

**Housing Advocacy
Preparing for the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget**

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Talking Points

1. INTRODUCTION:

- Thank you Council members for the opportunity to testify.
 - My name is _____.
 - I am a resident living at _____.
- Or I am the _____ (President, VP, etc) of the _____ Tenants' or Cooperative Association representing the residents of my building located at _____.
- I am here today to talk about the _____ (Department Name)'s _____ (Program Name). [*Example: I am here today to talk about the Department of Housing and Community Development's tenant purchase program.*]

2. WHAT ISSUES BROUGHT YOU HERE:

Talk about why you are concerned about affordable housing and how it relates to you

- Me or my family member has experienced homelessness or displacement from my neighborhood or the District because of the high cost of housing.
- I have been able to use a DC funded housing program that has helped to improve my life – say how (children's education, ability to get and keep a job, live near family etc)
- I am waiting for affordable housing to find permanent housing, purchase our building, rehab our building, buy my first home or make my housing more affordable.

Explain how this relates to DHCD or DHS:

- I am very thankful for my ability to use this program and how it has changed my life.
 - If more money is not put into the program, other people will not be able to access these resources.
- OR
- Without an expansion of this program, I will continue to need to wait for housing, assistance, build repairs

3. THE PROBLEM AND WHAT YOU WANT TO HAPPEN (PICK ONE PROGRAM)

Housing Production Trust Fund for Tenant Purchase

- I am concerned though that there will not be enough money in the Housing Production Trust Fund for us to be able to purchase/rehab our building.
- Tenant Purchase is an important way for DC to keep affordable housing in all neighborhoods of the city. We need a full continuum of housing that allows all District residents live in DC at a rate they can afford.
- We are counting on DHCD – and the full funding of the Housing Production Trust Fund – to make the dream that we are working so hard for a reality.
- I encourage you, Council members, to ensure that there are sufficient funds allocated to tenant purchase in 2013 and beyond.

Local Rent Supplement Program or Housing First

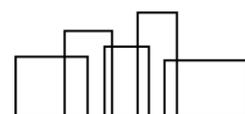
- I am concerned that other people will not be able to find the housing that is affordable and has the services they need.
- We need permanent solutions that end homelessness, not temporary fixes like DC General or putting people in hotels.
- DC needs a continuum of housing options that allow people to live in DC even if they have special needs or cannot afford the high cost of rent
- Local Rent Supplement/Housing First are key to ending homelessness and helping residents find stable work, education and safety.
- I encourage you, Council members, to make sure that there are sufficient funds allocated to Local Rent Supplement/Housing First so they can serve additional new people in 2013 and beyond.

Home Purchase Assistance Program

- I am concerned that other people will not be able to become first time homeowners like me.
- DHCD's HPAP program has a track-record of success in helping low-income renters become homeowners and build wealth for their families and community.
- DC needs a continuum of housing options that allow people to live in DC and build a future for them and their families.
- I encourage you, Council members, to make sure that there are sufficient funds allocated to HPAP in 2013 so it can serve as many people in the coming year as it did last year.

4. CLOSING

- Affordable housing is very important to me. DC needs to restore the commitment to making housing affordable to DC residents by funding all the housing programs at a level that meets the housing need.
Thank you or the opportunity to testify today.



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