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Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council  
Committee on Transportation and the Environment  
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Department of Energy and Environment

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## **Introduction**

Good morning, Chairperson Allen, and members of the Committee. My name is Makenna Osborn. I am a Policy Attorney 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 regarding the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget for the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). Conditions in a child's physical environment, especially their home, can deeply impact their health and well-being.<sup>1</sup> Mold contamination, pest infestations, and poor air quality can exacerbate a child's asthma;<sup>2</sup> ingestion of lead through lead-based paint or lead-contaminated drinking water can inhibit a child's mental and physical development;<sup>3</sup> and residential energy insecurity<sup>4</sup> can expose children to harmful indoor temperatures, unsafe heating sources, and force families to forgo other basic needs.<sup>5</sup> That is why Children's Law Center works with hundreds of families each year to secure the

remediation of poor rental housing conditions that are threatening a child's health.<sup>6</sup> We also advocate for policies that will ensure all DC children have access to stable, affordable, and healthy housing.

As the agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the District's lead and mold laws,<sup>7</sup> connecting low-income residents with utility assistance,<sup>8</sup> and supporting residential electrification and energy efficiency projects,<sup>9</sup> DOEE plays a critical role in protecting DC children from environmental hazards and promoting healthy housing throughout the District. In a year where the District faces difficult decisions about how to allocate limited resources, adequately funding these important DOEE programs is a strategic investment in the current and future well-being of DC children. My testimony will detail why the Committee should prioritize 1) maintaining consistent funding levels for the critical services provided by the Lead Safe and Healthy Housing Division; 2) monitoring and developing plans for any changes to the Utility Affordability Administration's federal funding sources for lead hazard reduction and utility assistance; and 3) restoring cuts to the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund (SETF), so DOEE and the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) can continue helping low-income DC families access the benefits of healthier, more energy efficient homes.

## **The Committee Should Maintain Consistent Funding Levels for the Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division**

The Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division (LSHHD) within DOEE's Environmental Services Administration is responsible for ensuring that "housing . . . in the District [does] not pose a health threat to its occupants."<sup>10</sup> The LSHHD oversees implementation of the District's lead and mold laws by enforcing compliance with professional certification, accreditation and abatement requirements; conducting mold inspections and environmental risk assessments for lead-based hazards; and screening for and responding to childhood lead poisoning.<sup>11</sup> Through these services, the LSHHD plays a crucial role in protecting the health of DC children.

Children's Law Center appreciates that, according to DOEE, the Mayor's proposed FY26 budget maintains consistent local funding levels for the LSHHD's staff and operations, and we urge the Committee to protect it through the rest of the budget process.<sup>12</sup> For example, in a recent Lead Poisoning Elimination and Healthy Homes Advisory Committee meeting, DOEE shared that there are two vacant mold inspector positions in the LSHHD.<sup>13</sup> DOEE's inspectors are currently the only public resource for tenants who cannot afford a private mold assessment<sup>14</sup> to enforce their rights under the District's mold laws and they have more than enough inspection requests to warrant the five funded FTEs.<sup>15</sup> Children's Law Center is confident DOEE will be able to fill the vacant mold inspector positions when the District's hiring freeze is lifted. As the Committee

looks for funds to restore cuts elsewhere in DOEE's budget, we strongly discourage sweeping these vacancies.

Additionally, at the start of Fiscal Year 2025 it was announced that a key part of the LSHHD's work, the District's Healthy Housing program, would be moving to DC Health's newly established Environmental Health Administration.<sup>16</sup> However, as of February 2025, the agencies had still not completed the transition, with Healthy Housing program staff and services seemingly operating under both DOEE and DC Health. After a year of confusion and delays, the Mayor's proposed FY26 budget officially transfers the Healthy Housing program funding and FTEs from DOEE to DC Health so it will be firmly established within its new home.<sup>17</sup> For years, the Healthy Housing program has been a valued partner in Children's Law Center's efforts to promote healthier housing for all DC families.<sup>18</sup> We are eager to ensure that none of its services are lost in the move to DC Health.

