



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, January 15, 2025
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Walter A. Scheiber Board Room

AGENDA

- 12:00 P.M. 1. CALL TO ORDER**
Charles Allen, 2024 COG Board Chair
- 12:05 P.M. 2. ELECTION OF 2025 COG BOARD OFFICERS**
Charles Allen, 2024 COG Board Chair
The board will consider approval of the 2025 COG Board officers.
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R1-2025.
- 12:10 P.M. 3. ELECTION OF 2025 POLICY & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**
Rodney Lusk, 2025 COG Board Chair
The board will vote on the proposed policy and administrative committee leadership, in addition to the Maryland General Assembly COG Board Member.
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolutions R2-2025.
- 12:15 P.M. 4. CHAIR'S REPORT**
Rodney Lusk, 2025 COG Board Chair

A) 2025 COG Boards and Policy Committees Meeting Dates
B) New Board Members
- 12:20 P.M. 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
- 12:25 P.M. 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
Rodney Lusk, 2025 COG Board Chair
- 12:30 P.M. 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2024**
Rodney Lusk, 2025 COG Board Chair
Recommended Action: Approve minutes.
- 8. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
Rodney Lusk, 2025 COG Board Chair

- A. Resolution R3-2025 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to purchase instructional design and learning development preparedness support services

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R3-2025.

12:35 P.M. 9. FY2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Emmett Jordan, COG Audit Committee Chair

The auditor presented the FY-2024 audit report to the Audit Committee, issuing an unmodified or “clean” opinion of COG’s financial statements. The Audit Committee reviewed the audit report and recommends approval.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R4-2025.

12:40 P.M. 10. 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Rodney Lusk, 2025 COG Board Chair

Monica Beyrouiti Nuñez, COG Government Relations Manager

The board will be briefed on the draft 2025 legislative priorities for transportation, environment, housing, health and human services, and public safety and food security proposed by the COG Legislative Committee.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing and adopt Resolution R5-2025.

1:05 P.M. 11. 2025 DMV ECONOMIC MOBILITY LEARNING ACTION COHORT

Karla Bruce, Race Forward Chief of Staff

Hazel Monae, COG Chief Equity Officers Committee Co-Chair

The board will be briefed on the upcoming economic mobility learning action cohort and learn about the opportunity for COG local governments to participate. The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) of Race Forward, in partnership with COG will bring together jurisdictions in the region to collectively field test and refine a suite of evolving upward mobility tools developed by Opportunity Insights, Results for America and Urban Institute to positively impact local community outcomes. The cohort will focus on the development and implementation of strategies that support equitable, upward economic mobility.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

1:35 P.M. 12. DEVELOPMENT OF COG’S REGIONAL CRIME DASHBOARD

Eli Russ, COG Senior Public Safety Planner

The board will be briefed on the status of COG’s development of a regional crime dashboard. The dashboard examines real-time data for the major violent and property criminal offenses across participating jurisdictions and allows users to identify crime trends over time periods as well as compare specific or multiple types of crimes.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

1:50 P.M. 13. OTHER BUSINESS

2:00 P.M. 14. ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in-person on Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM #2

ELECTION OF 2025 COG BOARD OFFICERS

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION ELECTING THE 2025 COG BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the COG By-laws state that the board shall annually elect a chair and one or two vice-chairs at the first meeting following the annual meeting of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Nominating Committee recommends approval of the proposed slate of COG Board officers for 2025: Chair Rodney Lusk, Vice Chair Reuben Collins, and Vice Chair Charles Allen.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The board elects the proposed slate of COG Board Officers to serve as the Executive Committee to the COG Board of Directors in 2025.

AGENDA ITEM #3

ELECTION OF 2025 POLICY & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
PROPOSED 2025 POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

NAME	JURISDICTION	POSITION
COG Board Policy Committees		
Kenny Boddye	Prince William County	Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources
Sarah Bagley	City of Alexandria	Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment
Andrew Friedson	Montgomery County	Chair, Food & Agriculture Regional Member
Anita Bonds	District of Columbia	Chair, Human Services
David Snyder	City of Falls Church	Chair, Emergency Preparedness Council
Budget and Finance Committee		
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	COG Board Chair
Reuben Collins	Charles County	COG Board Vice Chair
Charles Allen	District of Columbia	COG Board Vice Chair
James Walkinshaw	Fairfax County	TPB Chair
Tom Dernoga	Prince George's County	MWAQC Chair
Denise Mitchell	City of College Park	COG President
Catherine Read	City of Fairfax	COG Vice President
Kenyan McDuffie	District of Columbia	COG Vice President
Michael O'Connor	City of Frederick	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Audit Committee		
Emmett Jordan	City of Greenbelt	COG Board Member
Brian Feldman	State of Maryland	COG Board Member
Darryl Moore	City of Manassas Park	COG Board Member
Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee		
Rodney Lusk	Fairfax County	COG Board Chair
Reuben Collins	Charles County	COG Board Vice Chair
Charles Allen	District of Columbia	COG Board Vice Chair
Denise Mitchell	City of College Park	COG President
Michael O'Connor	City of Frederick	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Phil Mendelson	District of Columbia	Past COG Board Chair
Pension Plan Administrative Committee		
Clark Mercer, Chair	COG	COG Executive Director
Timothy Canan	COG	Employee Representative
Robert Griffiths	COG	Annuitant Employee Representative
Denise Mitchell	City of College Park	COG Board Member
Julie Mussog	COG	COG CFO
Michael O'Connor	City of Frederick	COG Secretary-Treasurer
Janet Ernst	COG	COG OHRM
Phong Trieu	COG	Employee Representative
COG Board Members –State General Assembly Appointments		
Brian Feldman	Maryland General Assembly	COG Board Member
Mary Lehman	Maryland General Assembly	COG Board Alternate

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2025 COG BOARD POLICY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
LEADERSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the metropolitan Washington region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board of Directors approves the leadership for the individual policy committees, and the administrative committees, and various other positions that report to the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board is being asked to approve the attached proposed slate to serve in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The board approves the attached proposed slate of individuals to serve as the 2025 policy committee leadership and administrative committee membership on the following committees:

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee
Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee
Human Services Policy Committee
Emergency Preparedness Council
Audit Committee
Budget and Finance Committee
Employee Compensation and Benefits Review Committee
Pension Plan Administrative Committee
Maryland General Assembly COG Board Members

AGENDA ITEM #4

CHAIR'S REPORT

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
2025 SCHEDULE OF BOARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

COMMITTEES	Start Time	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COG BOARD	12:00 PM	15	12	12	9	14	11	25-26 Annual Retreat	No meeting	10	8	12	10 Annual Meeting
TPB	12:00 PM	22	19	19	16	21	18	16	No meeting	17	15	19	17
MWAQC	12:00 PM		26			28				24			3
FARM	10:00AM		14		11		13		8		10		12
CEEPC	10:00 AM	22		26		28		23		24		19	
CBPC	10:00 AM	17		21		16		18		19		21	
HSPC	12:00 PM	10		14		9		11		12		14	
EPC	*The EPC will meet on an ad hoc basis for table top exercises and coordination.												

AGENDA ITEM #5

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – January 2025
DATE: January 8, 2024

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In November, the TPB received a recap of the Regional Roadway Safety Summit and an update on TPB Community Advisory Committee (CAC) member recruitment. In December, the board adopted federally required transit and highway safety targets and received updates on the DMVMoves work activities and the TPB Congestion Management Process component of the TPB's planning process.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) – During its December meeting, MWAQC received a briefing on the work being done to redesignate the region as now being in attainment of the 2015 federal ozone standard, which current data supports. MWAQC members discussed the development of an Environmental Justice Action Plan, informed by an extensive public feedback process. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) also briefed members on a variety of tools that MDE has used to help mitigate air pollution in environmental justice communities.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy

Committee (CEEPC) - At its November meeting, CEEPC agreed to conduct a mid-course climate action plan progress review and expressed interest in COG developing an associated education and outreach campaign. CEEPC members were briefed about the Maryland Department of the Environment's plans for medium and heavy-duty freight truck EV charging sites along the I-95 corridor, and Electrify DC presented its home decarbonization program and identified some areas for collaboration which included a "one stop shop" for homeowner information and training programs. Members also received an overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) development that COG is leading for the metropolitan area.



