



# FY2025 Budget Basics

DCFPI Budget Presentation for ANC 1D  
February 20, 2024  
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# Our vision

We envision a District of shared abundance and collective liberation where everyone has the nurture, sustenance, and safety every person inherently deserves. We strive for a future that roots out anti-Blackness, enables Black and brown residents to live to their fullest, ends displacement, and repairs centuries of racist harm built into our systems.

# Our mission

DC Fiscal Policy Institute shapes racially-just tax, budget, and policy decisions by centering Black and brown communities in our research and analysis, community partnerships, and advocacy efforts to advance an antiracist, equitable future.

# WHAT WE'LL COVER TODAY

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## DC Budget 101

- The DC Budget Cycle
- Where DC's Money Comes From
- How DC Spends Its Money
- FY 2025 Budget Pressures

## Engaging in the FY 2025 Budget Season

- Ideas for When and How to Engage
- Testimony FAQs
- Giving Good Testimony

## Useful Resources

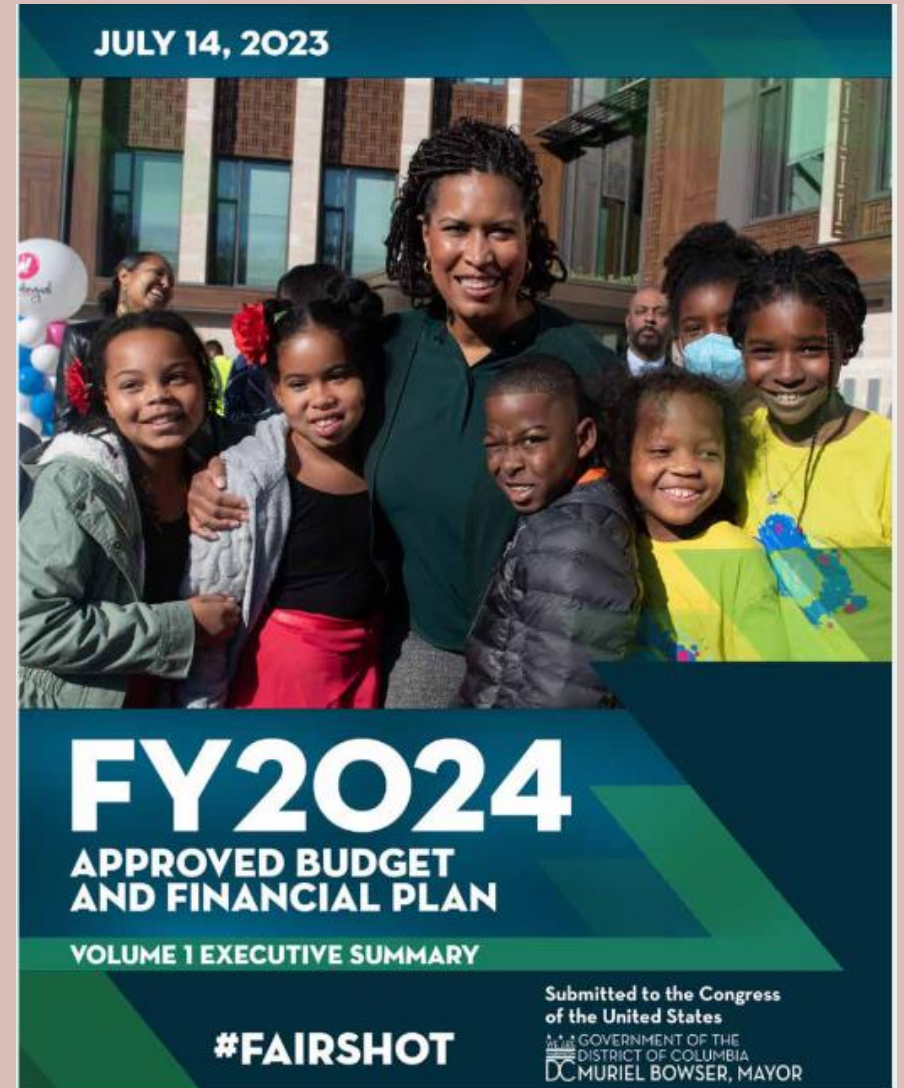
- An Array of Resources to Support Your Work
- Important FY 2025 Budget Dates



