



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 16, 2019

### CONTACT:

LaToya Foster (EOM) – (202) 727-5011; [latoya.foster@dc.gov](mailto:latoya.foster@dc.gov)

Lydia Sermons (CFSA) – (202) 251-8637; [lydia.sermons@dc.gov](mailto:lydia.sermons@dc.gov)

## Mayor Bowser Invests Nearly \$4 Million to Build Ten Family Success Centers in Wards 7 and 8

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Today, Mayor Muriel Bowser and DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) Director Brenda Donald announced grants to community-based organizations that will work with her Child and Family Services Agency to launch [Families First DC](#), a nearly \$4 million investment to provide stronger supports to families in Wards 7 and 8 through 10 Family Success Centers. The new initiative, which the Mayor proposed for the first time in her Fiscal Year 2020, will be led by the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA).

*“When we put families first and support the needs of children and parents, the whole community benefits. Through Families First DC, we can hear directly from families about the challenges they’re facing, and connect them to a wide range of services and programs,”* said Mayor Bowser. *“These ten Family Success Centers represent our commitment to making every neighborhood in DC a place where families and children can thrive.”*

Families First DC will help families with primary prevention services and neighborhood-driven resources to increase protective factors, mitigate trauma, and help families thrive East of the River. These communities were selected based on social determinants of health data, violence prevention priority areas, and substantiated reports on child abuse and neglect.

“Families First DC is a major part of the next evolution of the District’s city-wide prevention services that will focus further upstream to work with families before they enter a time of crisis,” said CFSA Director Brenda Donald. “Through the Family Success Centers and the neighborhood-centric, integrated government services and programs they will offer, we’re going

to build on family and community strengths and increase our ability to meet their complex, interconnected needs.”

Each center will officially open and begin offering services in October 2020. The locations of the centers are:

**Ward 7:** Benning Terrace/Benning Park, Clay Terrace, Mayfair/Paradise, Stoddart Terrace/37<sup>th</sup>, and Benning & Minnesota.

**Ward 8:** Woodland Terrace, Anacostia, Congress Heights, Washington Highlands, and Bellevue.

Together, Families First DC and the District’s federal [Five-Year Family First Prevention Plan](#) round out DC’s robust city-wide prevention strategy, in conjunction with services provided by city agencies and community partners. The District was the first jurisdiction in the nation to submit and have a plan approved by the federal Children’s Bureau.

###

**Social Media:**

Mayor Bowser Twitter: [@MayorBowser](#)

Mayor Bowser Instagram: [@Mayor\\_Bowser](#)

Mayor Bowser Facebook: [facebook.com/MayorMurielBowser](#)

Mayor Bowser Website: [mayor.dc.gov](#)

Mayor Bowser YouTube: [https://www.bit.ly/eomvideos](#)