Celebrating regionalism at revamped COG Annual Meeting

On December 11, COG celebrated regional partnership at a revamped COG annual meeting held at a new location, HQO, DC Water's eye-catching headquarters. The event consisted of two parts: a networking reception where members could socialize and an awards ceremony where leaders from across the region received COG's annual awards.

[Read the summary, view photos of the annual meeting](#)

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) – At its November meeting, the committee received a briefing on the Local Leadership Survey conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG). The survey results provide valuable insights into the knowledge and capacity of local officials, helping the LLWG tailor training and resources to better support local governments. Additionally, CBPC members received updates on federal and state legislative developments related to water issues, including drinking water, PFAS (forever chemicals), and stream restoration.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee – At its December meeting, the policy committee reflected on 2024 and considered several proposed amendments to its Bylaws which will be voted on at its next meeting. The committee also received an overview of the forthcoming 2023-2024 Citizen Centric Report, outlining FARM's progress against its two-year Strategic Plan, finances, and what's next for FARM.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) – At its November meeting, HSPC received an overview from the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs team and the Montgomery County Police Department on their work with preventing scams, fraud, and cybercrimes and were briefed on scam and fraud awareness messaging prepared by COG staff for member government use. HSPC members also explored potential areas of collaboration with the FARM Policy Committee, considering initiatives that overlapped well with both food insecurity and human services.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Transportation Planning – In November, the Department of Transportation Planning hosted a Vibrant Communities and Safer Roads Webinar featuring small-scale design projects funded through the TPB's Transportation Land-Use Connections, Regional Roadway Safety, and Transit Within Reach programs.

Public Safety Coordination – In December, the Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety (DHSPS) hosted a tabletop exercise for the Chief Administrative Officers Committee practicing management of active shooter situations. DHSPS also facilitated a meeting between the WMATA General Manager and the COG Fire Chief Chiefs Committee to share and discuss priorities and needs of fire/rescue in the region and Metro, including a revised policy agreement between the Committee and WMATA.

Leadership Training - Applications for the National Capital Region Public Safety Training Seminar is now live on the COG website at mwcog.org/leadership. This three-part course



Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing Roundtable

On Thursday, December 12, COG co-sponsored a Roundtable discussion on affordable housing and historic preservation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to explore key challenges to preserving historic buildings while meeting the housing needs of residents today. The Roundtable was live streamed to an in-person and virtual audience.

[Watch the roundtable recording.](#)

hosted by DHSPS enhances leadership and professional development skills for public safety, health, IT, emergency management, and homeland security disciplines.

Loudoun Learners - The Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety is proud to partner with Loudoun County on a new exciting workforce development pilot program, Loudoun Learners. This program will officially launch in FY2025 with a team of six Loudoun residents from diverse backgrounds who will become software engineers. The program provides learners with technical training and once the initial training period concludes the learners will provide software engineering support, under mentored supervision, for critical Loudoun County IT systems.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Union Station Funding – COG statement on Union Station funding received press coverage from WTOP and Washington Post.

[WTOP](#) – quotes COG Board Chair Charles Allen

Regional Drought Watch – The region has remained under a Drought Watch, declared by COG's Drought Coordination Committee. Recently WUSA 9, Delmarvanow, and Washington Post referenced the ongoing dry conditions and Drought Watch.

[WUSA 9](#)

Officials planning for inauguration events – The COG Board of Directors had a briefing in November on the coordination and preparations ahead of the January 20 inauguration receiving press coverage from the Washington Post and WTOP.

[Washington Post](#)

COG annual meeting – Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall received COG's Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award at COG's annual meeting. The award ceremony was covered by Loudoun Times-Mirror and Loudoun Now.

[Loudoun Now](#)

Return-to-Office – COG Executive Director Clark Mercer was quoted on a Bloomberg article on return-to-office policy in the metropolitan Washington region.

[Bloomberg](#)



DMVMoves Task Force

On December 2, the DMVMoves Task Force held its third meeting and considered several transit scenarios. The meeting was covered by various news outlets, including 7 News, The Center Square, Virginia Mercury, FFXnow, and The Southern Maryland Chronicle.

[Virginia Mercury](#)

[7 News](#)

AGENDA ITEM #6

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM #7

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

MINUTES
COG Board of Directors Meeting
November 13, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

J. Thomas Manger, United States Capitol Police Chief of Police
William “Matt” McCool, United States Secret Service Washington Field Office Special Agent in Charge
Christopher Rodriguez, District of Columbia Assistant City Administrator
Doug Carr, Union Station Redevelopment Corporation President & CEO
Laura Miller Brooks, Federal City Council Director of Transportation & Infrastructure
Michael Shenot, Amtrak Washington Union Station General Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Chair Charles Allen called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. COG Annual Meeting & Awards Reception Dec 11

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COG Executive Director Clark Mercer briefed the board on the following:

- On October 17, in partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), COG launched a new regional racial equity series focused on economic upward mobility. This yearlong learning cohort will work with local governments to develop and refine tools and strategies to positively impact community outcomes.
- COG's DC FARM Tour was held on October 18, visiting four sites from DC to learn about urban farms and food innovations.
- On October 24, Kaiser Permanente and COG hosted the fourth annual Homelessness Forum to address housing insecurity and burnout within the workforce that supports the unhoused population across Washington, DC and Baltimore regions.
- On October 28, COG held a Clean Energy Forum along with Mason Energy, a George Mason University initiative. The forum provided a foundation for regional partners and leaders from diverse sectors to unite and look at ways to accelerate solar energy efforts as COG and partners strive to meet the goal of 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030.
- On October 29, COG kicked off a new Street Smart campaign called “Slow Down, Life Ahead.” The campaign educates drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists with new messaging tips, and increased traffic enforcement to keep everyone safe on the region's roadways.
- On October 31, the final day of National Pedestrian Safety Month, the TPB convened for the Regional Roadway Safety Summit, joined by experts from academia and the federal government to develop recommendations for regional and local action.
- COG and its staff recently received several awards: Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) 2024 WRAPPY Community Partnership Award, Outstanding Program award for the Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program by the American Planning Association National Capital Area Chapter, and COG Housing Program Manager Hilary Chapman was honored by the Arlington NAACP receiving the Charles P. Monroe Civil Rights Award.
- COG launched a new video series called Collaboration in Action highlighting COG's collaborative work with member governments and partner organizations. The series takes viewers behind the scenes of several initiatives.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 9, 2024

The minutes from the October 9, 2024, board meeting were approved. Kate Stewart and Darryl Moore abstained.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Resolution R31-2024 – Resolution authorizing COG to receive a grant, procure and enter into a contract to execute the Building Collaborative Capacity to Manage Invasive Species Habitats in metropolitan Washington Project
- B. Resolution R32-2024 – Resolution authorizing COG to procure and enter into a contract to support the regional Homeland Security and Public Safety Program

Action: The board adopted Resolutions R31-2024 – R32-2024.

7. COORDINATION AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2025 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The board received a briefing from United States Capitol Police Chief of Police J. Thomas Manger, United States Secret Service Washington Field Office Special Agent in Charge William “Matt” McCool, and District of Columbia Assistant City Administrator Christopher Rodriguez on preparation and regional coordination in advance of the 2025 presidential inauguration events.

Action: Received briefing and discussed.

8. UNDERSTANDING UNION STATION'S ENTITIES AND FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

The board received a briefing from Union Station Redevelopment Corporation President & CEO Doug Carr, Federal City Council Director of Transportation & Infrastructure Laura Miller Brooks, and Amtrak Washington Union Station General Manager Michael Shenot on the organizations and transit operators in Union Station, their responsibilities, coordination, and plans to enhance the station.

