their family stably housed, including Targeted Affordable Housing (TAH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) vouchers⁷ and the Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program (FRSP, commonly referred to as Rapid Re-Housing).⁸ My testimony today will identify recommendations for how this Committee can amend the proposed FY26 budget to better meet the needs of our clients and other DC families by 1) gathering clear information from DHS on the costs per family across different housing resources and capacities for assistance in each program based on the Mayor's proposed budget and 2) prioritizing funding for new long-term housing vouchers because they are the most effective for resource for extremely low-income families.

The Committee Needs Transparent Information on DHS Housing Program Costs and Capacities to Make Informed Decisions About How to Best Distribute Limited Resources

The homeless services and housing programs operated by DHS are deeply interconnected. Sufficient funding for effective housing programs reduces the need for homeless services over time. Conversely, cutting funding from housing programs is

likely to increase shelter entries and costs and investing in ineffective housing programs may temporarily decrease the need for shelter but ultimately perpetuates chronic reliance on homeless services. To inform the most efficient use of District resources, the Committee should have transparent and comprehensive information on the costs of each of DHS's homeless services and housing programs and how many families DHS would be able to serve in each program with the funding levels in the Mayor's proposed budget. DHS housing programs. Without this information, it will be difficult for the Committee to assess the effectiveness of current funding levels or identify opportunities to realign resources and target new investments toward community needs.

To this end, Children's Law Center urges the Committee to ask DHS for 1) the mean and median monthly per family costs in each of the following programs in FY25 to date, with a breakdown of housing cost vs. case management or supportive services costs; and 2) the number of families DHS projects it could serve in each of the following programs with the funding levels in the Mayor's FY26 budget:

- Short-Term Family Housing (STFH);
- Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program (FRSP, commonly referred to as Rapid Re-Housing);
- Tenant-Based Targeted Affordable Housing Vouchers for Families (TAH-F);
- Tenant-Based Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers for Families (PSH-F).

DHS should indicate what if any changes in program costs it anticipates between FY25 and FY26, such as a change in the amount of supportive services covered by Medicaid.⁹

Additionally, the Mayor's budget proposes cutting over \$16.8 million from the family Rapid Re-Housing program, a 28% decrease from FY25 funding levels.¹⁰ As Children's Law Center has raised with the Council many times, based on years of evidence that Rapid Re-Housing is a costly and ineffective tool for connecting DC families to long-term housing stability, we do not believe the District should continue relying on Rapid Re-Housing as its primary tool for addressing family homelessness.¹¹ However, as most families in Rapid Re-Housing are not able to afford anywhere near market rent at the end of their time in the program, removing funding from Rapid Re-Housing without adding sufficient funding to other housing resources will simply place hundreds of District families at acute risk of eviction, homelessness, and displacement from DC.¹²

Children's Law Center appreciates that in recognition of the cut to Rapid Re-Housing, the Mayor has also proposed investing an additional \$7.6 million for 156 new PSH-F vouchers and \$5.6 million to DC Flex¹³ "to support exit pathways from [Rapid Re-Housing] and [shelter]."¹⁴ As discussed in detail below, 156 new vouchers is still far below the anticipated level of need among District families in FY26. Further, Children's Law Center is concerned that the cap on the amount of rental assistance provided by DC Flex means it is not a reliable tool for connecting most families exiting Rapid Re-Housing with long-term housing stability and therefore, not the best use of District resources to mitigate the harms of cuts to Rapid Re-Housing.¹⁵ To understand and assess the "exit

pathways” from Rapid Re-Housing in the Mayor’s proposed budget, the Committee should ask DHS for the following information:

- How many families currently in Rapid Re-Housing does DHS plan to exit between now and the start of FY26? How many of those families does DHS anticipate connecting with a housing resource funded in the FY25 budget?
- With the Mayor’s proposed funding level of \$43.8 million, how many families could DHS support in Rapid Re-Housing throughout FY26? How many families would DHS expect to enter and exit the program each month?
- Where is the additional \$5.6 million for DC Flex reflected in DHS’s budget?
- The Mayor’s budget presentation indicates that the additional DC Flex funding will be used to help families exiting both Rapid Re-Housing and shelter. Of the 460 families the Mayor estimates will receive DC Flex with the additional funds, how many does DHS anticipate will be exiting from Rapid Re-Housing and from shelter?
- What is the level of assistance that DC Flex participants will receive each year, how many years will they be enrolled in DC Flex, and will there be any restrictions on their ability to seek additional assistance through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)?