Therefore, we ask the Committee to ensure that the \$1,179,917 and 10 FTEs moved from DOEE to DC Health in the Mayor's propose budget is 1) sufficient to enable the Healthy Housing program to continue operating the same initiatives and serving the same number of families in FY26 and 2) leaves the LSHHD with consistent funds and staffing levels for its remaining programs.<sup>19</sup> In FY25, the LSHHD's approved budget was \$7,316,000; the difference between that and the \$5,051,000 budget proposed for FY26, is over \$1 million greater than the amount transferred to DC Health for the Healthy

Housing program.<sup>20</sup> Despite this difference, DOEE recently reported to the Lead Poisoning Elimination and Healthy Housing Advisory Committee that the LSHHD FY26 proposed budget maintains current funding levels. We hope the Committee will get clarity on what accounts for this apparent decrease of over \$1 million in the LSHHD's budget and ensure that between the proposed FY26 budgets for the LSHHD and DC Health's Environmental Health Administration, there is in fact consistent funding for all of the LSHHD's current programs and services.

**The Committee Should Monitor and Plan for Any Changes to the Utility Affordability Administration's Federal Funding for Lead Hazard Reduction and Utility Assistance**

The proposed FY26 DOEE budget relies heavily on federal funds — nearly 60% of DOEE's proposed operating budget is made up of federal grants.<sup>21</sup> This is a testament to DOEE's laudable commitment to pursuing all possible funding sources for its work and skill at applying for federal grants. However, increasing reliance on federal funds is concerning because they often come with restrictions and per project spending caps that make them difficult to use unless they are paired with more flexible local funds. Additionally, the Mayor's proposed budget includes funding from grants that have yet to be awarded and DOEE could ultimately receive a smaller amount than accounted for or not receive them at all. To ensure the Council is fully informed as it makes decisions on the FY26 budget, we encourage the Committee to establish 1) the status of each of DOEE's federal funding sources, 2) which federal funding sources included in the budget have not been awarded yet and how the final amount DOEE receives could differ from

the budget, and 3) which federal funding sources come with restrictions that constrain how DOEE can use the funds. In particular, Children’s Law Center encourages the Council to closely monitor the status of the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD LHRD grant) and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) federal funding, both of which fund valuable assistance for low-income families through DOEE’s Utility Affordability Administration (UAA) and develop a plan of action if DOEE does not receive anticipated amounts.

First, the UAA’s Residential Services Division “helps residents make their homes safer by . . . address[ing] lead hazards” including through the Lead Reduction Program, which provides financial and technical assistance to low-income households with children under six years old to remediate lead-based paint hazards.<sup>22</sup> It is Children’s Law Center’s understanding that since FY24, the Residential Services Division has relied almost exclusively on federal funding from HUD for the Lead Reduction Program.<sup>23</sup> Therefore, we were very happy to learn that DOEE was awarded a new \$6.5 million HUD LHRD grant in 2024 to be distributed to DOEE across four fiscal years beginning in FY25.<sup>24</sup> Thankfully, DOEE anticipates receiving a distribution of \$1,171,000 of its HUD LHRD grant before the start of FY26 and has a waiting list of eligible households it plans to assist with these funds.<sup>25</sup> We urge the Committee to track the progress of this distribution because, as DOEE intends to use the \$490,000 of local funding in the

Residential Service Division's budget for the Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program (LPRAP), the HUD LHRD grant is the District's only resource dedicated to the important work of helping low-income families remediate lead-based paint hazards in their homes throughout FY26.<sup>26</sup>