Action: Received briefing and discussed.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10. ADJORN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

**COG Board of Directors
Meeting
November 13, 2024 Attendance**

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Y/N</u>
<i>District of Columbia</i>				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Beverly Perry	
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Mr. Tomas Talamante	
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson	Y	Hon. Brianne Nadeau	Y
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
<i>Maryland</i>				
City of Bowie	Hon. Tim Adams		Hon. Dufour Woolfley	
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins		Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor		Hon. Kelly Russell	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater	Y	Ms. Victoria Venable	
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell		Hon. Fazlul Kabir	
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu	V	Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan		Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	V	Hon. James Kole	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri Mr. Earl Stoddard	Y
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass	V		
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart	Y		
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Angela Alsobrooks		Ms. Tara Jackson	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Tom Dernoga	Y	Hon. Wanika Fisher	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Ingrid Watson		Hon. Krystal Oriadha	
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton	V		
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy			
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<i>Virginia</i>				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Justin Wilson		Hon. Kirk McPike	
Arlington County	Hon. Libby Garvey	Y		
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Tom Ross	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Walkinshaw	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	V		
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony	V		
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore	Y		
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson	V	Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey	V	Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly	Hon. Mark Sickles			

Y = present V = virtual

Total: 22

AGENDA ITEM #8

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
January 2025

A. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN AND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PREPAREDNESS SUPPORT SERVICES

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R3-2025 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$105,000 for the purchase of contract services to design, develop, and update online training courses for HSEMA Academy in support of the DC Fusion Center. As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract to procure a highly qualified vendor to support the instructional design and development process of several online, self-paced courses, as well as enhancements to existing curriculum, hosted on ASEMAAcademy.com. These courses are intended for an internal audience and include training on incident management functions for the DC Fusion Center/Emergency Operations Center. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R3-2025.

AGENDA ITEM #9

FY2024 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**[Click here to view
audit documents](#)**

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FY-2024 AUDIT, AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE INDEPENDENT
AUDIT FIRM'S CONTRACT TO PERFORM THE FY-2025 AUDIT AND AUTHORIZING SOLICITATION OF
PROPOSALS FROM INDEPENDENT AUDIT FIRMS TO PERFORM THE FY-2026 AUDIT**

WHEREAS, in accordance with COG's procedures and in compliance with requirements established by the Federal Government for recipients of grants and other financial assistance programs, COG engages an independent certified public accounting firm to conduct an annual fiscal year-end audit; and

WHEREAS, the Audit Committee recommends acceptance of the FY-2024 audit report and unqualified opinion prepared by the independent audit firm CLA, LLP; and

WHEREAS, based on the annual performance assessment, the Audit Committee recommends extension of the audit firm's contract for the FY-2025 audit,

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2015, the Board of Directors approved Resolution R20-2015, requiring the Audit Committee to solicit informal quotes or formal proposals from at least three (3) qualified audit firms at least every five (5) years to assess competitive pricing of audit services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

1. The Board hereby accepts the FY-2024 Audit prepared by CLA, LLP, as presented by the Audit Committee.
2. The Executive Director, or his designee, at the direction of the Audit Committee, is hereby authorized to engage CLA, LLP to conduct the annual fiscal year-end audit for FY-2025 and prepare the annual Form 990 not-for-profit tax return, at a cost not to exceed \$85,000.
3. The Executive Director, or his designee, at the direction of the Audit Committee, is hereby authorized to solicit formal proposals from at least three (3) independent certified public accounting firms to conduct the annual fiscal year-end audit for FY-2026.

AGENDA ITEM #10

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



COG Guidelines for Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy

(Adopted by the COG Board of Directors on January 9, 2019)

Development of Legislative Priorities

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) has recognized the need to continue and strengthen its relationship with state and federal officials. Each year the COG Board appoints a Legislative Committee made up of representatives of each of the COG boards and policy committees. The Legislative Committee works with COG staff to develop a set of legislative priorities for the upcoming year and legislative sessions. The legislative priorities include issues of legislative importance that the COG jurisdictions want to advocate for on behalf of the region. The Legislative Committee puts forth recommended priorities that are adopted by the full COG Board. These priorities are then used as the official legislative, regulatory, and policy positions of COG for advocacy and educational efforts at the local, state, and federal level.

Guidelines for Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy

Once adopted by the COG Board, the Legislative Priorities represent the official position of the Council of Governments and are used to communicate our priorities by all COG boards and committees. The following advocacy guidelines should be followed with any related actions and communications by COG.

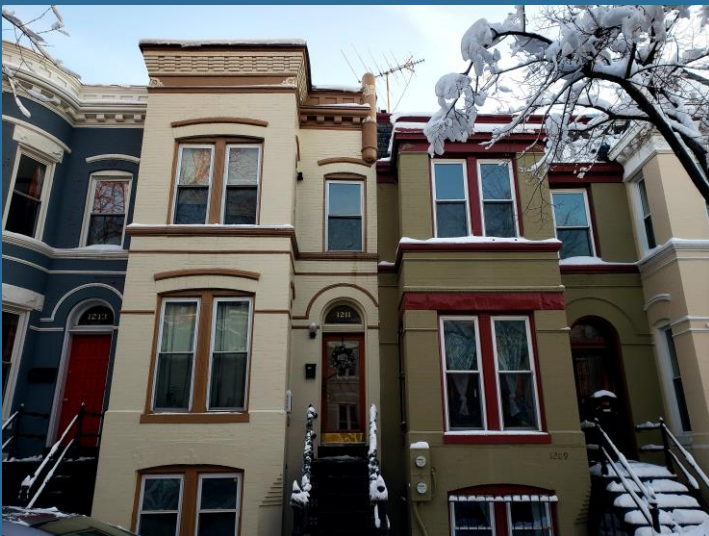
1. **Advocacy Positions Approved in the Legislative Priorities:** The Legislative Priorities adopted annually by the COG Board serve as the official positions of COG including all boards and committees. Subject to being consistent with COG's role as a non-profit, any position approved in the Legislative Priorities document has approval to be advocated on by individual committees and COG staff throughout the year. This includes verbal advocacy, written communications, and electronic communications on related bills, actions and policies. Official positions from the COG Board should be signed by the Board Chair. Official positions approved in the Legislative Priorities can also be used by individual committees and boards and can be signed by the corresponding committee or board chair.
2. **Advocacy Positions Not Approved in the Legislative Priorities:** Occasionally advocacy issues or interests emerge that are not included in the annual Legislative Priorities. Any advocacy efforts on behalf of the COG Board of Directors, boards or policy committees that are not previously approved in the legislative priorities must receive individual approval from the COG Board. This includes verbal advocacy, written communications, and electronic communications on related bills, actions and policies. Therefore, if any member or policy committee requests that COG take a position on a specific issue, it must first be approved by the COG Board. Time sensitive issues can be approved by the COG Board Executive Committee. If the advocacy is in the form of a written communication the Board Chair may decide whether to sign it or designate authority to the appropriate policy committee chair.

Any legislative or regulatory advocacy must be shared with and approved by the Executive Office prior to distribution/action. The Executive Office will work with the Office of Communications as needed to ensure COG message and format consistency, and proper documentation for archiving.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Supporting the region's transportation funding, housing, water quality, climate resiliency, air quality, human services, public health preparedness, homeland security, food security, infrastructure investment and incorporating local government input and equity considerations across all sectors

January 2025



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Adopted by the COG Board of Directors on **January 15, 2025**

ABOUT COG

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

CREDITS

COG 2025 Legislative Committee

Editor: Monica Beyrouti Nunez

Photo Credits: Fire Truck (Flickr); Potomac River (Chesapeake Bay Program/Flickr); Housing (BeyondDC/Flickr); Bike Lane (BeyondDC/Flickr)

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

Alternative formats of this document are available upon request. Visit www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) operates its programs without regard to race, color, and national origin and fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination in all programs and activities. For more information, to file a Title VI related complaint, or to obtain information in another language, visit www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination or call (202) 962-3300.