With the above information, the Committee will be in a better position to identify additional resources or alternative distributions of existing resources that are needed to prevent families currently in Rapid Re-Housing from re-entering homelessness.

The Council Should Fund New Local Long-Term Housing Vouchers to Meet the Needs of Families Experiencing Housing Insecurity

Ultimately, Children’s Law Center believes that for most DC families experiencing acute housing insecurity, long-term rental assistance that ensures eligible families do not pay more than 30% of their income toward rent —as opposed to time-limited programs

like Rapid Re-Housing or shallow subsidies like DC Flex— is the most efficient and effective tool for alleviating housing insecurity and preventing family homelessness. The District provides such ongoing rental assistance through Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) and Targeted Affordable Housing (TAH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) vouchers, which are administered by DHS in coordination with the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) and funded across both of their budgets.¹⁶ LRSP vouchers are purely rental subsidies, like the federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCVs), that are funded in the local DCHA budget.¹⁷ LRSP subsidies can be paired with case management and wraparound services through DHS or DHS-contracted non-profit providers for the purposes of TAH and PSH vouchers, which are funded in the DHS budget.¹⁸ Notably, the rental subsidy portion of PSH vouchers created prior to FY22 is included in the LRSP line item of DCHA's budget, while starting in the FY22 budget, both the rental subsidy and supportive services for PSH vouchers are included in the DHS budget.

Housing vouchers are a vital resource for the many low-income families who cannot afford rent in DC's costly private market.¹⁹ Research shows that long-term housing vouchers are an effective tool not only for preventing family homelessness and reducing childhood poverty in the short-term but also increasing a child's access to opportunity and economic security into adulthood.²⁰ Local vouchers are especially important for young heads of household who have never even been able to apply for a

federally-funded HCV because DCHA's waitlist for the program has been closed since 2013.²¹ For the first time since the District's historic expansion of local housing vouchers in the FY22 and FY23 budgets, there is not a backlog of funded vouchers awaiting distribution to eligible families. While this reflects DHS and DCHA's work to scale up and streamline their voucher utilization processes, it is also due to the relatively low numbers of new vouchers funded in the FY24 and FY25 budgets. Unfortunately for DC families currently experiencing housing insecurity, it means there are simply no vouchers for them to be connected to for the rest of this fiscal year.

Therefore, Children's Law Center is grateful that the Mayor's proposed FY26 budget for DHS includes funding for approximately 156 new PSH vouchers for families.²²

However, considering that:

- the DHS FY26 budget also cuts almost \$18 million from the Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program (more commonly known as Rapid Re-Housing) meaning **hundreds of families** will be cut off from the rental assistance they were receiving from Rapid Re-Housing and unable to independently afford rent;²³
- in FY26 the District will likely lose the federal Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) funding it is using to support PSH vouchers for approximately **160 families**;²⁴ and
- **thousands of DC families** have been impacted by federal layoffs and are newly experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, housing insecurity;²⁵

it is nowhere near enough to meet the housing needs of DC families over the next year.

Children's Law Center would like to see the Council fund enough long-term vouchers to connect each eligible family that DHS anticipates will be terminated from Rapid Re-Housing or enter shelter in FY26 with long-term housing stability. Along with

our partners in the Fair Budget Coalition, Children’s Law Center estimates that the number of new vouchers that would be needed to achieve this goal is 800 LRSP vouchers, 3,058 TAH vouchers, and 764 PSH vouchers.²⁶ To fund these vouchers, the FY26 budget would need to maintain the recurring funding for existing vouchers and allocate an additional estimated \$17.33 million, \$93.01 million, and \$30.03 million across the DCHA and DHS budgets for new for new LRSP, TAH, and PSH vouchers respectively.²⁷

