FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform

Executive Summary

FBC initially sent out our FY21 Budget Recommendations in February 2020, however much has changed about the world since then, including Mayor Bowser’s release of her budget proposal. This document reflects additional funding demands and cuts that DC Council can address to pass a fair FY21 budget.

Housing Security

Making critical, life-saving repairs & maintenance to public housing demands an additional $35M investment from the Council.

To meet the goal of ending chronic homelessness, we will need an additional $75M to:
- provide Permanent Supportive Housing for 248 families and 1404 for individuals;
- extend Targeted Affordable Housing for 712 families;
- granted 500 Tenant Vouchers for families and individuals.

To meet the goal of creating 12,000 units of deeply affordable housing within 5 years the Council must invest an additional $154M in deeply affordable housing (0-30% AMI):
- $130M dedicated to the Housing Production Trust Fund for 0-30% AMI, with 300 units specifically dedicated to returning citizens.
- $24M for the creation of those units through LSRP sponsors.

To prevent evictions we recommend $12M for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

To increase services, Homeless Street Outreach needs $2.1M.

Project Reconnect requires an investment of $1.75M to provide rapid housing and services to residents experiencing homelessness.


Cancel Rent.

Housing Security (Continued)

To support returning citizens find housing we need $1.8M for 1 year to create a 3 yr pilot program to provide housing + services to 50 individuals.

Move people out of congregate shelters and into private rooms immediately and move people from hotels into permanent housing.

Healthcare

Healthcare Alliance Recertification improvement requires a $35M investment to remove barriers for undocumented and other excluded residents.

The Healthy Steps Program needs an additional $300K investment to expand services in Ward 7 and Ward 8.

To meet the needs of DC students, the Council will need to invest an additional $12M in school-based behavioral & mental health services for students.

The Healthy Futures program needs an additional $500K to expand critical development for up to 60 different new childcare campuses.

To restore cuts made in the FY21 budget proposal, the Department of Behavioral Health Community-Based Provider Network Services will need $4.4M local and $5M Medicaid local.

Food Access, Equality and Justice

Creating small business loans for grocers in Wards 7 and 8 requires an investment of $11M over the span of 3 years into the D.C Good Food Investment Fund.

Increasing access to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) requires a $250K investment.
FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform
Executive Summary (Continued)

FBC initially set out our FY21 Budget Recommendations in February 2020, however much has changed about the world since then, including Mayor Bowser’s release of her budget proposal. This document reflects additional funding demands and cuts that DC Council can address to pass a fair FY21 budget.

Community Safety

To support survivors in DC, we must invest:
- $3M for a domestic violence crisis shelter.
- $2M for domestic violence legal services and culturally specific domestic violence services.

To expand the Investigative Authority of the Office of Police Complaints (OPC), DC needs to invest $132K.

We recommend a $600K investment to create an independent ombudsperson for CFSA.

Restoring critical cuts made to the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) will require an investment of $1.2M.

Return $3.8M in funding cuts to the Office of the Attorney General to Cure the Streets.

To begin the work of defunding MPD we call for immediate removal of police from schools and cuts to MPD’s budget including the proposed increase:
- $18M from MPD to halt any proposed increase to the budget;
- $50M to prevent MPD from filling any MPD vacancies;
- $11M to eliminate School Resource Officers from DC Schools.

- Redirect $23M from Education that is an interagency transfer to MPD for School Resource Officers.

Total Cuts: $79M in cuts from MPD, $23M to be redirected from SROs to other.

Economic Justice

We recommend a $1.5M investment to create an independent ombudsperson for the Department of Human Services.

To support the District’s excluded workers the Council will need to add $30M in cash assistance.

Funding the protections laid out in the Tipped Wage Workers Fairness Amendment Act of 2018 will require the following investments:
- $535K for Department of Employment Services;
- $700K for the Office of Human Rights.

Assist childcare providers meet COVID-19 health regulations by allocating at a minimum of a $10M enhancement.

To create a system for attaining vending licenses that reflects racial, gender, language and income equity is to invest 300K to the Equitable Vendors License.

