



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BROOKE PINTO
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 106
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

May 1, 2026
Kwelli Sneed, Executive Director
Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
Washington, DC 20019

Via Email

Dear Director Sneed:

Please find enclosed post-hearing budget oversight questions from the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. **Please provide responses to these questions no later than close of business on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anaiyah Mitchell, Senior Policy Advisor, at amitchell@dccouncil.gov, or Eloy LaBrada, Deputy Committee Director, at erodriguezlabrada@dccouncil.gov.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BE PINTO".

Brooke Pinto
Councilmember, Ward 2
Chairwoman, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia

cc: Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Council Budget Office
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

I. Operating Budget

Clarity on Vacancies:

1. There are currently 31 vacancies at the agency, but this is based on a count of 88 approved FTEs. However, as you indicated during the budget hearing, there are actually 66 FTEs yet there are 46 proposed FTEs for FY27. Of those 46, it looks like 20 of those remain vacant. What is the number of vacant positions that will need to be filled in FY27? Which departments are those vacancies in? If a department is experiencing a cut in FTEs, what are the implications of those cuts per department?

RESPONSE: Our responses are based on 64 funded positions for FY26 and 46 proposed positions for FY27. The Office of Budget and Performance Management (OBPM) unfunded 24 positions agency wide (of the 88 approved FTEs) for FY26.

- While the FY26 Budget Book indicates the Office has 88 approved FTEs, ONSE was notified by the agency fiscal officer that 24 positions were unfunded, leaving 64 funded FTEs for FY26. For FY26, ONSE has been operating with 64 FTEs (both filled and vacant).
- The question indicates there are currently 20 vacancies at ONSE, this is incorrect. There are currently six vacancies: Administrative Officer (temporary promotion to COO); HR Specialist (temporary promotion to HR Manager); Chief of Staff; FSS Program Manager; Resource Allocation Officer; and Asset Specialist. The last three vacant positions (FSS Program Manager; Resource Allocation Officer; and Asset Specialist) are proposed to be eliminated in FY27. ONSE does not believe it will have vacancies in FY27, other than the COO position. However, attrition may impact the number of vacancies.
- In FY27, 18 positions are being proposed for elimination at ONSE. The eliminated positions impact FSS, Pathways, VI, and the Office of the Director (Risk Management, Compliance, Legal).
- The impacts are addressed in responses the questions below.

Pathways and DOES:

2. Pathways was cut by \$2.6M. Please indicate the impacts of these cuts on the program's current operations, including cohort size, program timing, participant pay, and connections to resources. Please also indicate any areas where there may be additional needs or coordination with DOES.

RESPONSE: The proposed \$2.6M in reductions will have the following impact: a \$460K decrease in personnel services and a \$2.1M decrease in non-personnel services. An overview of impacts to staffing and program are below.

Staffing:

In FY27, Pathways will eliminate five currently funded and filled positions, totaling a reduction of \$460K in personnel services, leaving nine funded and filled positions.

Program Impacts

The FY27 budget proposes an NPS reduction of \$2.1 million. Historically, ONSE operates two (2) cohorts with 25 participants each fiscal year. It is proposed in FY27 to reduce from two cohorts to one cohort and reduce 25 participants to 15. This includes reducing the cohort time from 10 months to eight months. Training time reduces from a 5-day week to a 3-day week. ONSE will maintain the \$17 an hour training wage.

The reduction in NPS impacts contractual services, including the adult after-care component (coverage during non-business hours for participants in crisis), behavioral health and counseling services, and nutritional support during program hours (breakfast and lunch). Behavioral health services will be reduced from weekly to twice a month.

With the reductions, the work experience (Phase Two) will also be reduced from five (5) days to three (3) days. The changes will require coordination with DOES because it may change how DOES makes placements for Pathways participants.

FSS:

3. The funding for Family and Survivor Support (FSS) was zeroed out. Given this, what is the anticipated impact on services for victims and survivors of violence?

RESPONSE: The FSS operates with a total budget of \$687,386, which includes six positions and contracts. In FY27, the proposed budget eliminates the program.

FSS currently receives referrals from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Victim Services Branch which assists victims with information about programs regarding their rights, emotional trauma, and economic loss. In FY27, ONSE would be removed from the list of available programs and services.

ONSE will assist MPD with connecting to OVSJG to update the list of community-based organizations that provide direct support for victims. Additionally, ONSE will evaluate the Group-based Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) grant to identify “allowable” costs to see what, if any, services could be absorbed by the providers.

