

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004**

**COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTINA HENDERSON, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND
COUNCILMEMBER ROBERT WHITE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

ANNOUNCE A PUBLIC JOINT OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE

ON

Continued Challenges with the DC Access System and Public Benefits Enrollment

ON

Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Hybrid in Room 412 and Virtual via Zoom

To Watch Live:

<https://dccouncil.gov/council-videos/>
<https://www.christinahendersondc.com/live>
<https://www.youtube.com/@cmchenderson>

Councilmember Christina Henderson, Chair of the Committee on Health, and Councilmember Robert White, Chair of the Committee on Housing, announce a joint oversight roundtable on Continued Challenges with the DC Access System and Public Benefits Enrollment. The roundtable will be held on Tuesday July 2, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in hearing room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

The purpose of this roundtable is to follow up on the joint roundtable held on December 4, 2023, to continue discussing the challenges District residents have faced when enrolling in health and social services benefits through DCAS and develop an interagency strategy for communication and improvement.

DCAS, also known as District Direct, is a web-based application that is intended to allow District residents to apply for certain public benefits available in the District. DCAS was developed to streamline the application and recertification processes by linking a central system to various data sources to eliminate repeated data entry through forms and applications. After more than a

decade of implementation, concerns with the performance of the software remain and this roundtable offers another opportunity for District government leaders to share their plans for improvement.

DCAS is managed and funded under the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF), and benefit determinations based on the information submitted through DCAS are made by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Economic Security Administration (ESA). This joint oversight roundtable is intended to bring those agencies back together to discuss progress made since the last roundtable and other opportunities for improvement. Topics for discussion will include an update on the state of the DCAS technology and how the FY 2025 budget will be used to make progress on updating technology, staffing for processing applications, processing times for benefits applications, Medicaid unwinding and the disenrollment/recertification process, the administrative burden for residents applying for benefits, interoperability of systems and databases, plans for improving processing timelines for health and social services benefits, plans for the future of DCAS, and plans for how DHCF and DHS will continue to work outside of their agency siloes to address District resident's benefits.

Witnesses will be appearing in person and virtually using the Zoom platform. Public witnesses will have 5 minutes to speak if they are representing an organization, and 3 minutes if they are speaking for themselves. The public should sign up at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings> by 5pm on Friday, June 28, 2024. Witnesses who anticipate needing spoken language interpretation, or require sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee office of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the proceeding. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests, although alternatives may be offered. Requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled. If you have additional questions, please email Ashley Strange, Legislative Assistant at astrange@dccouncil.gov.

Testimony should be submitted through the Council's Hearing Management System <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings> in advance of the hearing. Testimony will be publicly accessible upon Committee review. If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Statements for the record should be submitted through the Hearing Management System or left by voicemail by calling (202) 430-6046. The record will close at 5:00pm on Friday, July 12, 2024.