



## FY2023 Budget Season Toolkit *(as of March 14, 2022)*

### **Situational Analysis**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the lives of children and families across the District. Mayor Bowser and the DC Council have been very responsive to meeting the community's urgent needs by quickly allocating federal funds throughout the crisis. Their steps to keep doors open and help the community rebuild as the city recovers are very much appreciated. However, as this year's budget season begins, Under 3 DC will continue to push them to respond to the urgent needs of the early learning community by deepening investments in programs that have kept families healthy during these challenging times. We will also ask them to ensure that fair compensation reaches our teachers.

During agency performance oversight hearings that took place over the last six weeks, Under 3 DC Coalition members and partners testified to bring attention to the progress of programs funded in this year's operating budget. We also laid the groundwork for our coalition's FY2023 Birth-to-Three program budget requests.

Once Mayor Bowser releases her FY2023 budget this month, we will review her funding support for Birth-to-Three programs. Our coalition asks this year, while very important, are not major. However, if necessary, we will shift our gears to focus on convincing the DC Council to step in and fund programs that received insufficient support.

Throughout the entirety of the budget season, Under 3 DC will highlight our community's work on earned and owned media (Twitter and FB). Our goal is to remind Mayor Bowser, her administration, Chairman Mendelson, and the DC Council just how vital the District's early care and education community is to the wellbeing of our city's families and the economy.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Testify at** upcoming hearings, **AND** submit written testimony!
- **Share Under 3 DC action alerts** with your lists and on social media!
- Apply **social media** pressure!
- **Consider** writing **an op-ed!**

→ Engage your media contacts!

## TOOLS TO HELP

- Budget [Hearing Talking Points](#)
- [Social Media Images](#)
- [Sample Tweets](#)



The graphic features a purple background. On the left, a computer monitor displays the DC Council website's 'Council Videos' page, showing a video of a council member. Below the monitor is the 'UNDER 3 DC' logo. To the right of the monitor, the hearing schedule is listed in white text. At the bottom right, a small asterisked note provides the URL for watching the hearings.

### 2022 Budget Oversight Hearing Schedule

<b>Healthy Futures</b> Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Mon, March 21
<b>Home Visiting</b> Children & Family Services Agency (CFSA), Thursday, March 24
<b>Child care, language access and early educator compensation</b> Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) Mon, March 28
<b>Healthy Steps and Home Visiting</b> DC Health, Monday, April 4

\*To watch the budget oversight hearings, visit <https://dccouncil.us/council-videos/>.\*

## TESTIFY

**Your voice and your story matter.** Please consider using your testimony as a way to communicate with the DC Council.

Under 3 DC will not be successful in advocating for full funding and implementation of the Birth-to-Three without you.

Find the Under 3 DC talking points for the upcoming budget hearings [here](#).

### Healthy Futures:

Sign-up to give live testimony about **Healthy Futures** during the *Department of Behavioral Health hearing on Monday, March 21*. To register, email Malcolm Cameron ([mcameron@dccouncil.us](mailto:mcameron@dccouncil.us)) and CC: Sarah Novick ([sarah@jufj.org](mailto:sarah@jufj.org)) by **Thursday, March 17 at 5 pm**. Include your name, organization (if applicable), email address, phone number, and “Department of Behavioral Health” (the agency you wish to discuss) in the email. All written testimony is due at least 24 hours before the hearing.

## Home Visiting:

Sign-up to give live testimony about **Home Visiting** during the *Child and Family Services hearing on Thursday, March 24*. To register, email Sarah Novick ([sarah@jufj.org](mailto:sarah@jufj.org)) AND sign up here: <https://www.brianneknadeau.com/testify> by Friday, March 18 at 5 pm. All written testimony is due at least 24 hours before the hearing.

## Child Care

Sign-up to give live testimony **child care, early educator compensation, and language access** during the *Committee of the Whole Office of the State Superintendent and Deputy Mayor of Education hearing on Monday, March 28*. To register, email Sarah Novick ([sarah@jufj.org](mailto:sarah@jufj.org)) AND sign up here: <http://www.chairmanmendelson.com/testify> by Thursday, March 24 at 5 pm. All written testimony is due at least 24 hours before the hearing.

