

# Living Boldly

News and notes brought to you by the  
DC Department of Aging and Community Living

Volume 3 Issue 4 A Newsletter for DC Seniors April 2023



## ACTING DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Charon P.W. Hines

As we welcome the arrival of spring and look forward to warmer weather and flowers in bloom, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the challenging times we have been through and the resilience we have demonstrated as a city. Despite the difficulties, I am heartened by the progress our city has made towards recovery, and I am excited about the opportunities ahead.

Recently, Mayor Muriel Bowser released her Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Fair Shot Budget and Financial Plan to the DC Council, and I wanted to share some highlights with you. This budget builds upon the District's road to recovery and the Mayor's commitment to ensuring all residents, including seniors like you, have a fair shot. And despite the economic challenges faced, the proposed budget remains focused on the necessary investments that will energize DC's comeback, unlocking the full potential of our older residents and our communities.

For us at DACL, we have been hyper-focused on helping more older Washingtonians truly live and thrive in the communities you have all come to know and love. Whether it is creating innovative programs to decrease senior food insecurity and increase nutrition equity through the Food4Choice Pilot Program, or ensuring we further alleviate the risk of falls by expanding the Mayor's signature program, Safe at Home, our agency remains committed to using every tool in our toolbox to meet and exceed your needs.

In FY24, the Mayor is continuing to make investments in Safe at Home. She is investing an additional \$1 million to increase the eligibility for the program. We know how critical it is to support you in making sure your homes are a place where you can age safely. With additional funds, we can ensure more seniors benefit from this long-standing program, creating greater independence and giving more older residents like you the autonomy to age how you want and how you choose.

Additionally, many of you have shared with us that transportation is the lifeline connecting you to medical care, food, the community, and social events that help you thrive. In FY24, the Mayor is making a \$1.5 million investment in transportation access for seniors, giving DACL the opportunity to expand the ConnectorCard program. Through ConnectorCard, qualifying seniors can receive up to \$100

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## Mayor Bowser Releases her FY24 Fair Shot Budget



On March 22, Mayor Muriel Bowser presented her proposed Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget and Financial Plan to the Council of the District of Columbia as part of the District's annual budget process. The \$19.5 billion FY23 Budget makes significant increased investments in public safety, housing and ending homelessness, affordability programs, and city services.

To learn more about the budget, visit [budget.dc.gov](https://budget.dc.gov).

## Save the Date for the Annual Senior Fest!

On May 31, 2023, DACL will partner with Department of Parks and Recreation to host the annual Senior Fest at the Gateway Pavilion, 2700 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE. The event will feature music, live entertainment, exhibitors, health screenings, games, a hot lunch, and more. To learn more, please visit [dpr.events](https://dpr.events).



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# Acting Director Hines Testifies before the Committee on Executive Administration and Labor



On March 3, Acting Director Charon Hines represented DACL at our annual Performance Oversight Hearing. To read the full testimony, please visit [dacl.dc.gov/release/fy-2022-2023-performance-oversight-hearing](https://dacl.dc.gov/release/fy-2022-2023-performance-oversight-hearing).

## Acting Director's Message

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a month in travel transit funds. These funds can be used towards transportation of your choice to get to and from any destination in the city, whether through Metro, includ-

ing MetroAccess, cabs, or rideshare services. With this investment, we can continue to prioritize helping you get around our great city.

The Mayor is also making significant investments to ensure housing in our city is more affordable for all residents, further closing the racial wealth gap and keeping longtime

Washingtonians in DC. These investments include:

- \$31 million investment to fund the Housing Production Trust Fund at \$100 million,
- \$1.5 million enhancement for Heirs Property Services,
- \$2 million investment to increase available funds for Single Family Residential Rehab, and
- \$115 million investment to rehabilitate and modernize public housing units managed by the DC Housing Authority.

The investments, and others like them, prioritize seniors who are

both homeowners and renters, creating more access to dignified, affordable housing.

In closing, I want to reaffirm that our government and Mayor are dedicated to investing in our city's recovery, and I am so proud of the progress we have made so far. You can trust us to prioritize your needs and the needs of our communities, and we are confident that the FY24 Budget will energize our city's comeback. For more information about the budget, please visit [budget.dc.gov](https://budget.dc.gov). Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

**SAFE AT HOME**

Call 202-724-5626 for information on eligibility requirements and how you can apply for the program.

The Department of Aging and Community Living's Safe at Home program provides in-home preventative adaptations to reduce the risk of falls for District residents age 60 and older and adults with disabilities.

This may include handrails, grab bars, bathtub cuts, shower seats, and stair lifts.

### Income Qualifications

A maximum of \$79,700 annually for an individual or \$91,050 for a married couple.

*In January 2023, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the expansion of **Safe at Home 2.0**, covering medication management, vision screenings, and balance/strength training. If you are a current Safe at Home participant and would like to learn more about additional services that will help reduce your risk of falling, please call 202-559-9856 or email [safeathome@homecarepartners.org](mailto:safeathome@homecarepartners.org). Please note, Safe at Home 2.0 is a pilot program and will be provided upon request to participants already in enrolled in Safe at Home 1.0.*

**NOTE:** All applicants may not qualify for the **Safe at Home program**. Applicants who do not qualify may receive referrals to other programs better suited for their specific needs.

Referrals to other programs are not a guarantee of eligibility.

**Did you know** all DC residents with Medicaid, Alliance, or the Immigrant Children's Program must start renewing their coverage again?

**Don't miss out** on important information. If you haven't already, take time today to update your address, phone number, and/or email address at [districtdirect.dc.gov](https://districtdirect.dc.gov) so that DHCF knows where to send your Medicaid renewal letter.

If you need help, please call the Public Benefits Call Center at **202-727-5355**.