FSS provides direct service and support to families for 30 - 60 days; however, families and survivors often remain on their caseload well after as the needs often require assistance beyond that allotted time. Monthly restorative-justice infused therapeutic services will be transferred to community-based organizations. DC Council constituent services funds would be strained to address the increase in requests for funeral costs assistance, with significant impacts in Wards 7 & 8, which historically have had decreased funds. Hospital-based supportive services often rely on FSS to provide post-discharge support and local government systems navigation to support families. Increased education about and coordination with the Child and Family Services Administration (CFSA) Warmline/211 would help bridge this gap. Lastly, the temporary emergency relocation assistance, a national emerging trend, would need management and coordination for families with a keen understanding of the challenges after a critical gun incident.

Violence Intervention

4. Within VI division, there was a \$280K cut. How do you anticipate these cuts will impact the program's operations?

RESPONSE: With the cuts in the proposed FY27 Budget, two positions will be eliminated. The proposed reductions would impact the GVRS grant monitoring and oversight functions of the VI division.

5. Are any of these cuts going to impact grant funds issues to qualified community-based orgs [CBOs]? If so, how much?

RESPONSE: There is no impact to ONSE's violence intervention grant funding in FY27.

6. What is the total amount that would be disbursed as actual grant funds for VI?

RESPONSE: In FY27, we will be issuing approximately \$10.5 million in grant funds for GVRS and community-based mini grants.

7. For comparison, how much was or will be disbursed in actual grant funds for VI in FY27?

RESPONSE: In FY27, we will be issuing approximately \$10.5 million in grant funds for GVRS and community-based mini grants.

8. With this proposed budget, what investments would be made to support VI worker compensation (e.g., pay increases, health benefits, access to counseling or mental health services)?

RESPONSE: In FY26, ONSE standardized the pay for violence interrupters across grantees in the amount of \$50,000/year plus benefits. ONSE anticipates continuing at this rate in FY27.

Other budget questions

9. The Mayor has submitted a request to reprogram Fiscal Year 2026 Local funds budget authority in the amount of \$160,000 within the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE). By removing 160K from the grants line item, will there be sufficient funds to distribute the remaining grant funds for all FY26 awardees?

RESPONSE: Yes. The \$160,000 is reprogrammed for the city-wide violence interruption campaign, as an awareness and education tool.

II. FY26 Supplemental Budget

General

10. The FY26 supplemental reflects a net reduction of \$732K. What specific conditions triggered a negative supplemental rather than a reallocation or lapse?

RESPONSE: This is a decision received from the OBPM by-way-of our Agency Fiscal Officer during budget formulation.

11. How much of this reduction is due to under-obligation vs. intentional program scaling?

RESPONSE: This is a decision received from the OBPM during budget formulation.

12. There seems to be consistent overspending across personnel + participant support because several lines show negative available balances. Are these negative balances reflective of timing issues or true overspending?

RESPONSE: At the end of each fiscal year, any negative balances are reconciled.

13. What internal controls failed to prevent expenditures exceeding available authority at the program level?

RESPONSE: ONSE is not aware of any internal control failures. Historically, the agency has always had a surplus.

14. How frequently does ONSE reconcile obligations vs. expenditures?

RESPONSE: ONSE works with the OCFO to reconcile the obligations vs. the expenditures on a monthly basis.

Violence Intervention Initiative (VII)

15. The supplemental reduces Violence Intervention grants by \$434K. Which specific providers or contracts are impacted?

RESPONSE: There is a reduction in the total agency budget of \$732K. Of that amount, the Violence Intervention Initiative was reduced by a total of \$534K, not \$434K. With the reductions in these line items:

- Cure the Streets - \$100,000
- VI ONSE CBO grants budget - \$334,542
- VI professional services - \$100,000

During spring, summer and fall, ONSE provides direct community outreach and engagement. A reduction in VI professional services decreases the budget allocation that supports those efforts.

16. How will this reduction affect:
a. Number of interrupters deployed?

RESPONSE: It will not reduce the number of deployed interrupters.

b. Priority neighborhoods served?

RESPONSE: Prior to the GVRS grant being awarded, the agency and grantees negotiate the number of VIs deployed according to the greatest need to reduce gun violence in the District. The reduction will not reduce or alter the neighborhoods served.

c. Coverage hours or shifts?

RESPONSE: We don't anticipate there will be any impact to coverage hours or shifts, which are ultimately decided by each organization.

Pathways

17. Pathways shows reductions in both contractual services (\$138K) and other services lines (\$19.7K)—what specific activities are being scaled back?

RESPONSE: ONSE assessed which smaller contracts and services could be eliminated.

18. How many participants will be affected by these reductions?

RESPONSE: There was no direct impact on participant training wage or participant numbers.

Other Supplemental questions

19. Anything Missing? Where is funding still needed under the Mayor's proposed FY26 budget? Is there anything else this budget is missing or underfunded that could help your operations for the remainder of the fiscal year?

RESPONSE: For FY26, ONSE is expected to close the year successfully.