Fair Taxes and Public Deals

Make wealthy residents pay their fair share of Income Taxes: estimated $186M in revenue

Repeal the Qualified High Technology Company Tax (QHTC) Incentive: estimated $24M in savings

Use more of DC’s "Rainy Day" fund & Make full use of Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds

Reject corporate “Deferred Tax” Deductions: estimated $7.4M in savings

Fully eliminate tax breaks for investments in Opportunity Zones

Fully eliminate the Qualified Supermarket Tax Incentive: estimated average annual savings of $4.1M

Require gig employers pay their fair share of taxes by prohibiting misclassification

Cut non-essential project funding like the streetcar: at least $130M
## FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform
### Housing Security

#### FBC's Recommendation

Making critical, life-saving repairs & maintenance to public housing demands a $60M recurring annual investment from the Council.

To meet the goal of ending homelessness, we recommend $80M to:
- provide Permanent Supportive Housing to 302 families and 1500 for individuals.
- provide Targeted Affordable Housing to 712 families.
- granted 500 Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) Tenant Vouchers to families and individuals.

We recommend that the city invests $204M in deeply affordable housing (0-30% AMI):
- $180M dedicated to the Housing Production Trust Fund for 0-30% AMI, with 300 units specifically dedicated to returning citizens;
- $24M for the operating costs of those units through Project/Sponsored Based LRSP.

We recommend $12M for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. This is the only program in DC that prevents evictions.

To maintain flat funding, Homeless Street Outreach needs $2.1M.

Project Reconnect requires an investment of $2.95M to provide rapid housing and services to residents experiencing homelessness.

#### Mayor's Investment

Mayor Bowser invested $25M for the FY 2021 budget for the repairs and maintenance of public housing units.

To end homelessness, Mayor Bowser dedicated $5M for Permanent Supportive Housing for 54 families & 96 for individuals.
- Mayor Bowser put $0 into Targeted Affordable Housing.
- Mayor Bowser put $0 for Tenant Vouchers for families and individuals.

Mayor Bowser invested $50M into the Housing Production Trust Fund for deeply affordable housing (0-30% AMI).
- Mayor Bowser put $0 into Project/Sponsored Based LRSP for the creation of the housing.

Mayor Bowser did not increase funding from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Mayor Bowser cut Homeless Street Outreach by $2.1M.

Mayor Bowser cut the Project Reconnect program by $1.25M.

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**Quotes from Members**

"Affirmatively prevent harm to Black communities, not just mourn harm after it occurs. Thousands of Black residents have been displaced over the years. Almost 9 out of 10 people experiencing homelessness are Black. 308 people who are homeless have contracted COVID-19. 18 have died. This is a path paved by deliberate political decisions." *Amber Harding, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless*

"While our city continues to get rid of much needed public housing, the ERAP program is the common citizens' (myself,) last line of defense towards not becoming homeless and or displaced. Now with the uncertainty that the COVID 19 pandemic has brought to our lives, the ERAP program is going to be needed not only by older people like me on a fixed income with health problems. But people who never thought that they would need this program are going to need ERAP." *Leonard Edwards, FBC Constituent Leadership Program*
Create a New Re-Entry Housing Program for Returning Citizens

In the last 2 months, 700+ returning citizens have been released and returned to the DC community (DC residents incarcerated in DC & all over the country). 38% have identified as experiencing homelessness. Recent emergency legislation has created good policies in allowing more people to be released, but the current budget makes no provision to support these individuals.

Ask: **$1.8M for 1 year** to create a 3yr pilot program to provide housing + services to 50 individuals through OVSJG by funding at least the 1st year of the pilot. This ask is supporting the ask of many DC defense/justice-involved/reentry organizations and has been discussed with Council for months now.

Move People Experiencing Homelessness to Private Rooms

As of June 10th, 2020, over 300 District residents living in shelters and on the street have tested positive for the coronavirus and 17 have died. This is unacceptable. The current living conditions of congregate shelters or encampments do not allow for residents to protect themselves from contracting the coronavirus. The DC Council needs to move with urgency to prevent further transmission of the virus to people experiencing homelessness.

Ask: Move people out of congregate shelters and into private rooms until pandemic is over/vaccine is widely available and move people from hotels into permanent housing. If that has a fiscal impact beyond federal money, ensure that local funds are available.

