

# [PLAN]DC

THE DC OFFICE OF PLANNING



## FAMILIES

### OVERVIEW

Families have always been an integral part to the vibrancy of the District. During the past ten years, the District has seen a large increase in its young adult population. Young professionals continue to be attracted to DC and the region by high quality jobs and the experience of living in a vibrant, thriving city. Many young adults are now forming families, and have a renewed stake in affordable childcare, good schools, recreational opportunities, and larger housing units. Retaining families of all income levels—including seniors and multi-generational households—is an important part of being an inclusive city, and one of the underlying goals of the Comp Plan.



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

The concern over family-friendly development was reflected by residents during the seven “Plan DC” citywide community meetings in the fall of 2016 and throughout the various engagement forums last year. Community members expressed a general desire to make the District more inclusive of families by improving schools and educational facilities, expanding the number and quality of parks and open spaces, creating more programs and services aimed at youth, and improving neighborhood safety. Participants also wanted to ensure that there was a diversity of housing types for all income levels to serve both families and singles. Community members also expressed their desire to be able to age in place and ensure that planning accommodates the needs of those with declining mobility and provides access to senior services.

# BACKGROUND + FACTS

## FAMILY AND "NON-FAMILY" HOUSEHOLDS



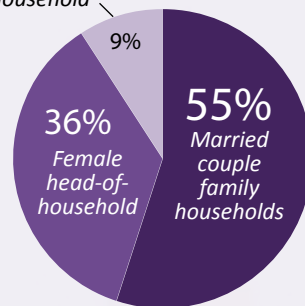
Family Households

Source: U.S. Census



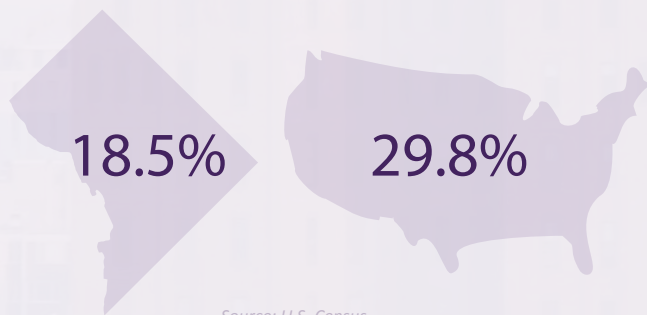
## HEAD-OF-HOUSEHOLD

Male head-of-household



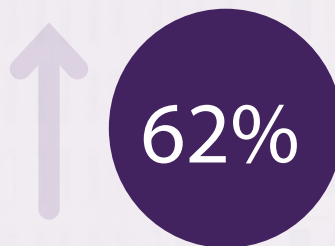
Source: U.S. Census

## HOUSEHOLDS WITH A CHILD UNDER 18



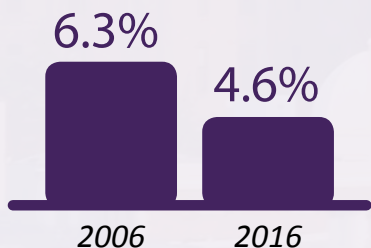
Source: U.S. Census

## POPULATION INCREASE



of the District's increase in population was among persons between 20 and 39, with a majority of these residents holding college or graduate degrees

## RESIDENTS LIVING WITH GRANDCHILDREN

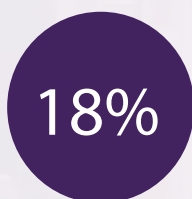


15,000 OF DC CHILDREN HAD GRANDPARENTS AS THEIR PRIMARY GUARDIANS

## YOUTH



Currently in the District. These percentages have decreased since 2000.



of the city's population growth are children under the age of 10

## SENIORS




Currently in the District. These percentages have decreased since 2000.



of the population increase since 2008 were residents aged 60 to 69 years old

 **28,000**  
new children by 2025

  
Starting in 2008, the annual number of births increased by 2,500 per year from around 7,000 to over 9,500 per year.