El Consejo de Gobiernos del Área Metropolitana de Washington (COG) opera sus programas sin tener en cuenta la raza, el color, y el origen nacional y cumple con el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964 y los estatutos y reglamentos relacionados que prohíben la discriminación en todos los programas y actividades. Para más información, presentar una queja relacionada con el Título VI, u obtener información en otro idioma, visite www.mwcog.org/nondiscrimination o llame al (202) 962-3300.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, PLANNING, & CONNECTIVITY

Support DMVMoves Initiative's Funding Recommendations on State and Local Payments to Metro

In FY2025 the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia compact jurisdictions came together to recognize the need to reset the base subsidy payments to Metro to account, in part, for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on operating costs. The region is currently collaborating on the DMVMoves initiative to develop a shared vision for transit in the region, including dedicated funding for Metro and the region's transit systems. Recommendations coming out of the DMVMoves initiative will include funding recommendations such as resetting the subsidy levels to be carried forward into the future and consensus to annually increase these payments at a sustainable and predictable level in all three jurisdictions. With this new funding, there will need to be consistency and consensus among the three funding partners and a commitment from Metro to year-over-year growth limits. Given the importance of state funding in Maryland and the District of Columbia, and the existing shared funding responsibilities in Virginia, the states should continue to play a large role in contributing to the adjusted levels of subsidy payments. Additionally, while the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia have been matching the federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) funds, these funds have not been indexed to account for the impact of inflation. State matching funds for PRIIA should be indexed to a sustainable and predictable level.

Support DMVMoves Initiative on Stronger Coordination and Efficiency for the Region's Transit Providers

Over several decades there have been consistent recommendations made by a variety of commissions and groups to better coordinate and achieve efficiencies amongst our region's numerous transit providers. Through the DMVMoves effort, recommendations not yet achieved by the region though still considered priorities and deserving of implementation have been grouped into six categories: Integrate and align fare policies to provide consistent customer experience (e.g., transfers, youth fares, etc.); adopt shared service guidelines for when and how often transit operates and measure performance; improve wayfinding, customer information, and amenities at transit stops; implement bus priority strategies to get best value from high-frequency routes; explore shared use of resources and assets and grouped procurements; and make training, certification, and inspection programs more consistent across the region. Specific, implementable recommendations will come out of these workgroups that will likely necessitate legislative action at the local, state, and federal levels.

Support an Indexed Federal Funding for the Region's Metro System

The Metro system is the centerpiece of the metropolitan Washington transportation system and forms the backbone of its economy. Almost half of all federal employees use the Metrorail and bus system to commute to work. The federal government should act to permanently provide a larger share of both operating and capital funding for the Metro system, which its employees and the region depend on. Specifically, support making the federal government's annual appropriations for

the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) permanent and index the funding amount to a sustainable and predictable level.

Support Fixing the Deficit in the Federal Highway Trust Fund

For more than two decades the federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF) revenue has been insufficient to fund the congressionally authorized surface transportation program. These shortfalls have been closed with transfers from general fund and other short-term measures, including in the recent reauthorization for federal transportation spending through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The Congressional Budget Office projects that the balance in both the highway and transit accounts of the Highway Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2028. Support addressing this structural deficit and systemic imbalance of the HTF revenues as a top priority to provide certainty of federal funding for the surface transportation program and ensure that any fix to the HTF revenue structure retains all the programs included in the 2021 IIJA and fully funds them at levels authorized or previously envisioned.

Support Equitable Transportation Access & Mobility Solutions

The region continues to strive to better understand the nature of transportation inequities through its analyses in areas such as Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) or disadvantaged communities identified under the federal Justice40 initiative. As part of the preceding priority to support the Visualize 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan, particular support is needed for those solutions that address disparities in disadvantaged communities throughout the region.

Support Funding for Next Generation Transportation Systems

The need for a more efficient and safer means of surface transportation is imperative to help achieve the nation's safety, energy-efficiency, and environmental goals. Automated and autonomous vehicles and clean fuel vehicles including electric and hydrogen fuel vehicles, are critical elements of delivering safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable mobility. The private sector has made significant investments to advance deployment of vehicles using alternative modes of energy and technology. Significant public sector investments are needed to prepare transportation infrastructure to facilitate the operations of these advanced technology vehicles to realize the energy, environment, and safety benefits they offer. Support and expand the continuation of federal funding for building electric vehicles and other advanced technology infrastructure, beyond the term of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Support Roadway & Pedestrian Safety

Safety on our roadways and for our pedestrians and bicyclists constitutes a longstanding and unfortunately worsening challenge for our region, especially the recent tragic increase in pedestrian deaths. Increased regional support and collaboration for the “E’s” of safety is needed: engineering, education, enforcement, emergency medical services, and equity, in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration’s “Safe System Approach”. Additional resources, innovative practices and technology, and enhanced safety laws are needed to combat this crisis. Specific initiatives should include regional ticket reciprocity between Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia in order to improve the ability to hold drivers accountable for their actions across state lines; more effective traffic enforcement and penalties; and consideration of the safety of people outside of vehicles in vehicle designs, standards, and ratings. Vision Zero-supportive laws and practices across the country and around the world have shown success in reducing fatalities and should be emulated and adopted here.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY & AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals

Expand policies, programs, and funding at federal, state, and local levels to help meet the region's medium- and long-term objectives in climate change mitigation. Ensure that local governments are recognized and given opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input on climate and clean energy policies and programs.

Support Accelerated Multi-Sector Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Criteria Pollutants

The region and its member jurisdictions are committed to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change including reducing the amount of harmful greenhouse gases (GHG) released in the atmosphere. Support accelerated actions across all sectors to help meet the region's 2030 climate and energy goals. Support engagement and continued funding at all levels of government to monitor the impacts of climate investment programs and GHG performance measures. Emphasize priority investments in Equity Emphasis Areas.

Ensure Sustainable Secure Energy Access for All

Advocate for state and federal actions to enhance access to secure, affordable clean energy. Prioritize and protect funding for energy-sector infrastructure to improve affordability, resilience and reliability. Support policies, funding, and incentives for energy efficiency and security improvements such as microgrids, district energy systems, and clean energy storage technology. Prioritize funding for upgrading energy infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events and to protect investments in grid technologies that improve energy efficiency and system performance. Emphasize the need for deployment and workforce development in low-income, energy-burdened, and vulnerable communities to ensure a just and equitable climate future for all.

Support Solar Deployment and Aggressive State Renewable Portfolio Standards

State requirements for a clean grid and aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and support for local efforts to deploy distributed solar on government facilities and in the community at scale are effective methods of increasing the amount of renewable electricity generated within a grid system driving greater deployment of renewable energy projects to meet the region's 2030 solar goals. Protect existing and advocate for more aggressive policies, including state RPS and other innovative policies and programs, business models, and funding opportunities that support meeting the RPS, such as supporting a strong Renewable Energy Credit (REC) market, solar carve-outs in RPS policies, reasonable solar interconnection standards, offshore wind, community choice aggregation, and community solar opportunities for energy-burdened households.

Expand Clean Energy Innovation, Technology & Finance

Encourage and support investment in energy innovation across sectors to increase energy efficiency and transition to clean and distributed energy sources. Expand options for and improve access to clean energy finance at the state and local levels, including advocating for further investment in and deployment of capital through green banks. Foster cost effective and efficient market frameworks, reasonable regulatory frameworks, business model innovation incentives and partnerships that

expand the adoption of energy efficient and zero energy building codes, building benchmarking, clean energy technologies and infrastructure, and low or zero-emission vehicles.

Support Aggressive Energy Efficiency Goals

Encourage and support federal, state, and local energy efficiency programs to reduce energy usage, costs, and associated greenhouse gas emissions. Advocate for aggressive initiatives to target households with high energy burdens. Prioritize support and incentives for weatherization, deep energy retrofits, building electrification and retro-commissioning programs to achieve the highest possible energy performance and preferably zero energy buildings within Equity Emphasis Areas and climate vulnerable communities of concern. Support policies and programs to address energy demand growth from high electricity use sectors such as data centers.

Enhance Incentives & Financing Mechanisms for Climate Resiliency

Support legislation, incentives, financing, and funding mechanisms to support deployment of grey blue, and green infrastructure resilient to extreme heat, flooding, and other climate hazards. Priority resilient infrastructure initiatives include the establishment of resilience hubs in climate vulnerable communities, improving the resilience of critical infrastructure (transportation, communication, energy and water system assets), equitably addressing urban heat island, enhance green infrastructure networks, providing for tree planting and preservation on privately owned lands, and implementing measures to reduce flood risk in climate vulnerable communities, such as restoring wetlands and enhancing green infrastructure to augment and improve stormwater management.

