

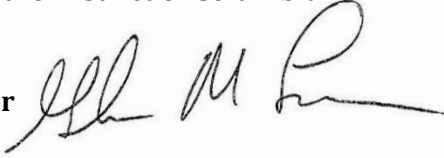
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: September 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement - Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act of 2023

REFERENCE: Bill 25-55, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 6, 2023

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The fiscal year 2024 non-departmental budget includes \$1.24 million and \$6.26 million over the financial plan in local funds to increase the District's subsidy to the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) in order to implement the bill.

Background

UDC plans to establish a Master of Social Work degree program to expand the number of advanced behavioral health and human services professionals practicing in the District. UDC will hire faculty and staff to begin course development and degree criteria in preparation for accreditation in fiscal year 2024 with a goal of enrolling up to 20 students for the spring 2025 semester.

The bill establishes a Behavioral Health and Human Services Scholarship Program (Program) at UDC to provide financial assistance to individuals who seek to obtain an accredited master's degree and become licensed in a behavioral health or human services occupation to work for the District government, a Local Education Agency (LEA), or a health care provider. UDC must use a portion of its annual subsidy payments from the District of Columbia to provide financial assistance to Program participants. The financial assistance must be used to offset the cost of tuition, books and supplies, living expenses, and professional licensing fees. UDC may also use a portion of its annual subsidy to market the Program, hire faculty and staff that to support the program, and purchase materials for courses.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 25-55, "Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act of 2023," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on September 6, 2023

To enroll in the Program, individuals must meet relevant requirements for the accredited master's degree program at UDC in which the individual enrolls and must be a resident of the District, a graduate of a District public school, or an employee of a District government agency or health care provider organization. In exchange for accepting Program financial assistance, participants must commit to working for a District government agency, LEA, or health care provider organization located in the District for a minimum of two years after receiving an accredited master's degree and earning the appropriate licensure or certification.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2024 through fiscal year 2027 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The fiscal year 2024 non-departmental budget includes \$1.24 million and \$6.26 million over the financial plan in local funds to provide subsidy payments to UDC to implement the bill.

The fiscal year 2024 funding will be used by UDC to recruit and hire one Director, two faculty members, and one staff member to develop curriculum and market the Program to District residents. Beginning in fiscal year 2025, subsidy funding in excess of what is needed to support staff will be used to provide financial support to students enrolled in the Program. The exact breakout of personnel expenses, marketing expenses, and financial support awards is unknown at this time, but the total cost is expected to be fall within the amount allocated in the fiscal year 2024 budget and financial plan.

Bill 25-55, Pathways to Behavioral Health Degrees Act of 2023					
Total Cost (\$ in thousands)					
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	Total
UDC subsidy	\$1,242	\$1,652	\$1,670	\$1,693	\$6,257