Cancel Rent

We are in support of the #CancelRent campaign. We know that there are Black and brown residents who aren't obtaining unemployment, yet will be evicted at the end of the pandemic. DC officials need to redevelop a rental assistance program that is broader than the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to enable rent cancellation.

Ask: To create a new rental assistance fund that serves a broader group of tenants than ERAP.

Pass Tenant Bills

- **The Fair Tenant Screening Act:** protects housing applications from denial of housing based on old or irrelevant credit and rental history as well as strengthens the protections against voucher discrimination.
- **The Eviction Record Sealing Authority Amendment Act:** directs the court to seal eviction records that are either 2 years old or meet other criteria, like circumstances where the judgment favors the tenant.
- **Lead Hazard Prevention and Elimination Act of 2019:** will help prevent lead exposure through stronger and more frequent testing for lead-based paint in rental units.

Quotes from Members:

"Though MPD's budget is already more than half a billion dollars, the mayor still decided to increase its operating budget by 3.3% and capital budget by 51.3%—unnecessary and tone-deaf investments that dismiss the reality of the underfunded needs of so many in DC, particularly during a pandemic."

*Brittany Ruffin, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless*

"Shockingly, the Mayor's FY21 budget proposes to fund ERAP at exactly the same levels as FY20. Even if its funding quadrupled, however, ERAP would not be the only tool we need to address the current crisis."

*Amy Gellatly, Bread for the City*
FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform

Healthcare

**FBC's Recommendation**

Healthcare Alliance Recertification Improvement requires a $35M investment to ensure undocumented and other excluded residents no longer have to reapply for healthcare in person every six months.

The Healthy Steps Program needs an additional $300K investment to expand services in Ward 7 and Ward 8.

- Allows DC to open an additional clinic in Ward 7 or Ward 8.

To meet the needs of DC students, the city will need to invest $16M in school-based behavioral & mental health services for students.

- Adding 60 specialists to 179 schools total from year 1-3.

The Healthy Futures program needs $1.5M to expand critical development for up to 60 different new childcare campuses.

**Mayor's Investment**

Mayor Bowser suspended the recertification requirement during the public health emergency but did not dedicate funding to the program for after the pandemic.

Mayor Bowser disinvested $300K from Healthy Steps, which scales back the production of new campuses 2:1.

Mayor Bowser disinvested $300K from Healthy Steps, which scales back the production of new campuses 2:1.

Mayor Bowser expanded school-based behavioral and mental health with over $4M in the FY 2021 budget, bringing the total from year 1-3 over $12 M.

Mayor Bowser transferred $1M from previous year funding to expand Healthy Futures.

Food Access, Equality, and Justice

To end the food deserts for residents in Wards 7 and 8, we recommend an investment of $11M over the span of 3 years into the D.C Good Food Investment Fund.

In order to expand the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), we recommend an increased investment of $250K.

Mayor Bowser did not invest the D.C. Good Food Investment Fund.

Mayor Bowser did not invest in the expansion of the WIC Outreach program.

Quotes from Members

"Through analysis of the Mayor's budget proposal, we found $286 K in cuts to the Healthy Food Programs. The Healthy Foods Programs include the Healthy Foods Retail Program, an initiative that supports farmers’ markets and cottage food vendors grow in the district. We had recommended that the Healthy Foods Retail Program create grants to fund grocery establishments in low-income areas, with a focus on Wards 7 and 8."

Melissa Jensen, DC Hunger Solutions
FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform

Additions to Healthcare Platform

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Fair Budget Coalition restructured the policy recommendation process to be able to accurately respond to the emerging needs of Black and brown communities in DC. These recommendations are a combination of policy suggestions and budgetary shifts needed to help communities impacted by poverty recover and grow.

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**Restore Cuts to the Department of Behavioral Health Community-Based Provider Network Services**

The drastic cuts to DBH’s community-based services must be restored. Even before this pandemic, 20% of Black D.C. residents already reported fair or poor mental health, compared to 4% of white residents, and that number has likely grown. Equity cannot simply be a buzz word. It must become an intentional process and outcome. And with DBH reporting that 75% of its mental health consumers and 87% of substance use disorder consumers are Black, a loss in services will be most harmful to Black DC residents.