# DC Budget 101

*Remember...*

*A budget is a statement of values. How the District raises revenue and makes spending decisions matters – and you play a role!*



# DC BUDGET 101: THE BUDGET CYCLE

**JANUARY – FEBRUARY:** DC Council holds agency performance reviews.

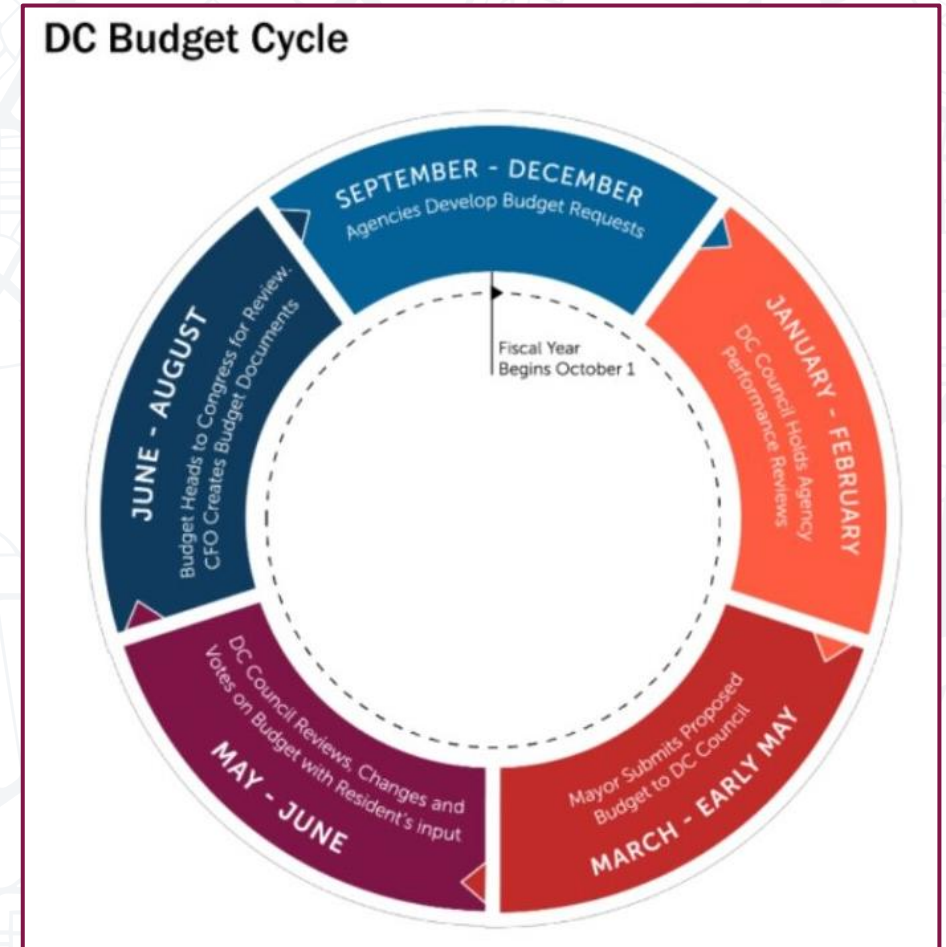
**MID-MARCH:** Mayor submits proposed budget to DC Council.

