



The District Workforce

Mayor-Elect Gray, Chair-Elect Brown Launch Transition Efforts

Following their victories in the general election on November 3, [Mayor-Elect Vincent C. Gray](#) and [Chair-Elect Kwame R. Brown](#) announced the teams of experts who will help them transition into office on January 1, 2011.

Leading Mayor-Elect Gray's economic development team are Barbara B. Lang, president of the DC Chamber of Commerce, and Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, former president of the George Washington University. Workforce development will be one of eight subcommittees under economic development.

The economic development workgroup will use Mayor-Elect Gray's eight-point economic development plan to guide its work:

- Establish a long-term coordinated economic development strategy;
- Place a top priority on the District's workforce

development initiatives that will provide jobs for citizens in all parts of the city;

- Regain the District's competitive position in the region;
- Ensure transportation and infrastructure work for residents;
- View the federal government as a core industry;
- Support the District's diverse industries and become a business incubator;
- Position DC as a leader in the green economy; and
- Enhance the District's status as a global financial center.

Chair-Elect Brown named Gregory M. McCarthy, vice president for government and municipal affairs for the Washington Nationals Baseball Club, to lead his transition team. It will focus on four key areas: fiscal responsibility; job

creation, education reform, and governmental accountability

The DC Jobs Council has been in touch with members of both transition teams to offer assistance. We will make sure the perspective of DCJC members and their clients is kept clearly in mind as decisions are made. In particular, the DCJC will ensure that community-based providers of job training, workforce readiness classes, adult literacy, and supportive services have a role in the District's workforce and economic development structure.



QUICK CALENDAR

- Workforce Wednesday — Wednesday, 11/17 — 10 am-12 pm — Financial Management for Workforce Development Professionals — for more details, please email mstreznewski@wowonline.org
- DC Jobs Council November Meeting — Thursday, 11/18 (one week later than normal because of Veterans' Day) - 2:30-4:30 pm—Covenant House DC, 2001 Mississippi Ave SE
- DC Jobs Council December Meeting — Thursday, 12/9 — 2:30-4:30 pm — DC Department on Disability Services, 1125 15th St NW

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District Legislative Update

WORKFORCE-RELATED LEGISLATION

[TANF Educational Opportunities and Accountability Act](#) (B18-1007)

Introduced by CMs Michael A. Brown (At Large) & Tommy Wells (Ward 6)

Hearing Monday, November 8, 2010 (11:00 am)

This legislation will enumerate all permissible work activities, and expand these activities include educational activities — including GED test preparation and job search — and specialized training. The bill also proposes a system of assessments and a data collection strategy to ensure TANF recipients are receiving training that leads to long-term employment.

DCJC Position: Support

DCJC testimony in support of this bill will be posted at www.dcjobscouncil.org.

[Public Assistance Amendment Act of 2010](#) (B18-1061)

Introduced by CMs Marion S. Barry (Ward 8) and Yvette Alexander (Ward 7)

Hearing Monday, November 15, 2010 (11:00 am)

This bill proposes a lifetime limit of 60 months for receipt of TANF benefits. The legislation will eliminate the use of local funds to extend TANF benefits to those recipients facing exceptionally high barriers. Further, as the legislation is drafted, it will limit to 60 months the receipt of benefits from ANY public assistance program, including, for example, food stamps and utility bill assistance.

DCJC Position: Oppose

DCJC testimony (written) will be posted at www.dcjobscouncil.org.

NOTE: Following this hearing, it appears that this bill will not move forward during this Council period.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

(DCJC has not taken an official position on any of this legislation.)

[Homeless Services Reform Amendment Act of 2010](#) (B18-1059)

Introduced by CMs Tommy Wells (Ward 6)

Hearing Monday, November 8, 2010 (11:30 am)

The bill will clarify the criteria for demonstrating District residency and limit access to shelter to those who can demonstrate such residency (excluding victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, or human trafficking). It will allow the Mayor to place families in non-apartment-style housing if necessary.

NOTE: If you missed it, the New York Times commented on Bill 18-1059: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/13/opinion/13sat4.html?_r=1&partner=rssnyt&emc=rss

Federal Update

The US economy added 151,000 jobs in October, according to the US Department of Labor. This doubled some experts' estimates, and ended four months of job losses. The national unemployment rate remained at 9.6 percent.

The results of the mid-term elections

will bring big changes to Capitol Hill when Congress reconvenes in January. During the lame duck session, the only bills that must be passed are the continuing resolutions necessary to keep the federal government running after December 3. But Democrats are expected to press for con-

tinuation of federal unemployment benefits, tax cuts for middle-class taxpayers (under \$250K), passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, continuation of the Earned Income Tax Credit, and a one-time \$250 payment to Social Security recipients in lieu of a COLA.