Ask: $4.4M local and $5M Medicaid local

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**Additions to Community Safety Platform**

**Restore Cuts to the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE)**

We do not live in times where effective methods to safety should take the back burning for less impactful policies. The total amount of cuts from Mayor Bowser to the ONSE office equal to $1.2M. These cuts include Violence Intervention, Pathways, Leadership Academy, etc. We urge the council to restore all of the cuts made to the ONSE office in the FY 2021 budget.

Ask: $1.2M

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**Return Funding to the Office of Attorney General to Cure the Streets**

The cure the streets program is specifically designed to bring non-police yet proven methods to the streets of DC. This has helped youth return to a life dictated by crime and places them in a healing process to follow their ambitions away from the streets. Mayor Bowser made significant cuts to the Office of Attorney General thus hurting the Cure the Streets violence prevention program. The OAG had a reduction of $3.8M which supported the Cure the Streets violence prevention program.

Ask: $3.8M

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**Remove Police From Schools and Recapture MPD's Increase**

Aside from being a promotion for the "school to prison pipeline" police offices in DC schools take up a huge portion of the DC budget. As Black residents urge DC leaders to #DefundMPD, we support one of the first steps to remove all police officers, and armed security from DC schools and transfers those funds to cover the expansion of school-based mental health. Mayor Bowser has proposed an $18M increase to MPD which we firmly stand against, however, $2.2M of those funds were to put more officers in schools.

Ask: $79M from MPD, with $23M to be redirected from SROs to other Education needs
## FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform

### Community Safety

#### FBC's Recommendation

**To expand the Investigative Authority of the Office of Police Complaints (OPC), DC needs to invest $132K.**

- Allows OPC to initiate investigations into police misconduct even in cases where constituents have not filed a complaint.
- Allows process for investigations into anonymous complaints from constituents about police misconduct.
- Hire two additional investigators to handle the higher demand.

*Our recommendation emphasizes the expansion of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking prevention fund by $500K.*

**To provide residents with rapid response to their issues with Child Safety and Well-Being (CFSA), we recommend a $600 K investment to create an independent ombudsperson for CFSA.**

*To create protections for those who are experiencing and recovering from domestic violence the Council needs to make an investment of $5M.*

- $3M for a domestic violence crisis shelter.
- $2M for domestic violence legal services, culturally specific domestic violence services.

#### Mayor's Investment

- **Mayor Bowser did not invest any funds toward creating this independent office.**
- **Mayor Bowser did not invest to expand the Authority of the Office of Police Complaints.**
- **This recommendation was withdrawn by the policy writers in lieu of other unfunded Domestic Violence priorities.**

*Mayor Bowser addressed domestic violence funding through:*

- Disinvesting $2M from victim services

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**Quotes from Members:**

"The DC Victim Hotline has seen a 20% increase in calls related to intimate partner violence, and one culturally specific domestic violence organization has seen an 80% increase in calls from survivors asking for help."

_Dawn Dalton, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence_

"We are disappointed with the proposed decreases in CFSA’s FY2021 budget to the Grandparent Caregiver Program, as well as the whopping $3.5 million decrease in funding for Prevention Services, which would represent a 30% decrease from FY2020 funding, and would account for more than 50% of all CFSA FY2021 program reductions. We also note that the Grandparent Caregiver Program is already significantly underfunded."

_Marla Spindel, DC Kincare Alliance_

*Due to changes in the Mayor’s Budget, DCCADV made alterations to their original ask from $6.5M to $5M*
### FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform

