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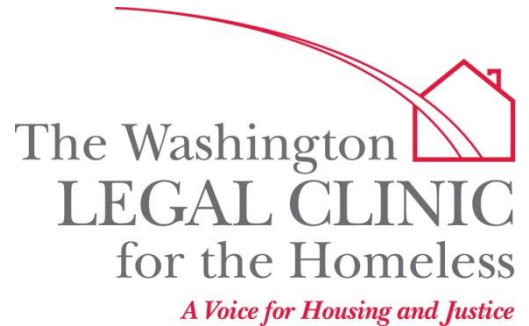
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**Testimony before the DC Council Committee on Housing and Community
Development
Budget Hearing on the DC Housing Authority
Presented by Akela Crawford
April 20, 2018**

Good morning Councilmember Bonds and members of the Housing and Community Development Committee. My name is Akela Crawford and I am a staff attorney at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. The Legal Clinic envisions – and since 1987 has worked towards – a just and inclusive community for all residents of the District of Columbia, where housing is a human right and where every individual and family has equal access to the resources they need to thrive. The Legal Clinic is a Member and on the Steering Committee of both the Fair Budget Coalition and the Way Home Campaign and fully supports all of the coalitions’ asks. To fund these asks, we support the efforts of Councilmembers Allen and Grosso to adjust the estate tax and close the carried interest loophole, respectively.

Prioritizing Households at 0-30% of AMI

Last month, Mayor Bowser held her State of the District Address where she discussed her administration’s accomplishments, goals and priorities. During her address, the Mayor highlighted that her administration has allocated \$1 billion to programs and efforts that will make living in the District affordable for “everyone.” However, less than a week later, she released her 2019 FY budget which made it very clear that “everyone” did not include households making 0-30% of AMI. In particular, the Mayor’s budget does not provide any project/sponsor based LRSP dollars to match the \$100 million allocation to the Housing Production Trust Fund-- this lack of operating funds means that the Trust Fund will almost certainly continue to fail to meet its statutory obligation to use 40% of the fund, \$40 million of this year’s allotment, to produce housing for households making 0-30% of AMI. The only operating dollars in the budget were allocated to New

Communities—a program that DCHA just contributed 200 Housing Choice Vouchers to, meaning 200 fewer households will come off the waitlist this year.

At what point will the District begin to make real investments in our lower income communities?? The same communities who are constantly fighting displacement fueled by politically connected profit driven developers who receive tax credits and public funding. The same public funding that should be provided directly to house District residents currently waiting on the 40,000-household waitlist for housing. The same communities who are forced to accept a housing program that sets them up to fail if they ever want to get out of shelter.

At this point, without strong leadership from this Committee and the full Council, it will continue to be evident that “everyone” does not include our lower income communities. We ask you to fill the funding gaps that Mayor Bowser chose to ignore despite her numerous promises and all of her rhetoric—to end chronic homelessness by 2017, to end family homelessness by 2018, to end all homelessness by 2020, to give everyone a “fair shot” and to make DC affordable for “everyone.”

Alternative Methods to Create Needed Public Housing

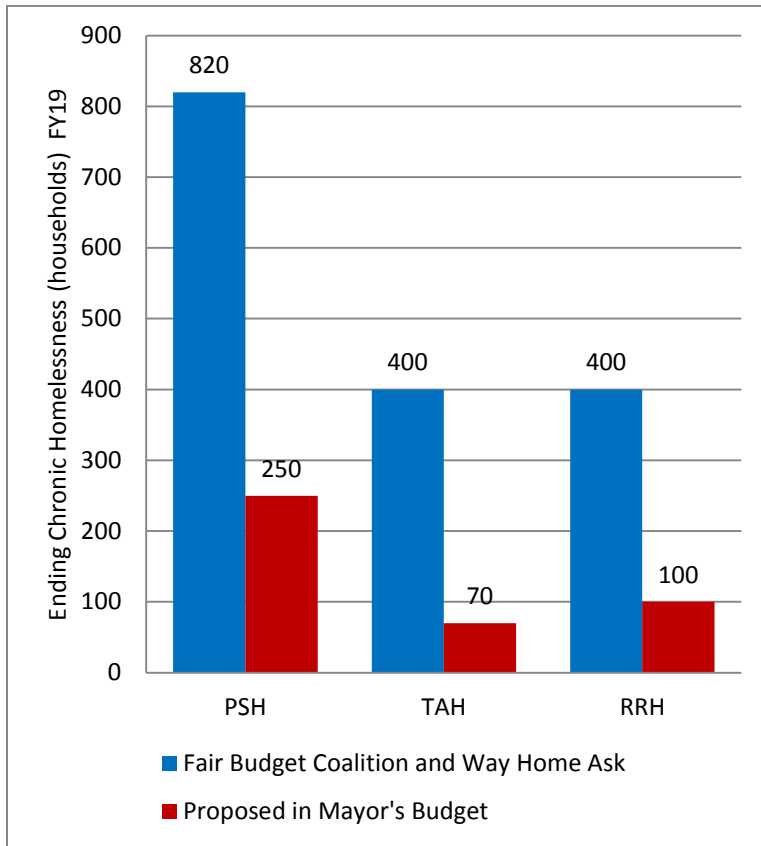
During her address, the Mayor further stated, “solving the affordable housing challenge will require more thinking outside the box and more working together as a community.” Unfortunately, there was no thinking outside the box with the 2019 FY budget. Nonetheless, this Committee has the ability to think outside the box and take a community approach to affordable housing investments. We urge you to work with DCHA to determine how much in local resources it needs to complement its federal funding: How much in capital funding is needed to re-develop DCHA properties like Greenleaf that are in great need of rehabilitation, but which are outside the New Communities funding stream? How much in capital funding is needed to allow DCHA to fully utilize its currently unutilized federal operating funding (ACC authority)? If the idea is to truly think outside the box and work together as a community, then we should be working on ways to maximize the quantity and quality of truly affordable housing for DC’s lowest income community members, NOT contributing to the enrichment of private developers and landlords.”