Support Policies that Preserve & Protect Regional Air Quality and Public Health

Support strong policies, regulations, and funding necessary to preserve improvements in air quality and strengthen the region's ability to meet current and future air quality standards that are protective of public health and welfare. Advocate for federal policies that support measures to mitigate the effects of wildfire risks on regional air quality. Consider environmental justice when implementing air quality policies, programs, and initiatives. Support funding for local member efforts to identify and implement initiatives to reduce air pollution. Support regulatory actions to monitor and reduce air pollution transport into the region.

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Support Investments in Water Infrastructure & Water Quality Protection

Support appropriating the full authorized funding levels for water, wastewater, stormwater, and water reuse programs, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs, the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) and for state programs including grants for local governments and water utilities, and stormwater local assistance funds. Specifically, COG supports full federal funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Backup Water Supply Feasibility Study authorized in Public Law 117-263, Division H, Section 8201(a)(14). In addition, COG supports funding state revolving funds (SRFs) at the maximum authorization in federal law and making sure that funding for congressionally directed spending projects is in addition to the authorized SRF funding levels. Ensure that local water infrastructure investments to meet water quality permit load allocations and handle future population and economic growth are protected, specifically in revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement in 2025. Invest in workforce training and development to ensure the availability of skilled workers to fill water sector jobs. Support funding for agricultural conservation programs.

Support Climate & Resiliency Initiatives

Support funding and policy to address robust scientific climate change analysis, adaptation and resiliency planning and coordinated local best practices for flood control, drought, and water storage and reuse. Support drinking water security and resiliency through research, planning, programs and funding to ensure a resilient, reliable, and clean drinking water supply for the region.

Ensure Regulatory Feasibility & Flexibility

Support actions that provide for flexible implementation and a feasible pace for future stormwater, water, and wastewater permits and other regulatory requirements, including reasonable reporting requirements. Support cost-effective scheduling and financing of water quality programs including streamlining permits, flexibility to achieve nutrient and sediment reduction across wastewater, stormwater, and other sectors to protect affordability of water. For PFAS regulation, COG supports policies that enforce the "polluter pays" principle for PFAS cleanup, ensuring those responsible for contamination are held accountable. In addition, COG supports an explicit legislative exemption from liability under CERCLA (Superfund) for water and wastewater systems, which are passive receivers of these pollutants.

Ensure Local Government Input

Ensure that local governments and wastewater and drinking water utilities are given opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input on revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement in 2025, as well as legislation and management decisions affecting the Chesapeake Bay and local water quality.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Support Efforts to Equitably Increase the Supply of Housing & Promote Housing Affordability

Support legislation and programs (such as the 2023-2024 provisions of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act and Neighborhood Homes Investment Act) to preserve and increase the supply of housing and housing choices to address the full spectrum of need in our region. Ensure that a sufficient supply of housing is preserved and produced as outlined in COG's 2030 Regional Housing Initiative targets including a diverse range of housing unit types, sizes and price points that are affordable (both rental and homeownership) for our residents in the region's identified Activity Centers and Equity Emphasis Areas. Support efforts to eliminate barriers to the production of fair and affordable housing by encouraging new financing tools (for builders and buyers), streamlining development processes, and creating innovative regulatory reforms, such as adaptive re-use of commercial space, that results in the production of a greater variety of housing types and eliminate exclusionary zoning practices. Support legislation, policies, and practices that increase access to opportunity, reverse segregation, and create inclusive communities in concert with efforts to increase supply overall.

Support Efforts to Prevent & End the Experience of Homelessness

Work with federal, state, and local Continuums of Care throughout the region to ensure that the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring through implementation of a racial equity - informed "Housing First" approach. Support increasing the supply of deeply affordable and supportive housing with wrap-around services that promote housing stability and independent living, including strategies listed above. Voice the need for additional HUD funding for Housing Choice Vouchers to meet the need for permanent housing options as well as robust state and federal resources for local governments to provide necessary supports, such as case management, housing counseling, and navigator services to protect vulnerable residents. Support legislation such as the Housing Alignment and Coordination of Critical and Effective Supportive Health Services Act (ACCESS) to align housing and health care resources and clarify how federal funds can be used by homeless services providers to build their infrastructure to bill Medicaid for reimbursement. Support funding for financial rental assistance and legal aid to tenants, landlords, and moderate-income homeowners to prevent a significant increase in evictions and people experiencing homelessness.

Support Alignment of Workforce Development & Job Creation

Support federal legislation to focus on workforce development and job creation at the local level, and efforts to develop industry standard credentialing and skills programs for sectors experiencing job growth in the region. Support legislation and programs that fund local job development, career and technical education, and overall, more closely align education and job creation.

Support Local Governments & Activity Centers

Work with local governments to support sound land use planning which focuses on employer retention and new job growth in the region's mixed-use Activity Centers.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Health Response

Support funding for public health to prevent, prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies and pandemics. Leverage new and existing funding mechanisms that would provide resources to carry out public health surveillance, reporting, infection control, vaccine distribution, laboratory testing, mass care, planning and exercises, communications and other public health activities. Invest in an adequate workforce capacity and capability to support public health infrastructure. Enact and support the development of more secure supply chain networks, with a focus on vulnerable populations, as it relates to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other life safety equipment used in the response of pandemics.

Support Cybersecurity Preparedness Initiatives

Support cybersecurity programs and initiatives that advance and improve cyber preparedness and response to current and emerging threats. Work with local and state partners to develop resiliency against future cybersecurity attacks and other virtual threats targeted at our citizens and the information technology infrastructure of our communities.

Support Regional Emergency Preparedness

Continue to support emergency response preparedness programs that advance and improve response preparedness to existing and emerging threats. Work with local and state partners to maximize the region's share of federal grant funds and use these funds to promote value added outcomes that continue to increase capacity, capability, and developed standards for regional response in the National Capital Region.

Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funding

The National Capital Region (NCR) receives UASI funding for efforts to address the multi-discipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and to assist in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism using the whole community approach. As funding allocations are assessed, policy makers should recognize the complexity of challenges in the NCR that directly impact Federal government operations and security and support an increase in UASI funding to our region to effectively address the unique nexus of U.S. Federal, state, local, and international operations.

Support Resources for Violent Crime Reduction

Provide resources at the local, state and federal level to support the development, implementation and evaluation of strategies to prevent, intervene in, and respond to violent crime. Specifically, gun violence and the associated trauma inflicted on communities. Continue to provide Department of Justice grant funding to support violent crime reduction efforts at the local level.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Support Efforts to Combat Substance Use Disorders

Work with local, state, and federal partners to increase resources to combat substance use disorders for all ages throughout the region which may include improving access to treatment and recovery services, promoting prevention education, reducing the stigma of drug disorders, supporting research on pain management, protecting harm reduction strategies, and ensuring awareness of overdose-reversing drugs.

Support Health Equity and Health Disparity Reduction

Support ongoing system reform that advances health equity and reduces health disparities, especially in maternal health outcomes. Health equity is the goal that every person is equally able to live a healthy life regardless of their background or circumstances. Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged racial, ethnic, and other population groups and communities. Ensure access to care for the health of all residents and the reduction of disparities in maternal morbidity and mortality by enacting policies that will assist counties in improving maternal health outcomes.

Increase Availability of and Access to Mental Health Services

Work with local, state, and federal partners to increase access to and availability of mental and behavioral health services, especially for youth, throughout the region. Include psychiatric hospital beds, counseling, telehealth, and other outpatient services; support culturally competent providers from diverse backgrounds; develop communication strategies to combat mental health stigma and promote mental wellness throughout communities. Continue expansion of crisis intervention, mental health courts, and diversion programs, where treatment is indicated rather than incarceration, especially for at-risk youth; and re-entry programs to reduce recidivism rates of mental health consumers.

Promote Family Preservation and Avoid Family Separation Due to Citizenship Status

Work with local partners to prioritize efforts that prevent family separation due to deportation or citizenship status. Advocate for policies that safeguard families of varying citizenship status by promoting alternatives to family separation and ensuring their placement within supportive family or community settings when separation is unavoidable. Emphasize strategies to strengthen family preservation services. Collaborate with child welfare systems to maximize funding and resources to address the increased caseload resulting from family separations, ensuring children have access to critical support services and stable placements during these challenging transitions.

