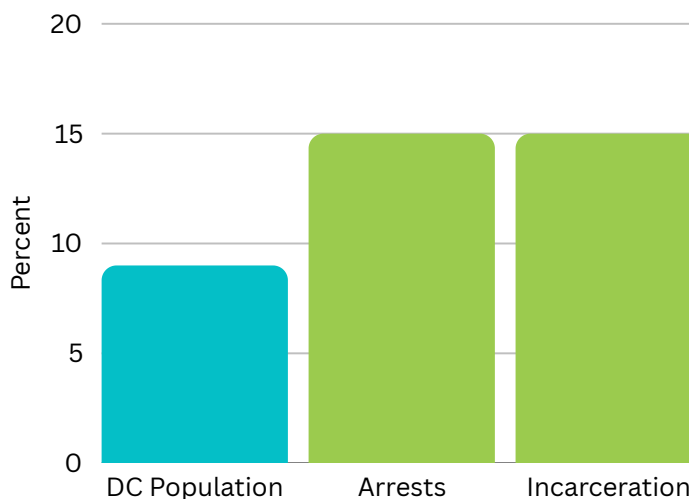




# Funding the role of Director of Emerging Adult Services

## Who are emerging adults (ages 18-24)?

- Between 2021 and 2025, the number of **emerging adults facing homelessness in DC grew by 30%**, increasing vulnerability and system involvement.<sup>3</sup>
- **90% of system-involved young people** in DC require special education services, underscoring the need for tailored educational supports.<sup>4</sup>
- Research shows that increasing access to **education and workforce development** during this critical state of life significantly **reduces justice system involvement and promotes long-term stability**.<sup>4</sup>



Sources: DC Health Matters; DC JSAT

## The Director of Emerging Adult Services<sup>5</sup> is responsible for:

- **Developing a comprehensive strategic plan** to meet the unique needs of emerging adults and assess its implementation.
- Developing and **publishing publicly accessible data** on the total number of emerging adults, the services and programming used by emerging adults, and the outcomes of the services and programming.
- **Reporting on the state of emerging adults** in the District and the challenges that they are experiencing.
- Planning to involve emerging adults in community decision-making, grow alternatives to incarceration, and **foster collaboration among government agencies, community-based organizations, and families**.

## Why this investment matters?

- **Fulfills the law:** Funding the Director of Emerging Adult Services ensures full implementation of the 2024 statute (24-906.03) and honors the District's commitment to justice reform.
- **Strengthens public safety:** A dedicated Director will drive coordinated, age-appropriate responses proven to reduce system involvement and improve long-term community safety.
- **Leverages leadership:** The District has led nationally on emerging adult justice; this investment secures and extends that leadership.
- **Delivers high impact at low cost:** For a modest investment, the Director will help the District better understand this population, improve interagency coordination, and guide smarter use of public resources.

## The cost of funding the Director of Emerging Adult Services<sup>6</sup>

FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
\$399,000	\$598,000	\$609,000	\$620,000	\$2,226,000

## Sources

1. DC Health Matters. 2025. *Population by Age Group*. <https://www.dchealthmatters.org/demographicdata?id=130951&sectionId=942>.
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3. Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. 2025. *Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington*. Table 8. <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2025/05/14/homelessness-in-metropolitan-washington-results-and-analysis-from-the-annual-point-in-time-pit-count-of-persons-experiencing-homelessness-featured-publications-homelessness/>.
4. *Building a Brighter Future: A plan to invest in DC's emerging adults* (Washington, DC: Justice Policy Institute, 2024). <https://justicepolicy.org/research/building-a-brighter-future/>.
5. Council of the District of Columbia. 2024. *D.C. Law 25-175. Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024*. Sec. 7c. a. <https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/25-175#%C2%A745>
6. Government of the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer. 2024. *Fiscal Impact Statement – Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024*, Glen Lee, Chief Financial Officer. Sec. 34.