Second, the UAA's Utility Assistance Division operates direct subsidy programs to assist low-income families with their energy bills, including as the administrator of the LIHEAP funds that DC receives from the federal government.<sup>27</sup> There is a deep level of need for utility assistance among low-income families in DC. Children's Law Center regularly works with families struggling to make ends meet who are behind on utility bills and utility assistance has consistently been one of the most common primary reasons for calls to the District's Warm Line since its launch in the fall of 2023.<sup>28</sup> LIHEAP, which provides financial assistance for heating and cooling energy costs to thousands of District households each year, is a critical resource for families like our clients.<sup>29</sup> LIHEAP assistance means families do not have to choose between paying for health care and food or their utility bills, and it means they are able to keep using their refrigerator for food safety and their heat and AC to maintain safe temperatures in their home. The FY26 proposed budget recently released by the White House included the complete elimination of LIHEAP.<sup>30</sup> While we are hopeful the FY26 budget eventually passed by Congress will restore the program, it will likely be funded at a lower level than previous years. Children's Law Center is deeply concerned about the energy insecurity low-



income DC families will face next year if DOEE does not receive planned levels of LIHEAP funding —the Mayor’s FY26 proposed budget currently includes an estimated \$12 million in LIHEAP funds from the federal government.<sup>31</sup> We urge the Committee to maintain close communication with the UAA and work on a plan for how DOEE will provide utility assistance to DC families if the District does not receive the same levels of LIHEAP funding it has in previous years.

### **Children’s Law Center Supports the Committee’s Goal to Restore Funding Diverted from the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund**

Over the past two years, Children’s Law Center has been working in partnership with the National Housing Trust to launch the DC Healthy, Green and Affordable Housing Program (HGA Housing Program).<sup>32</sup> The goal of the HGA Housing Program is to provide technical and financial assistance to help owners of affordable, multi-family properties in DC implement healthy, energy-efficient, and climate resilient upgrades of their buildings. There are currently six properties enrolled in the program with over 800 units. Through the HGA Housing Program, the property owners are planning whole-building retrofits that would shift the properties to electric appliances, make them more energy efficient, and improve their indoor air quality —all of which would help the hundreds of low-income families living in these properties breathe healthier air, reducing childhood asthma triggers, and save money on utility bills.<sup>33</sup> The planned retrofits would also help preserve these properties as much-needed affordable housing in DC for years to come.<sup>34</sup>

The properties in the HGA Housing Program are prime candidates for the enhanced electrification and energy efficiency assistance provided by the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU), in partnership with DOEE. In fact, several of the properties are depending on support from DCSEU programs like the Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator (AHRA) and Affordable Housing Electrification Program (AHEP) to complete their retrofit projects.<sup>35</sup> Therefore, Children’s Law Center was deeply disappointed to see that the Mayor’s proposed budget takes over \$70 million from the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund (SETF) in FY26 —and over \$80 million each year in FY27 through FY29— and diverts it to pay for the District government’s energy bills instead of DCSEU programs like AHRA and AHEP.<sup>36</sup> If the diverted SETF funds are not replaced, DOEE and DCSEU will have to make substantial cuts to the number of low-income households and affordable housing properties they are able assist with electrification and energy efficiency improvements.

Additionally, DOEE and DCSEU have designed programs like AHRA and AHEP to braid local funds from the SETF with the influx of money DOEE has received in from federal grants in recent years to maximize the impact of both.<sup>37</sup> For example, DOEE received nearly \$30 million from the Inflation Reduction Act’s (IRA) to administer Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates, which will provide financial assistance for electrification and energy efficiency improvements in low-income households.<sup>38</sup> However, the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate funding comes with

restrictions, including a per household rebate cap of \$14,000, which is not enough to completely electrify a residential unit.<sup>39</sup> By combining these federally-funded rebates with local SETF dollars, DOEE is able to electrify more homes at lower costs to District property owners and residents. Without complementary local funds, DOEE will have a harder time utilizing federal funds it has already received.

If the Mayor's proposed changes to SETF funding for FY26 through FY29 are implemented, fewer DC families will receive the benefits of healthier conditions in their home and lower energy bills, and DOEE's contributions to the preservation of affordable housing across the District will stall. Therefore, Children's Law Center is grateful to you, Chairperson Allen, for once again being a champion for the work DCSEU is able to do with funds from SETF and raising the alarm on this important budget issue.<sup>40</sup> We appreciate that the Committee is working on plans to restore as much of the funding cut from the SETF as possible and support these efforts.