## HealthySteps and Home Visiting:

Sign-up to give live testimony about **HealthySteps** and/or **Home Visiting** during the *Department of Health hearing on Monday, April 4*. To register, email Malcolm Cameron ([atmcameron@dccouncil.us](mailto:atmcameron@dccouncil.us)) and CC: Sarah Novick ([sarah@jufj.org](mailto:sarah@jufj.org)) by Thursday, March 31 at 5 pm. Include your name, organization (if applicable), email address, phone number, and “Department of Health” (the agency you wish to discuss) in the email. All written testimony is due at least 24 hours before the hearing.

Still have questions about how to provide testimony or need help with writing? Contact [Jamar Day](#) or [Natasha Riddle Romero](#),

# WATCH HEARINGS

[Watch hearings live here.](#)

# SOCIAL MEDIA

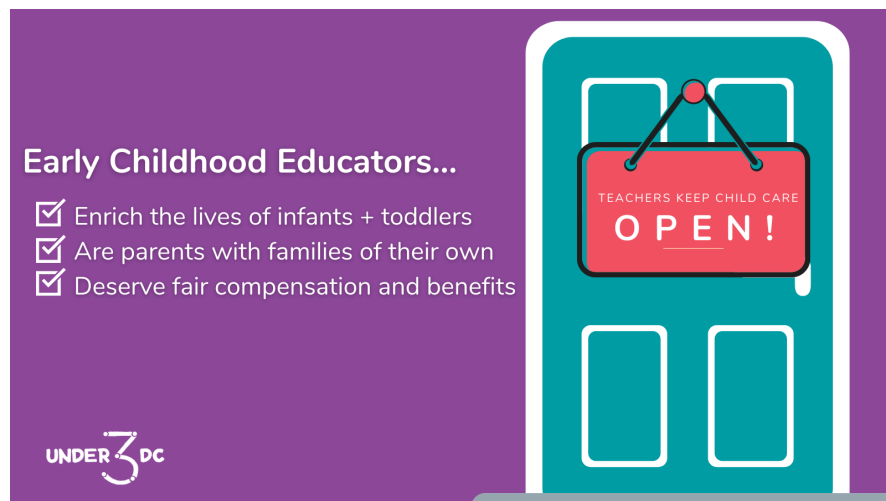
[Mayor Bowser](#), her administration, and the DC Council see us on social media. They felt our pressure so much last year that eight out of 13 DC Councilmembers supported a tax increase on wealthy residents to increase early educator compensation despite strong opposition from the mayor and corporate interests. Let’s make them see that we will not rest until B-T-3 is fully funded!

[Under 3 DC](#)’s Twitter feed will be active, sharing snippets of testimony along with other tweets. We encourage you to amplify them or create your own. Be sure to tag **#Under3DC!**

## Sample Tweets:

- District #health programs like #HealthyFutures #HealthySteps & #HelpMeGrow have been vital to #DC families and young children during the pandemic. They deserve continuing funding and support. #Under3DC
- DC can't afford to cheat its babies and toddlers out of the opportunity to grow and thrive as the District maneuvers thru the pandemic. #SolveChildcare #Under3DC
- .@VinceGrayWard7 and the rest of the Committee on Health needs to follow through and fully fund vital programs such as #HealthyFutures #HealthySteps #HelpMeGrow to create a healthy future for our youngest population.

### Social Media Graphics:





To watch the public hearings, visit the [DC Council website](#) for the various ways to access the roundtable.

[Under 3 DC](#)'s Twitter feed will once again be active, sharing snippets of testimony along with other tweets. We encourage you to amplify them or create your own. Be sure to tag #Under3DC!

DC Policymaker Twitter Handles		
Name	Ward	Twitter Handle
Mayor Muriel Bowser	Citywide	@MayorBowser
Chairman Phil Mendelson	At-Large	@ChmnMendelson
Elissa Silverman	At-Large	@CM_Silverman
Anita Bonds	At-Large	@AnitaBondsDC
Christina Henderson	At-Large	@chenderson
Robert White	At-Large	@CMRobertWhiteDC
Brianne Nadeau	Ward 1	@BrianneKNadeau
Brooke Pinto	Ward 2	@CMBrookePinto
Mary Cheh	Ward 3	@marycheh
Janeese Lewis George	Ward 4	@CMLewisGeorgeW4
Kenyan McDuffie	Ward 5	@CM_McDuffie

Charles Allen	Ward 6	@CMCharlesAllen
Vincent Gray	Ward 7	@VinceGrayWard7
Trayon White	Ward 8	@trayonwhite