Ending Family and Chronic Homelessness

Here are the critical investments we need this year to get us back on a path of ending family and chronic homelessness and beginning to solve our affordable housing crisis:

End Chronic Homelessness¹

	Request	Mayor's Proposal	Gap for Council
PSH (units/cost)	820/\$19.6m	250/\$6m	570/\$13.6m
TAH (units/cost)	400/\$6.9m	70/\$1.3m	330/\$5.6m
RRH (slots/cost)	400/\$4.3m	100/\$1m	300/\$3.3m
TOTAL	1,620/\$32m	420/\$8.3m	1200/\$22.5m

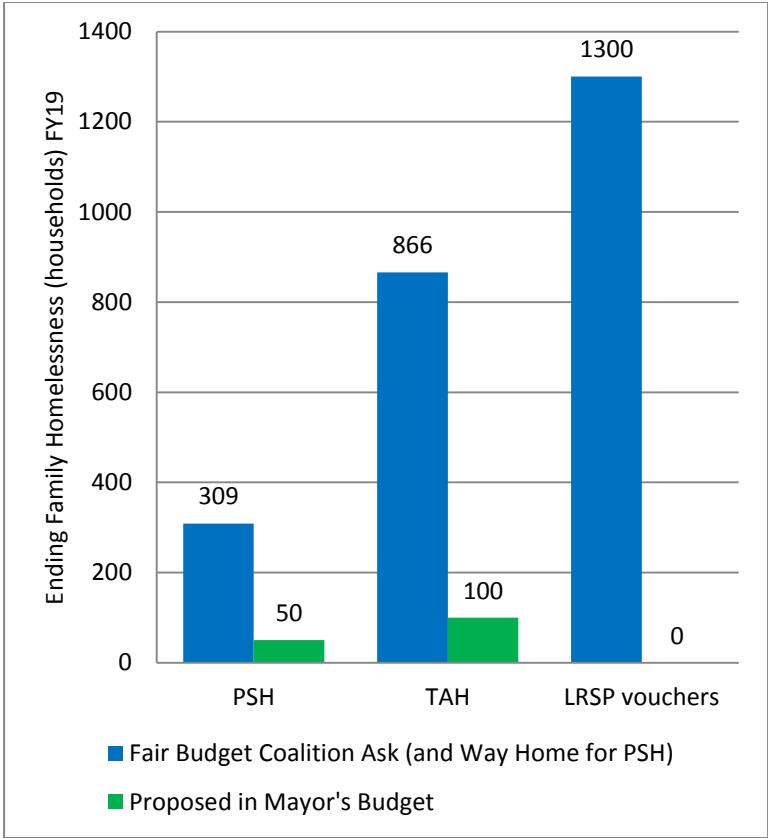


End Family Homelessness

	Request	Mayor's Proposal	Gap for Council
PSH (units/cost)	309/\$9.7m	50/\$1.6m	259/\$8.1m
TAH (units/cost)	866/\$17.72m	100/\$2m	766/\$15.72m
RRH (slots/cost)	0	(100/\$6.6m) ²	0
LRSP vouchers	1300/\$26m	0	1300/\$26m
TOTAL	1,195/\$27.42m	150/\$3.6m	925/\$23.82m

¹ The housing subsidy part of PSH and TAH are funded via DCHA. RRH is the only program where the housing subsidy is funded via DHS.

² This money is for both 100 new slots of RRH and increased costs of supporting existing capacity.



Thank you for allowing me to testify today.