MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

July 28, 2026

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am pleased to submit to the Council of the District of Columbia the *Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge Relief Program Fiscal Year 2025 Summary Report*, which was prepared by the Department of Energy and Environment ("DOEE") pursuant to section 113a(e) of the District Department of the Environment Establishment Act of 2005, effective March 16, 2021 (D.C. Law 23-229; D.C. Official Code § 8-151.13a).

This report details the financial expenditures of the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge ("CRIAC") Relief Programs for Fiscal Year 2024. During the covered period, the CRIAC Residential Relief Program, which provides financial assistance to low-to-moderate income District households, supported over 1,000 households. The CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program also provided funding to 127 nonprofits that serve District residents.

My administration is available to answer any questions you may have regarding this report. Please have your staff contact Richard Jackson, Director, DOEE, at (202) 535-2600 to facilitate responses to any such questions.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser

District of Columbia
Department of Energy and Environment

Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge Relief Program

Fiscal Year 2025 Summary Report

Richard Jackson – Director

Background

a. Program Summary

The Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge ("CRIAC") is a fee assessed by DC Water on customers' bills to help pay for DC Water's multi-billion-dollar Clean Rivers Project, which aims to significantly reduce the discharge of raw sewage and stormwater runoff into the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and Rock Creek. The CRIAC fee has increased substantially over the past 17 years to help fund DC Water's Clean Rivers Project. To help address the impact of the fee on DC Water customers, the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Support Act of 2018 established the CRIAC Relief Programs, which provide financial relief to eligible District of Columbia nonprofit organizations, renters, and homeowners.

These programs are the CRIAC Residential and CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Programs, described below, that significantly reduce the CRIAC costs on DC Water customers' bills.

b. CRIAC Fee Amount

The monthly CRIAC rate for Fiscal Year ("FY") 2025 was $21.23 per equivalent residential unit ("ERU"). An ERU is the statistical median of the amount of impervious surface area in a single-family residential property, measured in square feet. One ERU averages about 1,000 square feet of impervious cover.

c. Funding for Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge Relief

The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Support Act of 2019 established a non-lapsing local fund, the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge Assistance Fund (the "Fund"), to support the CRIAC Relief Programs. "Non-lapsing" means that if authorized in an approved budget and financial plan, appropriations to the Fund would be used across fiscal years to pay for the costs of the CRIAC Relief Programs. However, as of October 1, 2024, the Fund was repealed by the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Support Act of 2024. Thus, starting in FY 2025, the end-of-year balance no longer carries over into the next fiscal year.

In FY 2025, the CRIAC relief budget was administered by the Department of Energy and Environment ("DOEE"). At the beginning of the fiscal year, DOEE advances funding to DC Water, and DC Water uses the funding to reduce the CRIAC fee charged to eligible customers participating in the CRIAC relief programs. At the end of the fiscal year, any unspent relief funds sent to DC Water must be returned to DOEE as part of DOEE's reconciliation process.

The approved budget for FY 2025 was $1,296,572.67, which was spent as shown in Table 1, and disbursed to DC Water at the start of FY 2025. DC Water returned unspent FY 2024 relief funds totaling $34,792.70, and those funds were made available in the District budget for CRIAC relief use during FY 2025. DOEE advanced these funds to DC Water for relief through an amendment of the program memorandum of understanding ("MOU") in FY 2025. Table 1 shows the FY 2025 allocated budget, amounts transferred to DC Water, amounts utilized for relief and administrative costs, and remaining funds (unaudited).

Table 1: FY 2025 District Budget - CRIAC Program Expenditures

	FY 2025 Starting Budget Amount	FY 2024 Funds Returned from DC Water	Budget for Relief Program Expenses[1]	Remaining Funds FY 2025 End
FY 2025 Allocated Budget	**$1,296,572.67**	**$34,792.70**	**$1,324,377.53**	**$6,987.83**
Personnel	$424,893.41	$0	$417,905.58	$6,987.83*
Residential Program Relief	$5,570.00	$0	$5,570.00	$0
Nonprofit Program Relief	$900,901.96	$34,792.70	$900,901.95	$0

* Remaining funds in CRIAC Relief Budget within the District Budget at FY 2025 end

CRIAC Relief Program Administration

a. Program Publication Efforts

In FY 2025, the CRIAC Residential Relief Program did not use any funding from the approved budget to publicize the program. However, the CRIAC Residential Relief Program was promoted through DOEE's Utility Discount Program advertising.

