



# DC Guaranteed Income Coalition Council Period 25 (2023 - 2024) Platform

A PROJECT OF MOTHER'S OUTREACH NETWORK

## 1. Pass the District Child Tax Credit and Financial Support for Families with Children, introduced by Councilmember Parker with additional co-sponsors, with funding for outreach

Both the DCTC and FSFC bills would provide refundable tax credits to low and/or moderate income families with children, with the FSFC providing a larger credit that is more targeted to extremely low income households. According to analyses commissioned by Mother's Outreach Network, each bill on its own would cost about \$27 million and reduce child poverty by about 5%. Together, they would cut child poverty in the District by roughly 10%.

Both bills were referred to the Committee on Business and Economic Development in March, and the DCTC received a hearing in January of 2024. **We call on the DC Council to pass CM Parker's DCTC and FSFC bills, and to amend the two bills to include funding for outreach to eligible families.** For more information about the DCTC, visit [bit.ly/DCTCToolkit](https://bit.ly/DCTCToolkit).

## 2. Strengthen benefits protection

The DC Council has already acted to protect guaranteed income recipients from the loss of many benefits through the EITC Expansion Clarification Amendment Act of 2022. However, the Act did not address housing benefits.

**We also demand that the DC Housing Authority write a guaranteed income exclusion into their Moving to Work plan, so that housing benefits can be protected.** We do not expect these changes would have a significant cost to the District of Columbia.

## 3. Invest in multiple guaranteed income pilots targeting specific populations

Though it has already been well established that guaranteed income has enormous benefits for low-income individuals and families, more research is needed to understand its particular impacts on specific populations. Specific outcomes of interest include the impact on violent crime, children's educational outcomes, and families involved in the child welfare system.

**We call on the DC Council to invest \$13.5 million to fund rigorously evaluated guaranteed income programs**—providing cash to 750 households for 3 years at \$500 a month—operated by 5 to 10 participating organizations serving populations that face diverse social and economic circumstances. **Additionally, we seek a Hold Harmless Fund of \$6.75 million**—enough to provide \$250 per month to 750 households for 3 years—to support pilot participants whose other benefits may be reduced or lost because of this income.

## 4. Expand and improve upon Strong Families, Strong Futures

DC's only publicly-funded guaranteed income pilot is Strong Families, Strong Futures, a direct cash assistance program supporting new and expecting mothers in Wards 5, 7, and 8 that was launched in 2022 with an initial grant of \$1.5 million. Although SFSF concluded payments to its first cohort in 2023, the DC Council allocated \$1.5 million of funding for another year of the program in 2023.

**We call on the DC Council to open SFSF to residents of all wards and to commission a robust evaluation of SFSF** that would explore the theory that providing cash positively impacts perinatal and infant health outcomes.

## 5. Congress must pass the Worker Relief and Credit Reform Act

Rep Gwen Moore's (WI-4) WRCR (H.R.1468 - WRCR Act of 2023) would enact badly needed reforms to the federal EITC. Among other things, It would treat caregiving and higher education as work and would change the EITC to have a 100% phase in rate. Visit [bit.ly/EITCForCaregiversAndStudents](https://bit.ly/EITCForCaregiversAndStudents) for more information on the WRCR.



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