**LATE MARCH – MID APRIL:** \*DC Council holds budget oversight hearings.\*

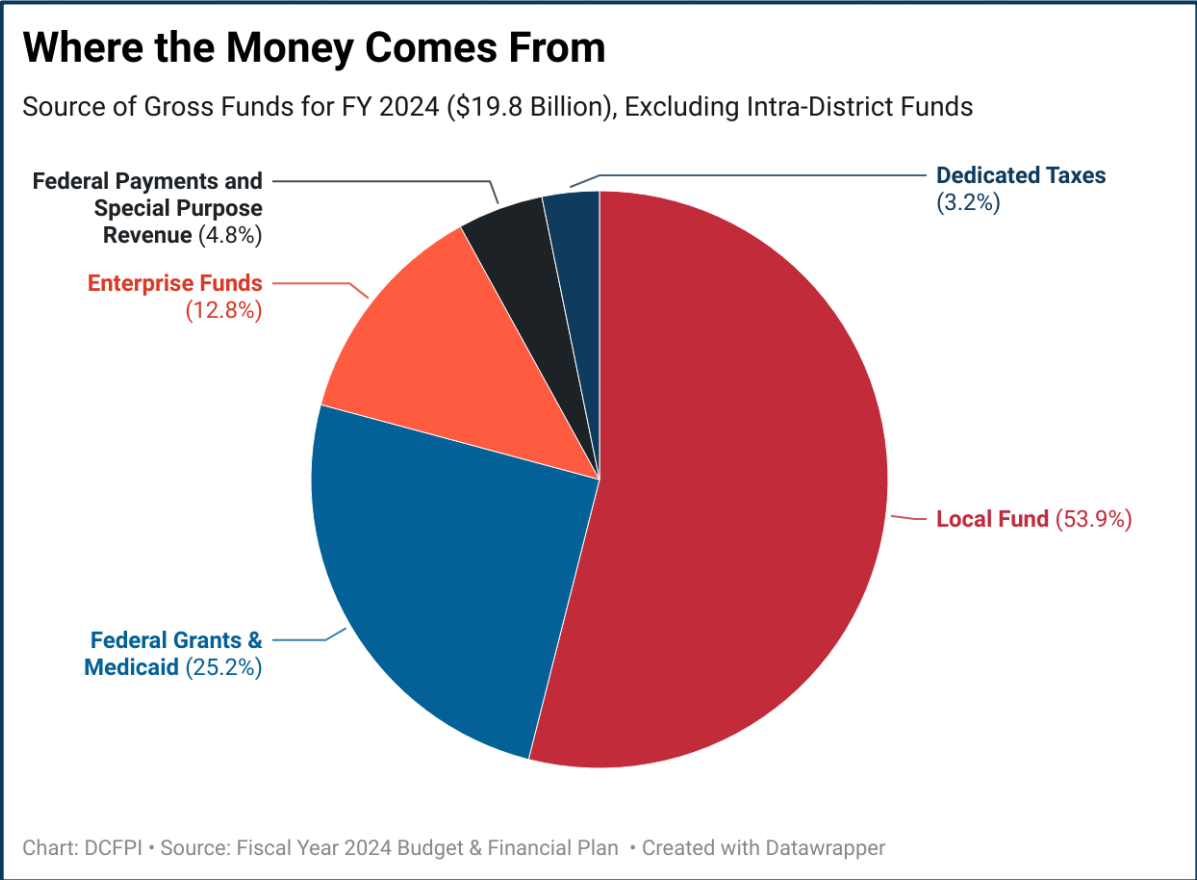
**MID APRIL – LATE MAY:** Council reviews, changes, and votes on the budget.

**JUNE – AUGUST:** Budget heads to Congress for review.

**SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER:** Agencies develop next fiscal year's budget requests.



# DC BUDGET 101: WHERE DC'S MONEY COMES FROM



The largest sources of DC's revenue are local taxes and federal funds.

The three largest sources of local fund revenue are property, individual income, and sales and use taxes.

Grants from the federal government account for about a quarter of DC's revenue.