DOEE has arranged for program brochures and rack cards that include information for the CRIAC Residential Relief Program to be featured at outreach events as well as our in-person intake centers. DOEE works with DC Water to include bill inserts in each mailed billing statement. The CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program notifies previous and current program participants of the relief program at the start of every fiscal year and throughout the program year via emails and phone calls. The CRIAC Residential Relief Program provides the previous program enrollees with information about recertifying their eligibility towards the close of each fiscal year. During the covered period of October 2024 to September 2025, CRIAC Residential Relief staff encouraged previous enrollees to reapply for the FY 2025 program.

DOEE revised its website at the start of the fiscal year with updated Nonprofit Relief Program applications and details for the FY 2025 application period. The DOEE website for the Residential Relief Program is updated at least annually to provide income limits and certification requirements for the program.

DOEE did not expend program funds to publicize the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program in FY 2025.

b. Program Processing Time

Upon receipt of an application, the CRIAC Residential Relief Program immediately notifies program participants by automated email that it may take up to 10 business days for an application to be reviewed and an eligibility determination made. Once a determination is made (Approved, Denied, or Incomplete), the applicant will receive another email stating one of the following: (1) DOEE denied the application, (2) DOEE found the application to be incomplete and requires the applicant to provide specific information via email or mail, or (3) DOEE approved the application, and it may take up to two billing cycles from their approval date to receive their discount.

[1] In Table 1, "Budget for Relief Program Expenses" refers to the total amount in DOEE's budget to provide direct-rate relief in FY 2025, including personnel costs; funding for residential and nonprofit program relief was sent to DC Water to fund the relief programs. In Table 3 below, the "Total Spend" for CAP 3 is listed as $5,748.76. While this figure exceeds DOEE's approved budget for the Residential Relief Program in FY25 of $5,570.00 as shown in Table 1, $5,748.76, represents the total costs incurred by DC Water using funding from DOEE to provide direct-rate relief to applicants.

The CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program notifies program participants that they will receive an application determination within 20 business days of the date on which their completed application is received. If an application is approved, the applicant receives an email indicating that it may take up to two billing cycles from their approval date to see relief applied to their DC Water bill.
Participants whose applications are approved will receive monthly relief as well as a retroactive credit dating back to the beginning of the program year to cover any delayed relief payments.
DOEE sends a monthly enrollment file to DC Water for the Nonprofit Relief Program by the third-to-last business day of each month. This enrollment file indicates which accounts have been approved for the relief program and how much relief should be applied to that account's water bill.

Table 2 summarizes the average application processing time for the CRIAC Relief Programs in FY 2025.

Table 2: FY 2025 CRIAC Program Average Processing Time[2]

Application Status	Nonprofit Relief Program	Residential Relief Program
Approved	13 business days	10 business days
Denied	10 business days	10 business days

FY 2025 CRIAC Program Summaries

a. CRIAC Residential Relief Program

CRIAC Residential Relief Program provides financial assistance to low-to-moderate income District households by providing a percentage off the monthly CRIAC fee. The CRIAC Residential Relief Program has four tiers as follows:

i. Customer Assistance Program Plus ("CAP +")
Income eligibility: Customers with household income below twenty percent (20%) of State Median Income ("SMI") for the District.
Approximate assistance provided: $134 monthly.

ii. Customer Assistance Program ("CAP 1")
Income eligibility: Customers with household income below sixty percent (60%) of SMI for the District.
Approximate assistance provided: $95 monthly.

iii. Customer Assistance Program 2 ("CAP 2")
Income eligibility: Customers with household income at or above sixty percent (60%) of the SMI for the District and at or below eighty percent (80%) of the Area Median Income ("AMI") for the District not capped by the United States median low-income limit ("USLIL").
Approximate assistance provided: $62 monthly.