Increase Recruitment and Support for Foster Children and Resource Parents

Support initiatives to address the critical shortage of resource parents by enhancing recruitment efforts and providing adequate support and resources to retain them. This includes offering targeted community outreach efforts to raise awareness of the need for foster families. Increase recruitment tools by promoting collaboration among jurisdictions to share events, resources, and best practices that effectively engage potential resource parents.

FOOD SECURITY & HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Strengthen Programs that Support Childhood Nutrition & Well-being

Use federal, state, and local legislative efforts to make access to school meals free for all students. Extend, expand, and simplify programs such as Summer EBT and the Summer Meals Program. Enhance and expand the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program. Support supplemental, non-diversionary funding for other policies which reduce childhood poverty and food insecurity, including local, state, and federal Child Tax Credits. Strengthen farm-to-school programs and investments to connect the region's farmers with schools and childcare facilities. Support policies to provide and promote healthier food and drink options for children in retail and institutional settings.

Improve Food Security & Healthy Food Access

Support federal, state and local initiatives/investments to increase food and flexible cash assistance to residents in need, including children and their families, college students, adults, and seniors. Increase participation in federal benefit programs, streamline program administration and promote regional collaboration. Support and evaluate innovative initiatives to serve residents not eligible for federal programs to address the gap between cost of living and wages. Make permanent funding increases to SNAP to address food inflation and participants' nutritional needs, including reauthorization of the Farm Bill. Support culturally responsive policies and practices that protect the dignity and safety of food assistance recipients from immigrant communities. Support revenue generation policies to fund supplemental benefits for SNAP recipients at the local and state level, including leveraging tax policies such as an extreme wealth tax. Support the on-going modernization of SNAP to include increasing information security for SNAP participants and decreasing the incidence of SNAP outages. Create a means to replace funds for participants experiencing fraud or theft. Enhance SNAP acceptance among small and or local vendors through technology innovation and dissemination. Support policies and investments that address disparities in wealth and rates of food insecurity in people of color, including Black and Hispanic/Latino households. Increase investments in programs that improve access to local and regional healthy food, including access on college campuses, at food banks and pantries, farmers markets and CSAs, food hubs, grocery, point-of-choice initiatives, and in food as medicine programs. Promote the use of publicly owned lands for community food production, including food forests and community gardens. Recognize the hunting and fishing rights, as well as other food security priorities of indigenous people.

Support Small Farmers & Food System Resilience

Address issues such as Heirs Property which contributes to loss of land and intergenerational wealth among low-income individuals through advocacy and stakeholder education. Support local government efforts to increase farmland preservation, protect agricultural soils, and support programs that facilitate land transition to the next generation of small farmers. Promote and expand successful new and beginning farmer training programs and access to resources to support new farm businesses. Center the unique experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in legislative proposals, and policy and program development to facilitate greater access to land ownership, capital, and markets. Support resources and policies that promote values-based group purchasing and institutional procurement initiatives from the region's farms. Invest in farmland protection and access, regional food system infrastructure, research, and capacity to increase resiliency. Prioritize funding and simplify processes to streamline payment and processing of benefit programs for farmers.

Support Local Food Entrepreneurs, Businesses, & Workforce Development

Strengthen programs that support entrepreneurialism, cooperative development, workforce development, and living wages in the regional food economy. Invest in local business development and ownership and target those investments to help address long-standing food system inequities faced by communities of color. Create career pipelines for food and agriculture workers and improve the health and safety of work environments. Invest in regional food production and distribution infrastructure to support small businesses including subsidized regional commercial kitchen space.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Legislative Priorities: Monica Beyrouti Nunez, mbeyrouti@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3212

Transportation: Kanti Srikanth, ksrikanth@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3257

Water & Food Security: Steven Bieber, sbieber@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3219

Climate & Energy: Jeff King, jking@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3238

Housing and Human Services: Hilary Chapman, hchapman@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3346

Emergency Preparedness: Scott Boggs, sboggs@mwkog.org, (202) 962-3268

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COG 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the draft 2025 Legislative Priorities have been reviewed by the individual policy committees and the 2025 Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board has received and reviewed the draft 2025 Legislative Priorities; and

WHEREAS, the draft 2025 Legislative Priorities addresses the main issues the COG Board of Directors wants to communicate to state and federal officials as important concerns during the upcoming legislative session; and

WHEREAS, in order to communicate the annual priorities in a consistent manner staff developed Guidelines for Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy to ensure that all advocacy efforts are under the direction of the COG Board of Directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The board adopts the 2025 Legislative Priorities and directs its Executive Director, or his designee, to distribute the priorities to the appropriate state and federal officials representing areas of the COG member jurisdictions.

AGENDA ITEM #11

2025 DMV ECONOMIC MOBILITY LEARNING ACTION COHORT

US PARTNERSHIP ON MOBILITY FROM POVERTY PROPOSED WORK IN DMV REGION

BACKGROUND:

The Gates Foundation assembled the best minds to seek answers to the broad question, “What would it take to dramatically increase mobility from poverty?” Their work is documented in this 2018 [report](#). The phase that followed called on anchor organizations – [Opportunity Insights](#), [Results for America](#) and [Urban Institute](#) - to develop tool kits toward implementing targeted strategies.

Currently, Race Forward/GARE (RF/GARE) is participating with a national learning cohort to refine and distribute these tools to practitioners throughout their network. RF/GARE was awarded funding to specifically work with practitioners to refine tools to center race. Building on the DMV regional commitment and demonstrated progress advancing racial equity, RF/GARE proposes to engage jurisdictions across the Washington DC Metro region, with the support of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). DMV jurisdictions are uniquely positioned to collectively field test and refine these tools to positively impact your own community outcomes as well as advance national practice through recommended refinements to the tools.

The upward mobility tools broadly pursue five interrelated and complementary strategies:

- Change the narrative
- Create access to good jobs
- Ensure zip code is not destiny
- Provide support that empowers
- Transform data use

PROPOSED WORK INVITATION

Phase I: October 2024 – January 2025 (Completed)

Participate in a one-day workshop designed to:

- ◇ Explore the definition and promising strategies of upward mobility
- ◇ Introduce the Opportunity Atlas
- ◇ Begin to apply in your own locality to identify and prioritize your key upward mobility challenge(s)
- ◇ Access TA from the Partnership to complete local scan (post-session)
- ◇ Identify 2-3 priority upward mobility challenges along with key stakeholders associated with these

Phase II: January – December 2025

CEOC committee, facilitated by RF/GARE will:

- ◇ Exchange jurisdictions' local scans to determine a collective regional priority challenge(s)
- ◇ Invite jurisdictions to form cross sector, inside/outside team to join regional action learning cohort to test/refine implementation tools
- ◇ Invite other COG committees relevant to the challenge to the cohort
- ◇ Co-design a workshop series to apply targeted tools relative to the identified regional challenge

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

1. Through field testing tools, identify and recommend refinements – i.e. deeper levels of data are needed to better understand your local challenge, particularly as you work to center race.
2. Participating jurisdictions, through the action learning cohort process, initiate strategies that result in practice and/or policy change boosting upward mobility outcomes
3. Lessons learned positively impact effectiveness and connectivity of COG committees

[Visit Urban.org](https://urban.org)

