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THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET: A SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS TO HELP CLOSE THE GAP

The upcoming budget year includes a number of investments for residents most in need across the District. Below is a brief summary of investments DCFPI helped advocate for, often in conjunction with other nonprofits and/or coalitions, in the fiscal year 2015 budget, which begins on October 1, 2014. To read more about these investments, check back in to DCFPI's [budget toolkit](#) where we'll have updated analyses of the final budget in mid-July.

Improving DC's Tax System

- Expands the Earned Income Tax Credit for childless workers
- Reduces the tax rate on moderate incomes
- Raises the standard deduction
- Expands the sales tax to cover additional services
- Unifies the taxation of tobacco products
- Phases out the personal exemption for high-income households

Enhancing Education and Child Care

- New funds for 36,000 at-risk students (funds include summer school) (\$47 million for DC Public Schools and \$34 million for DC Public Charter Schools)
- Improves the quality and capacity of child care services for low-income families (\$9 million)
- Expands outreach and services for students who are homeless (\$200,000)
- Sustains the Community Schools program (\$1 million)
- Expands learning disability assessments and diagnoses for 200 adult learners (\$340,000)

Improving Assistance for Low-Income Families with Children

- Provides a time-limit and work exemption for families in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program with children ages 0-6 months (\$1.8 million)
- Increases TANF benefits by a cost of living adjustment (\$1.5 million)

Expanding Opportunity for DC's Workforce

- Includes a new career pathways coordinator for adult literacy and job training (\$175,000)

Improving Health Outcomes for DC Residents

- Expands the school-based mental health program to six additional schools (\$470,000)
- Sustains a Home Visiting Program for at-risk families with young children (\$2.5 million)
- Increases assessments to fund the DC Health Exchange (\$29 million)

Expanding Affordable Housing Opportunities and Assisting Those Who are Homeless

- Continues a rapid re-housing program for homeless individuals (\$1.5 million)
- Creates a coordinated entry system to help homeless individuals (\$250,000)
- Expands supports and services for youth who are homeless (\$1.3 million)
- Creates a new homelessness prevention program for families (\$2 million)
- Funds additional workers at the DC General shelter (\$600,000)
- Increases funding for DC's Housing Production Trust Fund (\$39 million in FY 2014)
- Increases rental assistance through the Local Rent Supplement Program to create affordable housing for over 550 households (\$7 million)
- Expands permanent supportive housing to help chronically homeless families (\$2.3 million) and to end chronic homelessness among veterans (\$4.7 million)