## **Conclusion**

Children's Law Center commends DOEE, and its staff for their efforts in promoting healthy homes in the District. We hope the Committee will ensure that the agency has enough local funding to support this important work in FY26. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

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<sup>1</sup> Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, Place Matters: The Environment We Create Shapes the Foundations of Healthy Development, (2023), *available at*: <https://developingchild.harvard.edu>

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[/place-matters-the-environment-we-create-shapes-the-foundations-of-healthy-development/](#); Schmeer KK and Yoon AJ, *Home Sweet Home? Home Physical Environment and Inflammation in Children*, Soc Sci Res. 2016 Nov; 60:236-248. doi: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2016.04.001. Epub 2016 Apr 6. PMID: 27712682; PMCID: PMC5116303.

<sup>2</sup> National Institute of Health, Household Molds Linked to Childhood Asthma, (August 20, 2012), available at: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/household-molds-linked-childhood-asthma#:~:text=For%20a%2010%2Dpoint%20increase,Aspergillus%20unguis%20and%20Penicillium%20v%20ariabile>; Berkley Public Health, New research shows link between childhood exposure to mold and asthma, (April 7, 2021), available at: <https://publichealth.berkeley.edu/news-media/research-highlights/new-research-shows-link-between-childhood-exposure-to-mold-and-asthma>; Maria Godoy, *When landlords won't fix asthma triggers like mold, doctors call in the lawyers*, NPR, November 20, 2023, available at: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/11/20/1213555737/asthma-mold-housing-medical-legal-partnership>.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health, *Preventing Lead Exposure in Children*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/leadpoisoning/index.html#:~:text=windowsills%2C%20and%20wells.,Exposure%20to%20lead%20can%20seriously%20harm%20a%20child's%20health%2C%20including, and%20hearing%20and%20speech%20problems>; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Study finds link between childhood lead exposure and mental illness*, (2019), available at: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/childhood-lead-exposure-mental-illness/>; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Health Effects of Lead Exposure*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/health-effects.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Energy insecurity is generally defined as the “inability to adequately meet basic household energy needs” and measured by whether a household pays (or more accurately, struggles to pay) a disproportionate share of their income toward energy bills, cuts back on other necessities like food and medicine to pay their energy bill, or keeps their home at an unsafe temperature because of energy cost concerns. Diana Hernandez, *Understanding ‘Energy Insecurity’ and Why it Matters to Health*, Soc. Sci. Med., Vol. 167 (October 2016), available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953616304658?via%3Dihub>; see also *Households of Color Continue to Experience Energy Insecurity at Disproportionately Higher Rates*, Office of Energy Justice and Equity, US Department of Energy (July 6, 2023), <https://www.energy.gov/justice/articles/households-color-continue-experience-energy-insecurity-disproportionately-higher>.

<sup>5</sup> See *Unhealth Consequences: Energy Costs and Child Health*, Child Health Impact Working Group of Boston, Massachusetts (April 2007), <https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2018/07/childhiaofenergycostsandchildhealth.pdf>; *Energy Insecurity is a Major Threat to Child Health*, Children’s HealthWatch (February 2010), <https://childrenshealthwatch.org/energy-insecurity-is-a-major-threat-to-child-health/>.

<sup>6</sup> Children’s Law Center’s innovative medical legal partnership, Healthy Together, places attorneys at primary care pediatric clinics throughout the city with Children’s National, Unity Health Care, and Mary’s Center to receive referrals from pediatric providers for assistance with non-medical barriers to a child’s health and well-being. See Children’s Law Center, available at: <https://childrenslawcenter.org/ourimpact/health/>.

<sup>7</sup> D.C. Law 20-135. Air Quality Amendment Act of 2013. See also FY2022 DOEE Performance Oversight Responses, response to Q53, available at: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/299>; Department of Energy and Environment, *Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention – Identifying and Managing Lead Exposures*, available at: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/childhood-lead-poisoning-prevention-identifying-managing-lead-exposures>.