Urban Institute | Upward Mobility Initiative



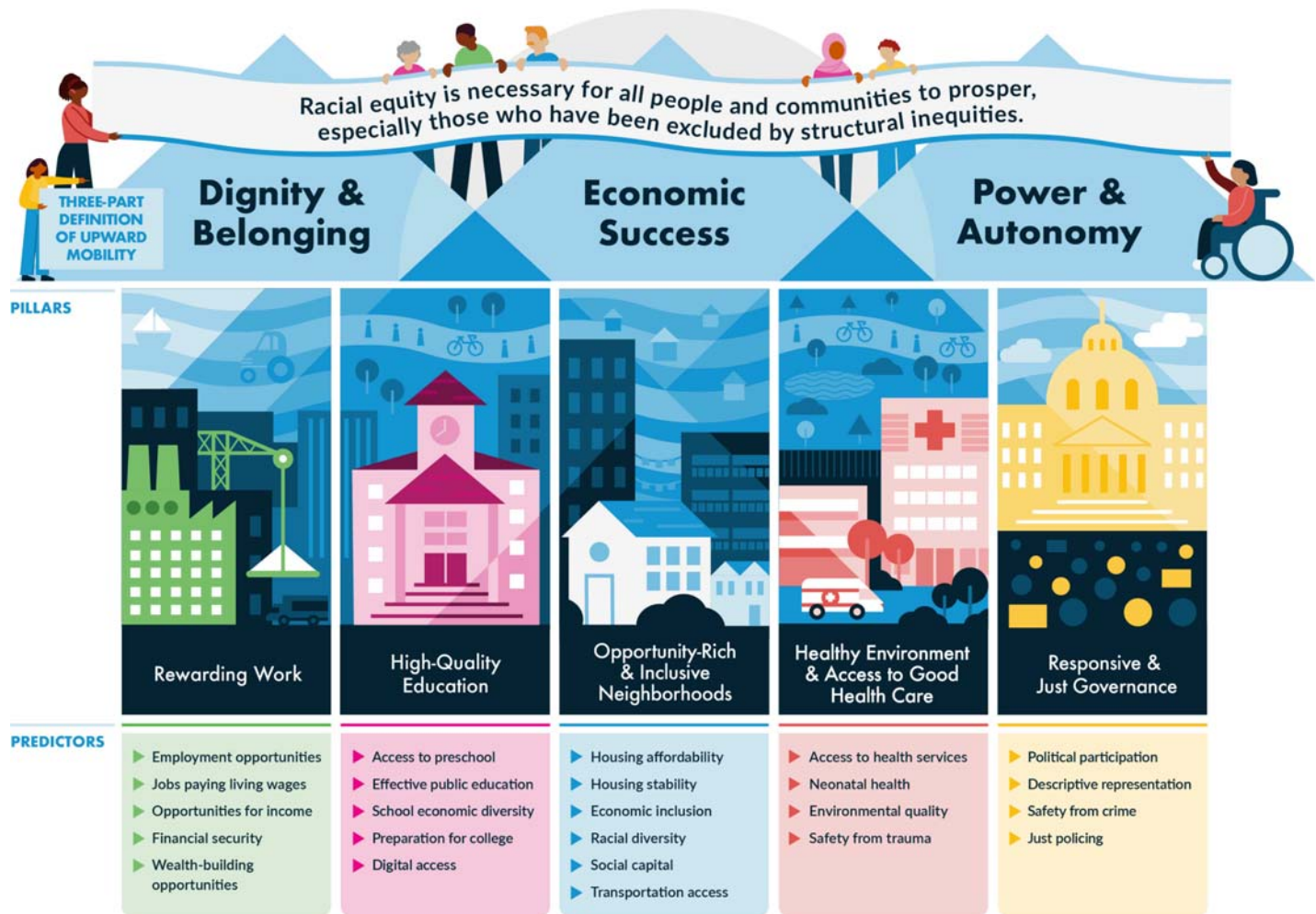
MENU



Upward Mobility Framework

The Urban Institute's Upward Mobility Framework provides an evidence-based foundation for efforts to advance upward mobility and racial equity for people and communities. It offers local leaders a holistic definition of upward mobility and identifies factors they can influence to increase mobility for all people, especially those historically excluded from prosperity.

The framework includes a [three-part definition of economic and social mobility](#), a [focus on racial equity](#), [five pillars of support people need from their communities](#), and [24 predictors of the strength of these pillars](#) that communities can influence to help more residents reach long-term prosperity.



The following sections explain the Upward Mobility Framework's components and how local leaders can apply them to advance upward mobility and racial equity.

01 Three-Part Definition of Upward Mobility

Upward mobility for people and communities is the ultimate goal of the framework. We define upward mobility as having three interconnected dimensions.



Dignity and belonging: people feel the respect, dignity, and belonging that come from contributing to their family, work, and community and are valued for those contributions



Economic success: people have adequate income and assets to support their and their family's material well-being



Power and autonomy: people have control over their lives, can make choices, and exert influence over larger policies and actions that affect their future

02 Emphasis on Racial Equity



Many of the barriers that block people's economic success, power and autonomy, and dignity and belonging result from long-standing—and ongoing—racism that is built into policies, processes, institutions, and culture. Supporting people's upward mobility therefore requires confronting and eliminating racial inequities.

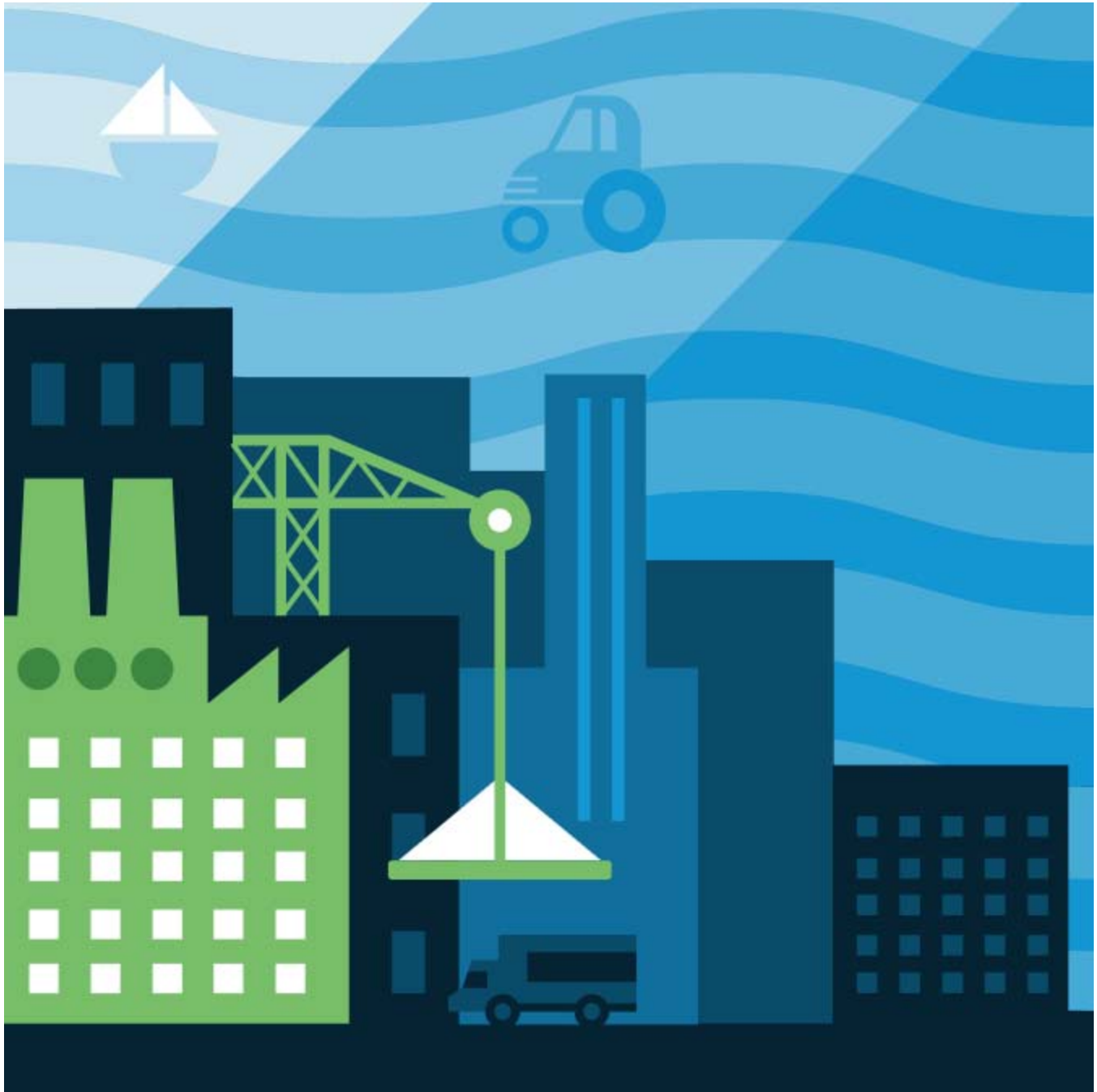
For this reason, racial equity acts as the thread that connects all the framework's components, from the predictors of mobility and how they are measured to the desired outcome of equitable upward mobility. Local leaders applying the framework must embed racial equity in both their processes and their outcomes to ensure they serve those who have been most harmed.

