

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



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: November 2, 2010

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – “Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2010”

REFERENCE: Bill Number 18-1059, As Introduced

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend the Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2005¹ to clarify who may access homeless services in the District and the type of housing the Mayor is authorized to provide. Specifically, it would:

- Provide that an individual or family is eligible to receive homeless services within the Continuum of Care² if the individual or family is a “resident of the District,” as defined under the proposed legislation;
- Add two new provisions to the definition of “resident of the District”: not receiving locally-administered public assistance from a jurisdiction other than the District, and being able to demonstrate residency by one of the four detailed ways;
- Add a definition for “verifier”: a District resident or a provider who knows where an individual or family seeking severe weather shelter lives and who produces evidence of his or her own District residency;

¹ Effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01 *et seq.*).

² Continuum Care offers a comprehensive range of services through various member agencies and is designed to meet the specific, assessed needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

- Require that whenever the actual or forecasted temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or rises above 95 degrees Fahrenheit the District make available appropriate space in D.C. public or private buildings and facilities for any *resident of the District* who is homeless and cannot access other *housing arrangements* as opposed to current language that specifies any *person* in the District who is homeless and cannot access *other shelter*;
- Specify that in the situation described above, the requirement to be a resident of the District would not apply to low-barrier shelters or victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or human trafficking; and
- Authorize the Mayor to place homeless families in non-apartment-style severe weather shelters.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2011 through FY 2014 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The Department of Human Services could implement the proposed legislation without any additional resources.

It should be noted that given the current waitlist for homeless services, no cost savings could be certified in association with this bill at this time.