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<sup>8</sup> The Utility Assistance Division within DOEE's Utility Affordability Administration "provides direct financial assistance and discounts to low-income residents to help off-set their utility bills." Department of Energy and Environment, Utility Affordability Administration, <https://doee.dc.gov/service/utility-affordability-administration>.

<sup>9</sup> DOEE's Energy Administration multi-family residential property developers and owners with "energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, products and services." Department of Energy and Environment, Energy Administration, <https://doee.dc.gov/page/energy-administration>. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Branch in the Residential Services Division of DOEE's Utility Affordability Administration "helps residents reduce their energy consumption by providing technical and financial assistance to help identify and install audit-recommended energy efficiency measures." Department of Energy and Environment, Utility Affordability Administration, <https://doee.dc.gov/service/utility-affordability-administration>.

<sup>10</sup> Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE), Environmental Services Administration, *available at*: <https://doee.dc.gov/page/environmental-services-administration>.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*; Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE), Lead in the District, *available at*: <https://doee.dc.gov/lead>.

<sup>12</sup> Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Financial Plan, Volume 4, Agency Budget Chapters – Part 3, Operations and Infrastructure, Table KG0-4, p. F-19, *available at*: <https://cfo.dc.gov/page/annual-operating-budget-and-capital-plan> [Hereinafter Proposed FY26 DOEE Budget].

<sup>13</sup> Lead Poisoning Elimination and Healthy Homes Advisory Committee, Meeting held on June 12, 2025, notes on file with Children's Law Center.

<sup>14</sup> Private mold inspections in DC typically cost around \$650. *Mold Inspection Costs in Washington DC, Restoration*, (February 23, 2023), *available at*: <https://restoration1.com/washington-dc/blog/mold-inspection-costs-in-washington-dc-2/#:~:text=Forbes%20estimates%20the%20average%20mold,demolitions%20and%20construction%20debris%20removal>.

<sup>15</sup> In FY24, when it had five filled inspector positions for most of the year, DOEE conducted 459 mold inspections, which was a significant increase over FY23 when it was understaffed and conducted 173 mold inspections. *Compare 2025 DOEE Performance Oversight Responses*, response to Q53(d), *available at*: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/669> with 2024 DOEE Performance Oversight Responses, responses to Q53 and Q54(d), *available at*: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/299>. Further, Children's Law Center believes the Chief Financial Officer's recent estimate that the District should have the capacity to respond to 3,000 mold complaints per year – included in the FIS prepared for the RHESAA– is a reflection of the actual need. Fiscal Impact Statement – Residential Housing Environmental Safety Amendment Act of 2020, District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer (November 9, 2020), [https://lims.dccouncil.gov/downloads/LIMS/41819/Committee\\_Report/B23-0132-Committee\\_Report2.pdf?Id=113438](https://lims.dccouncil.gov/downloads/LIMS/41819/Committee_Report/B23-0132-Committee_Report2.pdf?Id=113438). DOEE would need far more mold inspectors to conduct that number of mold inspections per year.

<sup>16</sup> *See DC Health Launches Environmental Health Administration to Strengthen Public Health and Safety*, DC Health (October 24, 2024), <https://dchealth.dc.gov/release/dc-health-launches-environmental-health-administration-strengthen-public-health-and-safety>; Environmental Health Administration, DC Health, <https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/environmental-health-administration>.

<sup>17</sup> Proposed FY26 DOEE Budget, *supra* note 12, p. F-25 (see "Transfer-Out").

<sup>18</sup> Makenna Osborn, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment, (February 29, 2024), *available at*: <https://childrenslawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-DOEE-Performance-Oversight-Hearing-Childrens-Law-Center-Written-Testimony-03.07.2024.pdf>; Makenna Osborn, Testimony Before the District of Columbia Council

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Committee on Transportation and the Environment, (February 21, 2025), on file with Children’s Law Center.