# DC BUDGET 101: HOW DC SPENDS ITS MONEY

## Where the Money Goes

Gross Funds Expenditure Budget, by Appropriation Title for FY 2024

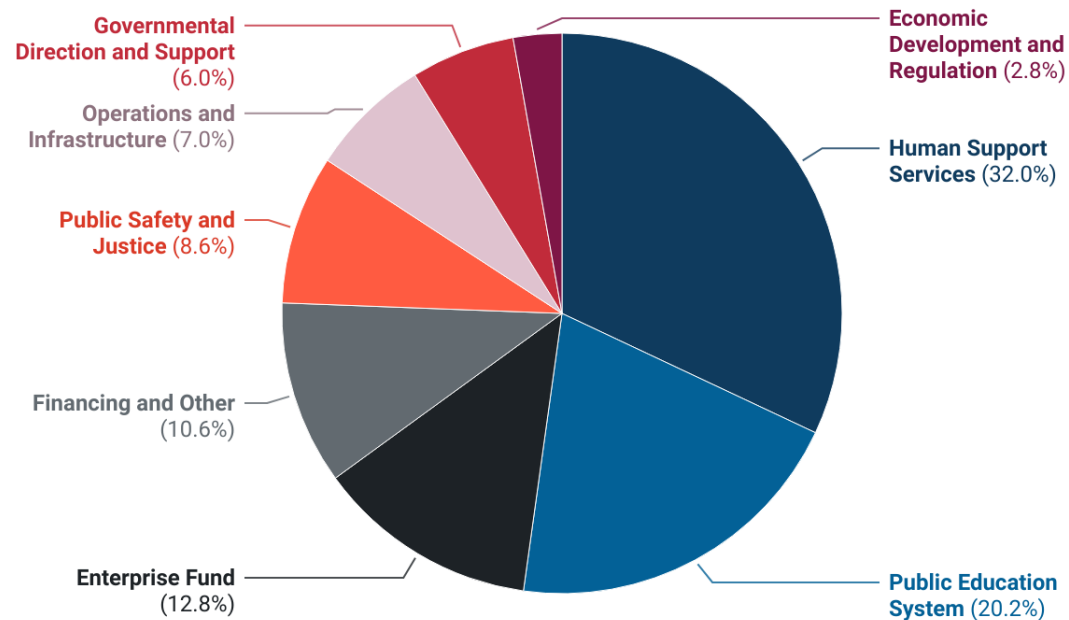


Chart: DCFPI • Source: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget & Financial Plan • Created with Datawrapper

Every service DC provides, from trash collection to child care subsidies, appears in the budget.

DC's operating budget allocates resources to run the city government day-to-day.

Like most states, the biggest share of the operating budget goes to human support services, or programs that keep residents safe and healthy. The next biggest share goes to early education and public education.



# DC BUDGET 101: FY 2025 BUDGET PRESSURES & NEED FOR EQUITABLE REVENUE RAISERS

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**Budget pressures are expected to outstrip revenue growth.**

The WMATA budget shortfall, expiring federal COVID-era relief funds, union contracts that must be renegotiated, and declining commercial property tax collections require us to think long-term about how to raise revenue equitably.

**The FY 2025 budget must address economic hardship with equitably raised revenue.**

Raising revenue will be necessary to meet the moment – we can't cut our way to shared prosperity. As budget pressures loom, lawmakers will need to find equitable funding sources to meet residents' urgent needs and address extreme inequality. (Think: taxing wealth, not expanding fines and fees).





# FY 2025 Budget Engagement

*Right now...*

*The Mayor is preparing her FY 2025 budget.  
Council is conducting Performance Oversight Hearings.  
Advocates are advocating!*



# FY 2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT: WHEN? HOW?

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**From now through March 1, 2024:** Committees are leading performance oversight hearings right now. This is a chance to let government officials know how they can do a better job on the issues you care about or let them know what's working. You can also watch testimonies to learn what agencies are doing or plan on doing.