Given the budget constraints the District government is facing this year, we acknowledge that the Council may not be able to meet the actual level of need amongst DC families at this time. At a minimum, the Council should fund the number of new vouchers that DHS and DCHA can feasibly distribute —or “match” — throughout FY26. Although there have been very limited numbers of local vouchers to distribute in FY25, over the past year DHS and DCHA have successfully matched approximately 1,300 families to federal HCV vouchers.²⁸ Therefore, in addition to the 156 new PSH-F vouchers included in the proposed DHS budget, Children’s Law Center believes that the Council should aim to fund at least 1,144 new vouchers for families in the FY26 budget across LRSP and TAH-F, which would require an estimated \$24.8 to \$34.8 million.²⁹ We welcome the opportunity to work this Committee and the Committee on Human Services as you prepare your Committee markups to explore possible paths forward for achieving this goal. For example, we believe it could be more effective to shift some of the money currently allocated to the Homelessness Prevention Program and DC Flex to fund new

vouchers and that decreasing case management requirements in Rapid Re-Housing would create cost savings that could be invested in new vouchers.

Not being able to connect a family at risk of homelessness with stable housing through an appropriate long-term voucher can have dire and costly consequences. If the Council does not invest in additional long-term vouchers for DC families in the FY26 budget, next year more families will go through the destabilizing experience of acute housing insecurity and many could end up in the District's family shelter system, which will ultimately be more costly for the District and harmful to the future of DC children.³⁰

Conclusion

As the Committee considers amendments to the Mayor's proposed budget, Children's Law Center urges you to prioritize protecting and building upon the District's investments in keeping DC children and families stably housed. Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

¹ See Sonya Acosta, "Stable Housing is Foundational to Children's Well-Being," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (Feb. 15 2022), available at: <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/stable-housing-is-foundational-to-childrens-well-being>; Megan Sandel et al., "Housing as a Healthcare Investment," Children's Health Watch (Mar. 2016), available at: <https://childrenshealthwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/Housing-as-a-Health-Care-Investment.pdf>.

² See Megan Sandel et al., *Unstable Housing and Caregiver and Child Health in Renter Families*, Pediatrics, Vol. 141(2) (February 2018), available at: <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/141/2/e20172199/38056/Unstable-Housing-and-Caregiver-and-Child-Health-in?redirectedFrom=fulltext>; Abigail Gaylord et al., *Impact of Housing Instability on Child Behavior at Age 7*, Int'l J. Child Hum. Dev. 287 (2018), available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8442946/#R8>; Kimberly Rollings, *Housing and Neighborhood Physical Quality: Children's Mental Health and Motivation*, 50 J. Env't Psych. 17 (2017), available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S027249441730004X?via%3Dihub>.

³ See Mitigating Homeless Children’s Risk for Developmental Delay, Healing Hands: A Publication of the HCH Clinicians’ Network Vol. 13 (2) (April 2009), <https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Apr09HealingHands.pdf>.

⁴ Housing insecurity often involves relocating schools when a family moves or enters shelter, which can be disruptive to a child’s education. This disruption paired with increased stress and food insecurity, means that housing insecure children are less likely to attend school, have a harder time learning when they are there, and reach lower educational attainments. See Brendan Chen, *How Housing Instability Affects Educational Outcomes*, Housing Matters: An Urban Institute Initiative (February 28, 2024), <https://housingmatters.urban.org/articles/how-housing-instability-affects-educational-outcomes>; Robert Collinson et al., *The Effects of Eviction on Children*, National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper 33659 (April 2025), available at: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w33659>.

⁵ Families and children that experience housing insecurity, especially eviction or homelessness, are more likely to use services like shelter and emergency health care, need educational supports in school, and become involved in the criminal legal system.” See Hannah Chimowitz and Adam Ruege, *The Costs and Harms of Homelessness*, Community Solutions (September 25, 2023), <https://community.solutions/research-posts/the-costs-and-harms-of-homelessness/>; *Stable Homes Make Healthy Families*, Children’s Healthwatch, What If? Series (July 2017), <https://childrenshealthwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/CHW-Stable-Homes-2-pager-web.pdf>; Susan M. Snyder et al., *Homeless Youth, Strain, and Justice System Involvement: An Application of General Strain Theory*, Children and Youth Services Review Vol. 62 (March 2016), available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0190740916300251>.

