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)