<sup>19</sup> Proposed FY26 DOEE Budget, *supra* note 12, p. F-25 (see “Transfer-Out”).

<sup>20</sup> While the tables in the Agency Chapter for the proposed FY26 DOEE budget does not clearly show a cut to the LSHHD’s budget between FY25 and FY26, DOEE’s operating tables do. See Mayor’s Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the District of Columbia Government, Volume 6, Operating Appendices, Department of Energy and Environment: Schedule 30-CC, p. F-38, *available at*: <https://cfo.dc.gov/page/annual-operating-budget-and-capital-plan> (according to the table showing the approved budget by division, the LSHHD had an approved FY25 budget of \$7,337,000 and the proposed \$5,051,000 LSHDD budget is a decrease of \$2,286,000 (see line item 60068), which is over \$1 million more than the amount transferred to DC Health) [Hereinafter Proposed FY26 DOEE Operating Tables].

<sup>21</sup> Proposed FY26 DOEE Budget, *supra* note 12, Tables KG0-1 and KG0-2, p. F-15 and F-16 (the proposed budget includes a \$242,127,996 operating budget for DOEE, which includes \$141,339,000 from federal grant funds or 58% of the operating budget).

<sup>22</sup> *Utility Affordability Administration*, Department of Energy & Environment, <https://doee.dc.gov/service/utility-affordability-administration>.

<sup>23</sup> In previous communications with Children’s Law Center, DOEE staff indicated that the Residential Services Division had \$300,000 to \$400,000 in recurring local funding in years prior to FY24, which could be used to supplement the HUD lead grant, but that the Division lost that funding in FY24 (it is unclear if that cut happened during the FY24 budget process or in a reprogramming or sweep) and has not had it replaced.

<sup>24</sup> See 2024 Awards for HUD’s Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control by State, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), FY 2024 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Awards, p. 1 (2024), <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PA/documents/Summary2024Awards.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> Proposed FY26 DOEE Operating Tables, *supra* note 20, Schedule 80, p. F-59 (line item 2001945 KG0.8200.HUD023.HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Award FY25).

<sup>26</sup> See Proposed FY26 DOEE Budget, *supra* note 12, p. F-19 (line item G03914). Based on Children’s Law Center’s communications with DOEE, we understand this \$490,000 is exclusively for LPRAP.

<sup>27</sup> *Utility Affordability Administration*, Department of Energy & Environment, <https://doee.dc.gov/service/utility-affordability-administration>; *Receive Assistance With Your Utility Bills (LIHEAP)*, Department of Energy & Environment, <https://doee.dc.gov/liheap>.

<sup>28</sup> CFSA Nov. 7, 2024 Pop-Up Briefing Slide, slide 7, on file with Children’s Law Center; 2025 CFSA Performance Oversight Responses, Response to Q135(a), *available at*: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/698>.

<sup>29</sup> See Office of Community Services (OCS) Programs: Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, <https://acf.gov/ocs/programs/liheap>.

<sup>30</sup> Lisa Desjardins, *46 Programs Trump Wants to Eliminate According to His Proposed Budget*, PBS News (June 5, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/46-programs-trump-wants-to-eliminate-according-to-his-proposed-budget>.

<sup>31</sup> Proposed FY26 DOEE Operating Tables, *supra* note 20, Schedule 80, p. F-59 (line item 2002536 KG0.LIEA26.LIHEAP26).