⁶ Numerous studies have shown that investments in eviction and homelessness prevention generate larger savings across other budget areas and benefits to communities. See William N. Evans et al., *The Impact of Homelessness Prevention Programs on Homelessness*, 353 Science 694 (August 12, 2016), available at: <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Impact-of-homelessness-prevention.pdf> (Study on temporary financial assistance to those at risk of homelessness in Chicago found average cost of assistance was \$10,300 and average estimated societal benefits was \$20,548); EY, *CommonBond Communities: Social Impact Measurement of CommonBond’s Eviction Prevention Activities*, (Aug. 2018), available at: <https://commonbond.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/CommonBond-Social-impact-report-Final.pdf> (Study of eviction prevention programs in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin found that for every \$1 spent on eviction prevention, the states realized an average \$4 social return on investment); Stout, *Cost-Benefit Analysis for Philadelphia Right to Counsel for Low Income Tenants Facing Eviction*, <https://www.stout.com/en/experience/cost-benefit-analysis-for-philadelphia-right-to-counsel> (Study found that the City of Philadelphia would receive a benefit of over \$12 for every \$1 spent on providing legal representation to low-income tenants facing eviction). See also Dan Threet, Mackenzie Pish et al., *Costs of Covid-19 Evictions*, Nat’l Low Income Hous. Coal. & Univ. Ariz. James E. Rogers Coll. L. (Nov. 19, 2020), available at: <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/costs-of-covid19-evictions.pdf>.

⁷ For details on the TAH and PSH programs, see, *Housing Resources for Families*, DC Department of Human Services, <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/housing-resources-families>.

⁸ For details on the Rapid Re-Housing program, see *Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program*, DC Department of Human Services, <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/family-re-housing-stabilization-program>.

⁹ For example, since the spring of 2022 some of the costs of PSH services have been covered by the Housing Supportive Services Medicaid benefit, decreasing the direct costs to DHS’s budget. Housing Supportive Services, DC Department of Human Services, <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/housing-supportive-services%C2%A0>. Last year DHS initially reported that PSH case management/supportive service costs would be lower in FY25 because of further coverage via Medicaid benefits, though it is Children’s Law Center’s understanding that those savings ultimately did not come to fruition.

¹⁰ FY26 Department of Human Services Budget, Table JA0-4, (H03017) Rapid Rehousing – Families, https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/ja0_dhs_chapter_2026m.pdf.

¹¹ See, e.g., Makenna Osborn, Children’s Law Center Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Housing, (Feb 29, 2024), available at: <https://childrenslawcenter.org/resources/2023-24-oversight-testimony-department-of-human-services/>.

¹² See, Makenna Osborn, Children’s Law Center Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Human Services, p. 5 (March 5, 2025), available at: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/706> (Explaining that the average monthly income of families at exit from Rapid Re-Housing, \$1,222 is much lower than Fair Market Rents in DC).

¹³ DC Flex is a shallow subsidy rental assistance program that provides families with \$8,400/year for up to five years to be used toward rent payments as a family sees fit throughout the year. For information on DC Flex, see DC Flex, DC Department of Human Services, https://dhs.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dhs/page_content/attachments/DC%20Flex%20One-Pager_2022.pdf; *Can a Shallow, Flexible Rent Subsidy Prevent Homelessness*, The Lab @ DC, <https://thelabprojects.dc.gov/flexible-rent-subsidy>.

¹⁴ Grow DC FY26 Budget Presentation, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Slide 21 (May 27, 2025), available at: <https://mayor.dc.gov/page/mayor-bowser-presents-grow-dc-our-fiscal-year-2026-budget>.