#### Economic Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FBC's Recommendation</th>
<th>Mayor's Investment</th>
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<tr>
<td>After the Council overturned the vote of the residents and failed to fund wage protection systems for Black and brown workers, they committed to creating a Wage Bond and Restitution Fund. <strong>FBC recommends a dedication of $150K to start a Wage Theft Protection fund for DC employees.</strong></td>
<td>The recommendation has been withdrawn by the policy writers in lieu of other higher priority funding needs.</td>
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<td>* FBC recommends an investment of $650K to the Career Pathways Innovation Fund to increase capacity and job training for residents of the immigrant community and low skilled/ English for Speakers of Other Languages.</td>
<td>Mayor Bowser did not increase the Career Pathways Program by the recommended $650K however she did ensured there was an amount of $1.615M dedicated to keep the program sustainable.</td>
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<td>We recommend an independent Office of the Ombudsperson for the Department of Human Services to serve as oversight over DHS and handle constituent complaints. <strong>This would require a $1.5M investment from the Council.</strong></td>
<td>Mayor Bowser did not invest any funds toward creating this independent ombudsperson for the Department of Human Services.</td>
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<td>To ensure all DC children ages 0-3 have access to affordable early childcare development, we recommended an investment of $40M for Birth to Three for All.</td>
<td>Mayor Bowser made no cuts to the existing funding, however she did not invest any additional money toward ensuring child care facilities can reopen safely.</td>
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<td>The first step in creating a system for attaining vending licenses that reflects racial, gender, language and income equity is to <strong>invest 300K to the Equitable Vendors License</strong></td>
<td>This recommendation was withdrawn by policy creators to ensure excluded workers have access to cash assistance</td>
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#### Quotes from Members:

"COVID-19 has only exacerbated and exposed the continuing problems with DHS’s failures to properly serve all DC individuals, children, and families. Indeed, DHS requested and was granted a waiver to conduct TANF/SNAP applications by phone, but has failed to implement it, resulting in discrimination against old and disabled individuals who cannot apply during the COVID-19 public health emergency without such assistance."

**DC KinCare Alliance**

*The ask for an increase to the CPIF at $650K was withdrawn, we are excited to see Mayor Bowser fund the program and think the additional increase funding can go to other essential policies.*
FBC Updated FY21 Budget Platform

Additions to Economic Justice Platform

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Fair Budget Coalition restructured the policy recommendation process to be able to accurately respond to the emerging needs of Black and brown communities in DC. These recommendations are a combination of policy suggestions and budgetary shifts needed to help communities impacted by poverty recover and grow.

Create and Fund a Cash Assistance Program for Excluded Workers

DC is home to over 25,000 undocumented residents and thousands more who are locked out of unemployment benefits because they have been excluded from the formal economy - often because they are Black, transgender, immigrants, and/or leaving incarceration. DC must address this inequity by making cash assistance available to all of these individuals and families.

Ask: Add $30M in cash assistance to excluded workers; utilize, expand, and support the system developed for the Events DC funds.

Fund the Protections Laid Out in the Tipped Wage Workers Fairness Amendment Act of 2018

The DC Council created the Tipped Wage Workers Fairness Amendment Act of 2018 in the repeal of Initiative 77, a majority supported a ballot initiative to grant tipped work the same minimum wage as any other DC employee. This act was supposed to provide protections to tipped workers from abuse, wage theft, and other violations against workers. Yet the DC Council never fully funded the act, thus leaving thousands of workers without the needed protections.

Ask: $535K for the Department of Employment Services (DOES) and $700K for the Office of Human Rights (OHR) for one fiscal year.

Assist Childcare Providers Meet COVID-19 Health Regulations

Distance learning will end once parents and children are back in the work environment. This change will be gradual and will still need the help of the DC Council to stop the spread and keep DC children safe. Childcare facilities will need to implement new health regulations due to COVID-19. This means expanding space for social distancing, buying for cleaning supplies, medical health systems to check temperatures, and more.

Ask: Allocate at a minimum of a $10M enhancement to OSSE child care subsidy programs to ensure they can implement health/safety guidelines.

Quotes from Members:

“The FY21 budget should enhance the child care subsidy program operated by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education by at least $10 million to enable care settings to fully implement health and safety protocols that will require additional staffing in classrooms and as well as cleaning and security staff positions.”

Joanna Blotner, Jews United for Justice.

“A 2017 study commissioned by DOES estimates that over 39,000 DC workers are paid less than the minimum wage (at some point) per year. Tipped workers in the District are especially vulnerable to wage theft due to the complexity of monitoring and enforcing compliance within the two-tiered wage system. A 2010–2012 Department of Labor compliance sweep of 9,000 restaurants found 1,170 tip credit violations that led to the recovery of nearly $5.5 million in back wages.”

Sophia Miyoshi & Nikko Bilitza, ROC DC, DC Jobs with Justice
# FBC FY20-FY21 Members

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