 **23,000**  
additional residents over the age of 60

## COMP PLAN DIRECTION

The Comprehensive Plan addresses many of the needs faced by youth, families and seniors including housing, educational facilities, parks and recreation, health care, and other topics. Below are examples of current policies and actions in the Comp Plan that address families and seniors.

### MORE PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN

**SPACE.** The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element covers the provision of active and passive recreation needs that enhance the visual beauty, identity and character of the District. The Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a thorough assessment of these needs in 2013 that included focus groups, surveys and community meetings. Plans and policies have been developed based on this input. The Comp Plan provides the framework for much of this work, as indicated below:

#### Examples:

*Action PROS-2.1.B: Needs Assessments and Demographic Analysis, Conduct periodic needs assessments, surveys, and demographic studies to better understand the current preferences and future needs of District residents with respect to parks and recreation.*

*Policy PROS-2.2.3: Program Diversity, Provide diverse recreational activities for persons of all ages and cultural backgrounds, distributed equitably in all parts of the city. Coordinate with other service providers, including DC Public Schools, to maximize the effectiveness of service delivery and minimize redundancy.*

*Policy PROS-2.2.4: Youth Recreational Services, Provide recreational services that are particularly responsive to the special needs of the District's youth, using recreation and athletics to promote self-esteem, responsibility, and leadership skills among DC teens.*

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR ALL.** The Health and Human Services section of the Community Services and Facilities Element provides guidance on meeting both the needs of older adults and families with children by providing high-quality, accessible, efficiently managed, and properly funded community facilities. Since 2006, there has been significant investment in child care facilities and some of the regulatory obstacles to adding new facilities have been removed. In addition, three senior care facilities have been built including Hattie Holmes, Hayes, and the Bernice Founteneau Wellness Centers. The concept of "Senior Villages" also has been expanding across the City, enabling residents to age in place and receive community support for everyday tasks such as grocery shopping, transportation and home maintenance.

## POLICY IN ACTION!

*The Age Friendly DC plan focuses on strategies to make DC an inviting and accessible place for residents and visitors of all ages and promotes a continuum of healthy aging in the District.*

<https://agefriendly.dc.gov>



#### Examples:

*Policy CSF-2.3.1: Senior Care Facilities, Establish new senior centers in areas that have large elderly populations, particularly neighborhoods in Upper Northwest and Far Northeast. These centers could be co-located in community health facilities or near other public facilities such as libraries or elementary schools to increase the interaction and learning between senior citizens, youth, and others.*

*Policy CSF-2.2.1: Adequate Child Care Facilities, Allow new and expanded child care facilities in all residential, commercial, and mixed use areas and in community facilities in an effort to provide adequate affordable childcare facilities throughout the District. Locations should be accessible to public transit.*

*Action CSF-2.2.A: Review and Address Zoning Issues, Review and assess the zoning regulations to identify barriers to the development of child care centers in the District. The assessment should consider ways of reducing any barriers that are identified, provided that child safety and neighborhood quality of life issues can be adequately addressed.*

*Policy H-4.2.3: Neighborhood-Based Senior Housing, Encourage the production of multi-family senior housing in those neighborhoods characterized by large numbers of seniors living alone in single family homes. This will enable senior residents to remain in their neighborhoods and reduce their home maintenance costs and obligations.*

**HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS.** The Educational Facilities Element focuses on providing facilities that inspire excellence in learning, create a safe and healthy environment for students, and help each individual achieve their fullest potential. The chapter has a strong focus on the needs of children, but it also includes policies on lifelong learning.

**Examples:**

*Policy EDU-1.1.1: Updated Facilities Provide updated and modern school facilities throughout the District based on the DCPS Facilities Master Plan.*

*Policy EDU-1.4.6: Neighborhood Schools, Strongly support the goal of making one's neighborhood school the "school of choice" so that children do not have to travel long distances to schools across town.*

*Policy EDU-3.3.1: Satellite Campuses, Promote the development of satellite campuses to accommodate university growth, relieve growth pressure on neighborhoods adjacent to existing campuses, spur economic development and revitalization in neighborhoods lagging in market activity, and create additional lifelong learning opportunities for DC residents.*