Member Spotlight: SOME Center for Employment Training

While best-known for feeding the homeless, So Others Might Eat focuses not only on providing sustenance to the hungry, but also on helping individuals attain self-sufficiency. Recognizing that education and training are key to helping individuals help themselves, SOME opened the [SOME Center for Employment Training \(SOME CET\)](#) in July 1998 to provide skills training and job placement assistance for the city's underprivileged. The SOME CET mission is to empower people out of homelessness and poverty and into living wage

careers through marketable skills training, human development, basic education and job development. SOME CET offers its trainees an open-entry, open-exit, competency-based employment training program. Training is individualized and covers the material necessary for the desired job. SOME CET offers three courses of study to prepare students for living wage careers in high-growth fields:

***Business & Customer Relations Associate:** students learn business fundamentals, customer service,

promotional skills, and computer skills.

***Medical Administrative Assistant:** students learn Introduction to Allied Health, health care communications, medical records and billing, computer training, reception and clerical skills.

***Building Maintenance Service Technician:** students learn carpentry, electrical engineering, plumbing, HVAC, and safety standards.

For more information: Emily Price, Director,, eprice@some.org, or (202) 292-4460, x1201

District Agency Update: Status of \$4.6M for Adult Job Training

One of the most significant accomplishments of the DC Jobs Council over the past two years was the inclusion of \$4.6 million per year in local funds for job training for adults facing the highest barriers to employment in both the FY2010 and FY2011 District budgets. Further, DCJC proposed language, included in the Budget Support Acts for both fiscal years, that specified how these funds were to be spent.

The local funds were to be distributed via an RFP process, were to be directed to programs that would include job training and other services (including adult literacy and workforce readiness, along with supportive services such as transportation assistance), and were to be targeted towards those DC residents facing the highest barriers.

As of the end of FY2010, the \$4.6 million had not been spent. The Council of the District of Columbia designated the funds as non-lapsing, making it possible for them to be spent as intended even after the September 30 fiscal year end.

In late September, CM Michael A. Brown wrote to DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) Director Joseph P. Walsh, requesting an update on plans for spending the \$4.6 million.

On October 12, Director Walsh responded. He noted that, of the \$4.6 million budgeted, \$4.2 million had been obligated or spent as follows:

- \$1.2 million to The Excel Institute, in fulfillment of a Mayoral earmark in the FY2010 Budget Request Act of 2009. No RFP

was issued in this case.

- \$3 million to the Green Jobs DC Training Program, a weatherization training program; the funding will support training and provide wages during on-the-job training to 50 DC residents. An RFP was issued through the DC Department of Energy.

The DC Jobs Council now will focus its efforts on preserving the \$4.6 million for adult job training in the FY2011 budget — at risk because of the current budget shortfall. To ensure the FY2011 funds are spent appropriately, we will participate in a planned roundtable on how the FY2010 allocation was spent, to be convened in November by CM Michael A. Brown. Stay tuned for updates and details on how you can get involved.

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The DC Jobs Council is a coalition of job training providers, advocates, employers, labor representatives, research institutes, social service agencies, and funders who advocate for a District workforce system that meets the needs of all DC residents, and that responds to the local and regional economy.

We accomplish our goals through a multi-faceted strategy including advocacy to policy makers and city agencies, providing professional development opportunities, developing policy materials, public education, organizing, and coalition building. Together, we believe that city leaders should make an effective and efficient workforce system a city priority and that every DC resident should have the chance to prepare for, find, and succeed in jobs that pay self-sufficiency wages and that meet the skill needs of employers in the District of Columbia.

Budget Outlook: Major Shortfalls Projected for FY2011 & FY2012

As of this writing (November 15), the gap-closing plan to address the District's FY2011 budget shortfall has not been released by the Executive Office of the Mayor. Predictions abound as to the actual size of the shortfall; estimates range from \$175 million to as high as \$400 million. For FY2012, shortfall projections are somewhat higher; however, they are based on less concrete tax revenue estimates.

No matter the size of the shortfall, there are three ways to approach it: make cuts, find new revenue sources, or combine the two approaches.

We are hearing definite preferences from some quarters. CM Jack Evans (Ward 2), for example, opposes reve-

nue increases, preferring to meet the shortfall with cuts. In a [recent interview on The Politics Hour on WAMU](#), Evans did not specify where cuts should be made, asking instead that agency directors tell him where cuts would be most effective. Evans appears to oppose all tax increases.

As part of a group called Better Choices: Moving DC Forward, the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, along with 60 labor, faith and community groups (including the DC Jobs Council) is [advocating for a balanced approach that includes both cuts and revenue enhancements](#). The Better Choices approach calls for adjusting DC's tax code to allow for an additional tax bracket for high-income earners.

(currently, the highest marginal tax rate stops at \$40,000) and eliminating the tax exemption for interest paid on out-of-state bonds.

Both Mayor-Elect Vincent Gray and Chair-Elect Kwame Brown have refused to rule out a discussion of tax increases as one method for balancing the District's budget.

The DCJC will keep everyone as informed as possible as budget negotiations unfold. Follow us on Twitter ([@djobsCouncil](https://twitter.com/djobsCouncil)) or send your email address to mstreznewski@wowonline.org with Budget 411 in the subject line, and you will be added to an email list to receive updates.