<sup>32</sup> DC Healthy, Green and Affordable Housing Program, National Housing Trust (NHT), 2023, [https://nationalhousingtrust.org/sites/default/files/documents/nht-healthy-green-affordable-factsheet-po-8.23.23\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://nationalhousingtrust.org/sites/default/files/documents/nht-healthy-green-affordable-factsheet-po-8.23.23_0_0.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> *Id.* For information on how gas appliances and other sources of poor indoor air quality impact childhood asthma, see Karl Holden et al., *The Impact of Poor Housing and Indoor Air Quality on*

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Respiratory Health in Children, *Breathe*, Vol. 19(2), 2023, available at: <https://publications.ersnet.org/content/breathe/19/2/230058>; Talor Gruenwald et al., *Population Attributable Fraction of Gas Stoves and Childhood Asthma in the United States*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, Vol. 20(1), 2023, available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/1/75>; Yannai Kashtan et al., Nitrogen Dioxide Exposure, Health Outcomes, and Associated Demographic Disparities Due to Gas and Propane Combustion by U.S. Stoves, *Science Advances*, Vol. 10(18), May 2024, available at: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adm8680>. For information on how whole-building energy retrofits save tenants money on utility costs, see Nicholas W. Taylor et al., Cost Savings from Energy Retrofits in Multifamily Buildings, MacArthur Foundation: How Housing Matters, [https://www.macfound.org/media/files/hhm\\_brief\\_-\\_cost\\_savings\\_from\\_energy\\_retrofits\\_in\\_multifamily\\_buildings.pdf](https://www.macfound.org/media/files/hhm_brief_-_cost_savings_from_energy_retrofits_in_multifamily_buildings.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> See *Retrofitting as Pathway to Affordable Housing*, U.S. Department of Energy, February 22, 2018, <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/articles/retrofitting-pathway-affordable-housing>; *Energy Efficiency Upgrades Can Help Multifamily Housing Remain Affordable*, Urban Institute, January 30, 2019, <https://housingmatters.urban.org/research-summary/energy-efficiency-upgrades-can-help-multifamily-housing-remain-affordable>; Julia Glickman, Housing Preservation Practices that Benefit People and the Environment, National League of Cities (NLC), January 23, 2025, <https://www.nlc.org/article/2025/01/23/housing-preservation-practices-that-benefit-people-and-the-environment/>.

<sup>35</sup> Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator, District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility, <https://www.dcseu.com/affordable-housing-retrofit-accelerator>; Affordable Home Electrification, District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility, <https://www.dcseu.com/affordable-home-electrification>.

<sup>36</sup> Introduced version of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Support Act of 2025, B26-0265, Title VI: Subtitle C, lines 4590-4597, available at: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Legislation/B26-0265>.

<sup>37</sup> See Federal Dollars at Work in the District, Department of Energy and Environment, <https://doee.dc.gov/service/federal-dollars-work-district>.

<sup>38</sup> *Id.* at “Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding for energy and environmental projects” table.

<sup>39</sup> See Home Energy Rebates Frequently Asked Questions for Consumers, US Office of State and Community Energy Programs, <https://www.energy.gov/scep/home-energy-rebates-frequently-asked-questions-consumers>; District of Columbia Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment, Report and Recommendations [of the Committee] on the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for Agencies Under Its Purview (April 27, 2023), p. 105, [https://lims.dccouncil.gov/downloads/LIMS/52615/Committee\\_Report/B25-0203-Committee\\_Report9.pdf?Id=177082](https://lims.dccouncil.gov/downloads/LIMS/52615/Committee_Report/B25-0203-Committee_Report9.pdf?Id=177082) (“By the Committee’s estimates, having spoken with experts, a true retrofit of a home costs closer to \$30,000. As such the Committee intends to fill the gap with local funding in the SETF.”).

<sup>40</sup> Charles Allen, Statement from Councilmember Allen on Clean Energy Cuts in Mayor’s Proposed FY26 Budget, May 27, 2025, [https://www.charlesallenward6.com/statement\\_clean\\_energy\\_cuts\\_proposed\\_fy26\\_budget](https://www.charlesallenward6.com/statement_clean_energy_cuts_proposed_fy26_budget); Charles Allen, Ward 6 Update 4-26-2024, at “Kicking the Can: Proposed Budget Defunds Clean Energy and Environment Investments” (posted on April 26, 2024), [https://www.charlesallenward6.com/ward\\_6\\_update\\_4\\_26\\_2024](https://www.charlesallenward6.com/ward_6_update_4_26_2024).