



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1E
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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**#1E-2025-0403: RESOLUTION URGING EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR THE
PRE-K ENHANCEMENT AND EXPANSION PROGRAM (PKEEP)**

WHEREAS, Access to high-quality Pre-K education is a proven driver of long-term academic and economic success, especially for children from low-income households and historically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, While ANC 1E is a socioeconomically diverse community, it includes families facing economic barriers to early education access, and relies on community-based childcare providers that serve a broad range of household incomes; and

WHEREAS, Decades of research show that high-quality early childhood education, including Pre-K, is associated with long-term reductions in youth crime, improved high school graduation rates, and greater lifetime earnings, while also reducing future public expenditures on social services, criminal justice, and remedial education; and

WHEREAS, The District of Columbia’s Pre-K Enhancement and Expansion Program (PKEEP) funds free, high-quality Pre-K slots at Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), providing critical early education access to families across the District; and

WHEREAS, These CBOs serve as essential pillars in a “mixed-delivery” system that ensures families—especially those in neighborhoods underserved by DC Public Schools and Public Charter Schools—can access early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, Current enrollment data shows that PKEEP disproportionately serves higher-income families across the District, with only 30% of enrollees classified as economically disadvantaged, compared to 45% in DCPS Pre-K and 54% in public charter schools; and

WHEREAS, This disparity underscores the need for structural changes to ensure PKEEP resources are more equitably distributed to families and communities where they are most needed; and

WHEREAS, ANC 1E recognizes that during a challenging fiscal environment, budget decisions must reflect equity, targeting funding toward communities and families with fewer existing options for early learning; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That ANC 1E urges the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia to restructure the PKEEP program’s funding priorities to:

- Expand access in areas with unmet demand for early education services,
- Adjust enrollment incentives to support greater inclusion of low-income children, and
- Ensure that community-based organizations receiving PKEEP dollars prioritize economically disadvantaged families; further

BE IT RESOLVED, ANC 1E designates Commissioners Brian Footer and Brad Howard to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution. In the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, ANC 1E authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution.

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Certification:

At a regularly scheduled and publicly noticed meeting held on April 23, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1E considered the above resolution. With a quorum of 6 Commissioners present, the Commission voted with 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.



Brian Footer
Chairperson, ANC 1E



Audra Grant
Secretary, ANC 1E

TO:

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