**March 20, 2024:** The Mayor will release her proposed FY 2025 budget to the Council. Tune into her press conference to learn more.

**Late March through Mid-April 2024:** DC Council will hold FY 2025 budget oversight hearings – this is another chance to testify about how you'd like to see the District make investments.

**Mid-April to Late May 2024:** DC Council reviews, changes, and votes on the budget. This is a good time to tune into Council meetings, write or sign onto letters, meet with Council members or their staff, or join coalition actions.



# FY 2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT: TESTIMONY FAQs

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## WHEN DO I TESTIFY?

Opportunities to testify are right now (performance oversight hearings, which end March 1st) and in late March through mid-April (budget oversight hearings).

## WHAT COMMITTEE DO I TESTIFY IN FRONT OF?

That's up to you! The committee you testify in front of will depend on what you're testifying about. The Council has 11 different committees that cover different policy issue areas and public agencies. You can learn more here:

<https://dccouncil.gov/committees-for-council-period-25/>.

## HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO TESTIFY?

Representatives of an organization or ANC receive 5 minutes to testify. Other public witnesses (or ANC commissioners not officially designated as a representative of their Commission) receive 3 minutes.

## HOW DO I SIGN UP TO TESTIFY?

The DC Council has a new hearing management system! View upcoming hearings and register to testify here:

<https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings/>. Note: You can also just submit written testimony – you don't have to testify live.



# FY 2025 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT: TESTIMONY TIPS

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**Introduce yourself.** Let the Committee know who you are by sharing any important personal background information that's influencing your testimony. For example, if you're testifying about school funding, you may want to share that you're a parent with kids in DC Public Schools.

**Tell your story.** Why does the program or issue area you're testifying about matter to you? What's your involvement in this issue area? Remember, your experience matters.

**Offer your insights and suggestions about the hearing topic.** Share your recommendations or requests with the Committee. For example, do you want the Council to maintain existing investments in a program, or pull back money and reallocate it? Or, is there a new investment you'd like to see? Focus on solutions and actions that the Council can take to advance your cause, and why the Council's actions will benefit DC residents.





# Useful Resources

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*Continue your learning journey...*

*These resources will help you learn more about the DC budget, how to give testimony, and local coalitions leading budget-related advocacy.*

# USEFUL RESOURCES

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## BUDGET BASICS

- [A Resident's Guide to the DC Budget](#): Budget 101 resource updated annually by DCFPI.
- [How to Testify Effectively before the DC Council](#): Some testimony tips from DCFPI.
- This [website](#) is published by the Office of the Budget Director of the DC Council as a resource to the Council and the public on the budget. The [Budget Toolkit](#) is especially useful.

## TESTIMONY AND MESSAGING

- [How to Testify at a DC Council Hearing](#) includes general instructions for members of the public seeking to testify at DC Council hearings. (DC Action).
- [Vision, Values, and Voice: A Communications Toolkit](#) provides guidance for developing values-based messages that engage audiences and shape the public dialogue. A useful tool for crafting values-based testimony. (Opportunity Agenda).

## LOCAL COALITIONS DOING BUDGET ADVOCACY

- [Just Recovery DC](#)
- [Fair Budget Coalition](#)



# FY 2025 BUDGET: IMPORTANT DATES

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- Performance Oversight Hearings (now to 3/1)
- Revenue Forecast (end of Feb)
- Mayor's Supplemental and FY25 Budget Release (3/20)
- Budget Oversight Hearings (around 3/25-4/12)
- Committee of the Whole on Entire Budget (around 4/12)
- Committee Mark-ups (around 4/25-27)
- Council Work Session (around 5/3)
- First Council Vote, Local Budget Act (LBA) and Budget Support Act (BSA) (5/14)
- Second Council Vote, LBA (5/28)
- Second Council Vote, BSA (possibly 1<sup>st</sup> week of June)

