There's Power in Collective Voice: Coming Together in Response to Budget Cuts

Kimberly Perry, Executive Director
Race Equity
Early Childhood
Youth Advocacy
Health
Family Economic Security

KIDS COUNT
Revenue Forecasts

- Started 2020 w/ $500M ↑
- COVID-19 Pandemic Hit/Closures
- Declared State of Emergency
- Revenue Plummeted ↓ $722M
- Shortchanged by Congress ↓ $750M
- Pandemic Expenses ↑
- FY20 Shortfall of $470M
- Projected FY21 Shortfall $700M
- 2-Year Recovery

Narrative

- “Loss is greater than reserves”
- “May need to make sacrifices”
- “Everything is on the table”
- Can Congress make DC whole?

dcactionforchildren.org
### Advocates Call for Transparency

- Hundreds of advocates question the narrative
- How much is in our reserves?
- How much did we receive in federal emergency relief?
- How much in COVID expenses?
- Unspent dollars in budget?
- Open to revenue raisers?

### Revised Budget Asks

- No Cuts to kids and families!
- Hold Harmless: education, housing, income, health security
- Don’t use the budget to further discriminate against Black and Brown families
- Raise revenue to fill gaps
- Ensure a #JustRecovery

---

dcactionforchildren.org
### FY21 Budget Requests

- Stabilize Child Care
- Maintain OST
- Protect the safety net: health, housing, income security
- Deepen education investments
- Moderate increase for transitional housing/youth homelessness
- Raise revenue

### Mayor’s Proposal

- Filled shortfall with surplus, savings and reserves
- 3% increase in school funding
- Investments in housing repairs and rental assistance
- Maintained child care subsidy funding, and Paid Family Leave
- Potential reductions to home visiting, OST, youth homelessness
- We are still evaluating

[dcactionforchildren.org](http://dcactionforchildren.org)
What’s Next?
Convince DC Council to remedy budget cuts.

Council Hearings
May 20 - June 18
OSSE: June 4 and COW: June 17, 18

Mark Up
June 23-25

Final Vote
July 7, 21, 28

KEY TALKING POINTS

- Residents First: Fund programs that serve kids and families, so they can effectively recover from the pandemic.

- We Deserve a #JustRecovery: Lawmakers don’t have to make cuts - Raise revenue.

- Equity Matters: Don’t further discriminate against Black and Brown communities by underinvesting in critical needs.
OST Action!

1. Sign and Share the #SaveAfterschool petition
2. Register and Join the Education Town Hall
   June 4
3. OST Advocacy Day of Action (email for more info.)
   June 3
4. Submit Written Testimony (or short video) to Education Committee
   Before June 5
5. Request a Virtual Meeting with Your Councilmember

dcactionforchildren.org
Tools You Can Use

**Under 3 DC**
Testimony Toolkit
Talking Points

**DCAYA Out-of-School Time**
Social Media and Talking Points

**DCAYA Youth Homelessness**
Social Media and Talking Points

**PAVE Education**
Education Advocacy Toolkit

dcactionforchildren.org
THERE IS POWER IN COLLECTIVE VOICE.

Let’s do this!

Kimberly Perry, Executive Director, DC Action for Children, kperry@dckids.org