¹⁵ Based on the experience of Children’s Law Center clients who have participated in DC Flex, we are concerned that like Rapid Re-Housing, it is a temporary tool for homelessness prevention but not a reliable path to long-term housing stability and that it puts some participants at risk of eviction and homelessness. These concerns primarily stem from the fact that the \$8,400/year available to DC Flex participants is not enough to cover the difference between what families can contribute to rent and Fair Market Rent prices in DC. In FY24, Families leaving Rapid Re-Housing had an average income of \$1,222 at time of exit. Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in DC is \$2,045/month. Even if a family put 100% of their income toward rent (which would make them severely cost-burdened and unable to meet basic needs like food and healthcare), they would still need \$9,876/year (almost \$1,500 more than the amount allotted via DC Flex) in rental assistance to support Fair Market Rent. Compare Department of Human Services 2025 Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q109(f), available at: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/707> with Out of Reach 2024: District of Columbia, National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) (2024), available at: https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/orr/2024_OOR-dc.pdf; That explains why an early analysis of DC Flex found that many households spent their entire subsidy in the first seven months of the program and accrued rental arrears for the remainder of the year putting them at risk of eviction. See Josh Leopold et al., DC Flexible Rent Subsidy Program: Findings from the Program’s First Year, Urban Institute and The Lab @ DC, p. 23-24, October 2020, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/DC-Flexible-Rent-2020.pdf>.

¹⁶ For details on the TAH and PSH programs, see DHS, *Housing Resources for Families*, <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/housing-resources-families>.

¹⁷ FY26 Housing Authority Payment, Table HY0-4, (R03905) Local Rent Supplement, https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/hy0_hap_chapter_2026m.pdf.

¹⁸ For an explanation of the funding sources for TAH and PSH vouchers, see A Path to Ending Chronic Homelessness in DC, DC Department of Human Services, Overview: DHS Serves Individuals and Families Through Four Unique PSH and TAH Programs, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/993e532a43bd4af3a2bf1b69d54dc704>; *The Local Rent Supplement Program*, DC Fiscal Policy Institute (April 11, 2016), <https://www.dcfpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/16-04-LRSP-Brief.pdf>.

¹⁹ For details on unaffordability and housing insecurity in the District, see Morgan Baskin, *Growing Share of DC Renters Spend at Least Half of Their Income on Rent*, WAMU/DCist (September 19, 2023), <https://www.npr.org/local/305/2023/09/19/1200323237/growing-share-of-d-c-renters-spend-at-least-half->

[of-their-income-on-rent](#); National Low Income Housing Coalition, “District of Columbia” (2023), available at: https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/DC_2023_OOR.pdf; Claire Zippel, DC’s Housing Affordability Crisis in 7 Charts, Greater Greater Washington (April 30, 2015), <https://ggwash.org/view/37967/dcs-housing-affordability-crisis-in-7-charts>.

²⁰ See Will Fischer, *Research Shows Housing Vouchers Reduce Hardship and Provide Platform for Long-Term Gains Among Children*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (October 7, 2015), <https://www.cbpp.org/research/research-shows-housing-vouchers-reduce-hardship-and-provide-platform-for-long-term-gains> (long-term housing vouchers sharply reduce homelessness, housing instability, shelter stays and lift families above the federal poverty line); Daniel Gubits et al., *Family Options Study: 3-Year Impacts of Housing and Services Interventions for Homeless Families*, Abt Associates and Vanderbilt University (prepared for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development), p. 122-123 (October 2015), <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Family-Options-Study-Full-Report.pdf> (compared to no intervention, rapid re-housing programs, and project-based transitional housing, significantly increased families’ housing stability over a three year period, reduced adult psychological distress, reduced school moves, and increased food security); Raj Chetty et al., *The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity Experiment*, American Economic Review, Vol. 106(4): 855-902, 2016, https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/lkatz/files/chk_aer_mto_0416.pdf (using a long-term voucher to move to a lower-poverty neighborhood before the age of 13 increases college attendance and earnings in adulthood and reduces single parent rates).

²¹ See Meagan Flynn, *They Waited Decades for Housing Aid. Will Changes Finally Bring Relief?*, The Washington Post (April 26, 2023), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/04/26/dcha-housing-waiting-list/>.

