Healthcare

There are significant health disparities between white DC residents and Black and other people of color. Poor access to quality mental and physical healthcare means that infant and maternal mortality, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and other chronic illnesses are more prevalent East of the River. These poor health outcomes can be linked generally to poverty, as housing, food and income can be lifesaving measures. However, we also need to explicitly address the mental and physical healthcare needs for our residents.

DC Healthcare Alliance
The DC Healthcare Alliance program provides health insurance for DC residents who are not eligible for Medicaid, the majority of whom are immigrants. Alliance beneficiaries have to re-enroll in the program every six months, and must complete an in-person interview. The District should reform eligibility requirements so that beneficiaries can recertify once a year to prevent people from dropping coverage reduce volume at service centers, and improve the health and health care access of Alliance beneficiaries.

$6-$17 Million to the Department of Health Care Finance and Department of Human Services

Early Intervention/Strong Start
The District should expand eligibility for DC Early Intervention Program (EIP)/Strong Start, which provides services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. Therapists go to the home and child care to teach families and caretakers how to enhance the child’s development during everyday routines. Currently, DC’s eligibility criteria remains restrictive compared to a majority of states.

$6-$17 Million to the Department of Health Care Finance and Department of Human Services

School Based Mental Health Services
The District should provide high intensity mental health services to students at approximately 72 more schools.

$5.7 Million to Office of the State Superintendent on Education, DC Public Schools, DC Public Charter Schools and Department of Behavioral Health

Maternal Mortality Review Committee
The District should establish a Maternal Mortality Review Committee to look into pregnancy-related deaths in DC, and make recommendations to prevent future deaths and improve maternal health, and examine racial disparities in maternal deaths in DC.

$80,000 to Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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