In the *process* of boosting upward mobility, leaders must seek to understand and address the root causes of inequities and how racial injustices intersect with other forms of oppression based on gender, age, disability, and other characteristics. Essential to this work is empowering residents who have experienced poverty and racism in setting priorities and identifying solutions.

Achieving racial equity in *outcomes* requires that policies, practices, and resources confront and overcome the root causes of today's inequities and injustices. This entails systematic reforms to all five pillars of support so they enable everyone—especially those excluded from prosperity—to achieve economic success, build power, and experience dignity.

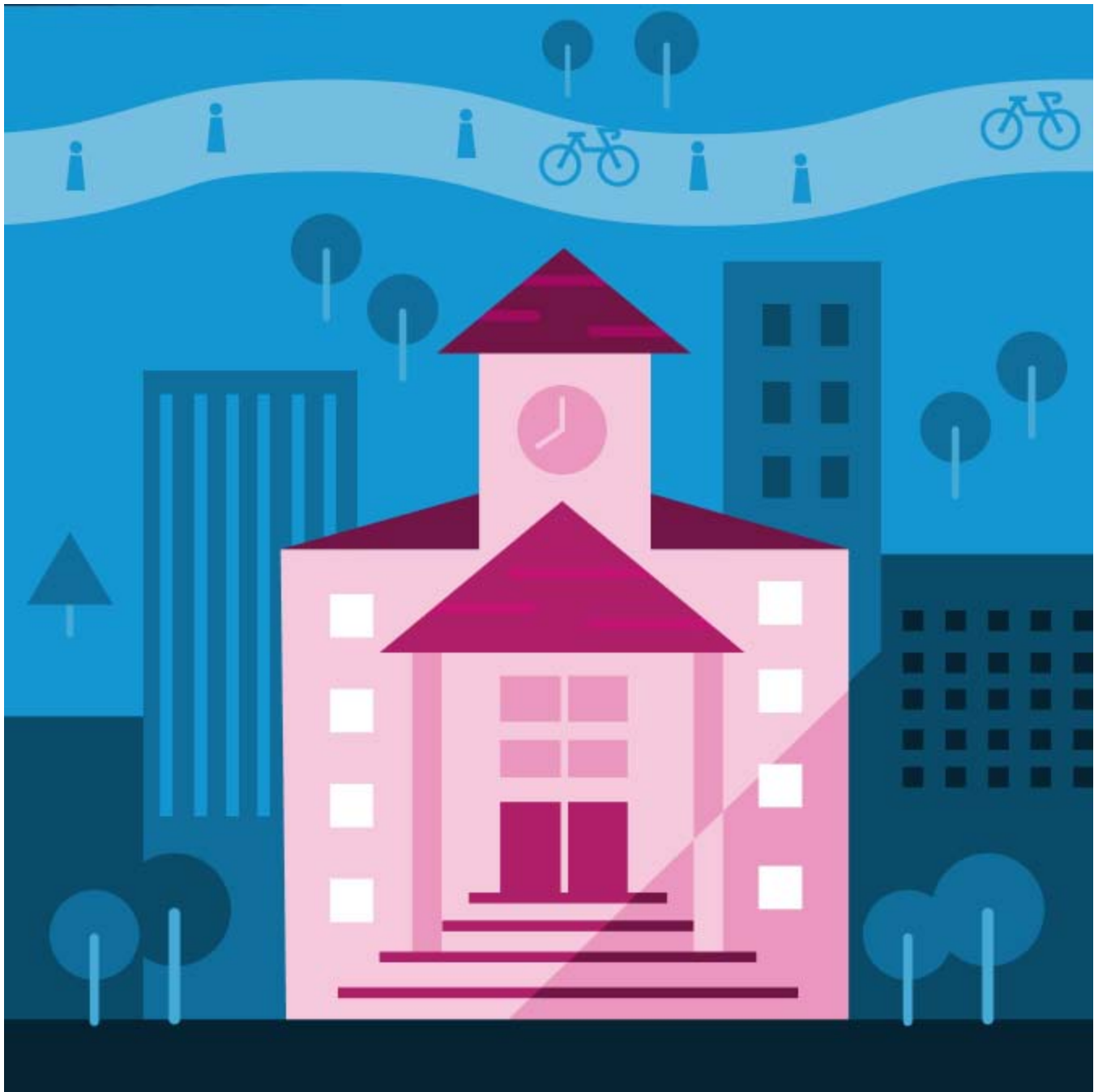
03 Essential Pillars of Support

People cannot surmount systemic barriers to upward mobility on their own. Communities must ensure residents can access the supports all people need to achieve economic success, power and autonomy, and dignity and belonging. The framework identifies five interconnected pillars of support that are essential to mobility.



Rewarding Work

Rewarding work pays a living wage, provides dignified work conditions, and offers economic security.



High-Quality Education

High-quality education—from preschool through postsecondary—provides a crucial avenue to economic and social mobility.



Opportunity-Rich and Inclusive Neighborhoods

Opportunity-rich and inclusive neighborhoods play a central role in supporting families' stability and well-being, their access to social and economic opportunities, and children's chances to thrive and succeed.



Healthy Environment and Access to Good Health Care

Healthy environment and access to good health care help people of all ages to surmount life's challenges, excel in school and at work, ensure their families' well-being, and fully participate in their communities.



Responsive and Just Governance

Responsive and just governance engages residents in decisionmaking and serves the needs of all community members with restraint and fairness.

Local leaders can use the next framework component—the predictors—to build or bolster these pillars to help more residents reach upward mobility.

04 Predictors

For local leaders to improve the conditions that lead to upward mobility and racial equity, they need to know what to change and how. The predictors give them that information.

The predictors are 24 factors strongly associated with long-term economic success, power and autonomy, and dignity and belonging. Examples of predictors across the five pillars include living wages, access to preschool, housing stability, access to health services, and political participation.

Local leaders can measure the status of each predictor and progress toward improving it using our suite of [Mobility Metrics](#). Each metric offers one way to start assessing and monitoring a predictor over the medium term. For example, we use the share of 3- and 4-year-olds in preschool or nursery school as a way to measure the access to preschool predictor.

The Mobility Metrics should not be viewed as the only data communities need to inform mobility strategies. They perform the vital function of directing local leaders' attention to barriers that warrant further information gathering, analysis, and discussion.



Rewarding Work

- [Employment opportunities](#)
- [Jobs paying living wages](#)
- [Opportunities for income](#)

- Financial security
- Wealth-building opportunities



High-Quality Education

- Access to preschool
- Effective public education
- School economic diversity
- Preparation for college
- Digital access



Opportunity-Rich and Inclusive Neighborhoods

- Housing affordability
- Housing stability

- [Economic inclusion](#)
- [Racial diversity](#)
- [Social capital](#)
- [Transportation access](#)



Healthy Environment and Access to Good Health Care

- [Access to health services](#)
- [Neonatal health](#)
- [Environmental quality](#)
- [Safety from trauma](#)



Responsive and Just Governance

- [Political participation](#)

- [Descriptive representation](#)
- [Safety from crime](#)
- [Just policing](#)

Learn More

Dig deeper into the evidence behind the framework and the ways local leaders can use it to increase upward mobility and racial equity for people and communities.

[ABOUT THE MOBILITY METRICS](#)[DATA DASHBOARD](#)[ABOUT](#)[CAREERS](#)[SUPPORT
US](#)[CONTACT
US](#)[SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
NEWSLETTER](#)[Privacy](#)[Terms of Service](#)[Copyright © Urban Institute](#)

AGENDA ITEM #12

DEVELOPMENT OF COG'S REGIONAL CRIME DASHBOARD

AGENDA ITEM #13

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #14

ADJOURN