²² Grow DC FY26 Budget Presentation, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Slide 21 (May 27, 2025), available at: <https://mayor.dc.gov/page/mayor-bowser-presents-grow-dc-our-fiscal-year-2026-budget>.

²³ Testimony of DHS Director Laura Zeilinger before the Committee on Housing, Department of Human Services Budget Oversight Hearing, April 5, 2024, at approximately 10:40:00, https://dc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=56&clip_id=8798.

²⁴ See Department of Human Services 2025 Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q110(a), available at: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/707>; <https://www.housingwire.com/articles/hud-emergency-housing-voucher-program-will-be-depleted-in-2026>. **The Committee should ask DHS for an update on how DHS and DCHA plan to adapt to the loss of this EHV funding** and what, if any, additional resources are needed in DHS’s FY26 budget to ensure continuity in rental assistance for these families next year.

²⁵ See Olivia Gerooge, Scott Clement and Emily Guskin, *Amid DOGE Cuts, Families Struggle with Bills, Consider Leaving DC*, Washington Post (May 9, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/05/09/federal-worker-doge-impact-household-budget/>.

²⁶ Fair Budget Coalition, *Choose DC: A Budget For Our People By Our People*, p. 35 (March 2025), <https://fairbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Desktop-View.pdf>. These numbers come from an informed estimate of the number of families that will be exited from Rapid Re-Housing in FY26 and account for the percent of families that will be able to afford rent at the time of exit and the percent of families that will be eligible for a PSH voucher. For further details, please contact Makenna Osborn at Children’s Law Center at mosborn@childrenslawcenter.org.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ According to information supplied by DHS at presentations to the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), between July 2024 and January 2025 (less than 7 months) DHS referred submitted approximately 833 completed HCVP applications to DCHA from families exiting Rapid Re-Housing.

Notes from presentations on file with Children's Law Center. As of January 22, 2025, DCHA had reviewed and approved approximately 788 of the submitted applications and DHS and DCHA were on track to match all 1,300 vouchers soon after January. Department of Human Services 2025 Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q115, *available at*: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/707>.

²⁹ Using the same figures our partners at the Fair Budget Coalition did to calculate estimated voucher costs of approximately \$21,662 per year for an LRSP voucher and \$30,412 per year for a TAH-F voucher, 1,114 new LRSP vouchers would cost \$24,781,328 and 1,114 new TAH-F vouchers would cost \$34,791,328 so a combination of the two would cost between \$24.8 and \$34.8 million.

³⁰ Families that experience eviction and homelessness are more likely to use public services like shelter, the healthcare system, educational supports, and the legal system. Numerous studies have shown that investments in eviction and homelessness prevention generate larger savings across other budget areas and benefits to communities. *See* William N. Evans et al., *The Impact of Homelessness Prevention Programs on Homelessness*, 353 Science 694 (August 12, 2016), *available at*: <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Impact-of-homelessness-prevention.pdf> (Study on temporary financial assistance to those at risk of homelessness in Chicago found average cost of assistance was \$10,300 and average estimated societal benefits was \$20,548); EY, *CommonBond Communities: Social Impact Measurement of CommonBond's Eviction Prevention Activities*, (Aug. 2018), *available at*: <https://commonbond.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/CommonBond-Social-impact-report-Final.pdf> (Study of eviction prevention programs in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin found that for every \$1 spent on eviction prevention, the states realized an average \$4 social return on investment); Stout, *Cost-Benefit Analysis for Philadelphia Right to Counsel for Low Income Tenants Facing Eviction*, <https://www.stout.com/en/experience/cost-benefit-analysis-for-philadelphia-right-to-counsel> (Study found that the City of Philadelphia would receive a benefit of over \$12 for every \$1 spend on providing legal representation to low-income tenants facing eviction). *See also* Dan Threet, Mackenzie Pish et al., *Costs of Covid-19 Evictions*, Nat'l Low Income Hous. Coal. & Univ. Ariz. James E. Rogers Coll. L. (Nov. 19, 2020), *available at*: <https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/costs-of-covid19-evictions.pdf>.