[2] This is an estimate of the average number of business days DOEE took to process applications for financial assistance from the date DOEE received the application to the date that DOEE notified the applicant they did or did not qualify for assistance. This estimate also includes time needed to obtain missing application details from the program participant.

iv. Customer Assistance Program 3 ("CAP 3")
Income eligibility: Customers with household income above eighty percent (80%) of the AMI for the District not capped by the USLIL, and at or below one hundred percent (100%) of the AMI for the District.
Approximate assistance provided: $16 monthly.

DC Water fully funds CAP+, CAP 1, and CAP 2. In FY 2025, DC Water provided details on total spending and average annual benefits for these programs in the enrollment summaries to DOEE in accordance with the terms of the MOU. CAP 3 is funded and managed directly by DOEE.

Table 3 outlines CRIAC Residential Relief Discount Program participation for FY 2025. This table details the number of residential customers approved for financial assistance across CAP +, CAP 1, CAP 2, and CAP 3 during each fiscal quarter, as well as the average annual benefit and the total amount spent under this program.

The total number of people who applied for the CRIAC Residential Relief Program cannot be separately tracked because some individuals apply for the Program through the form for the DC Public Service Commission's Utility Discount Program. DOEE does not currently combine this data or analyses of the two programs.

Table 3: CRIAC Residential Relief Discount Program Participation for FY 2025

	Quarter 1 (Oct-Dec)	Quarter 2 (Jan-Mar)	Quarter 3 (Apr-Jun)	Quarter 4 (Jul-Sept)	Total Approvals	Average Annual Benefit	Total Spend
CAP +	944	693	397	140	2,174	$707.28	$1,537,636.32
CAP 1	828	619	317	99	1,863	$657.86	$1,225,593.71
CAP 2	102	65	54	17	238	$431.32	$102,653.56
CAP 3	34	5	15	5	59	$97.44	$5,748.76

b. CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program

The CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program provides financial relief to eligible nonprofits in the District, assisting with the payment of the impervious area charges assessed on their DC Water bills. Annual relief is available to nonprofit organizations in the District that have a real property or possessory interest tax exemption as a local charitable organization, a cemetery, a religious house of worship, or a continuing care facility, as determined by the District's Office of Tax and Revenue. Nonprofit organizations seeking relief must also demonstrate financial hardship resulting from payment of the CRIAC assessed on their DC Water bill and must complete a DOEE-approved stormwater mitigation project.

In FY 2025 the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program experienced a budget shortfall, resulting in reduced amounts of relief approved for participants who applied within the last month of the relief program. DOEE announced the potential for limited funding starting in October 2024 and encouraged all eligible organizations to apply as soon as possible to secure their place in the FY 2025 program.

Applicants who submitted a complete application before August 31, 2025, received the full relief amount. Applicants who were unable to apply by August 31, 2025, or those unable to provide DOEE

with information missing from their application by September 17, 2025, were determined ineligible for relief. Those applications were not approved for the FY 2025 program.

DOEE distributed the remaining relief budget proportionally amongst applicants who provided the necessary missing application information between August 31, 2025, and September 17, 2025.

DOEE funds and directly manages the CRIAC Nonprofit Program. Table 4 summarizes CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program participation for FY 2025. This table presents the number of nonprofit organizations that applied for financial assistance, the number of nonprofit organizations that received financial assistance (those with approved applications), the average annual award provided, and the total amount of funding provided to nonprofit organizations.

Table 4: CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program Participation for FY 2025

Applications Received	Applications Approved	Average Annual Benefit	Total Funding Provided
132	122	$7,384.44	$900,901.95

The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Support Act of 2018 and 21 DCMR § 565.6(b) (2019) require that CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program participants manage stormwater on their property or contribute to certain other green infrastructure projects in the District.

Organizations participating in the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program can choose to meet their stormwater mitigation requirements by selecting one of two options:

1. Participating in an onsite mitigation option by installing new green infrastructure or managing existing green infrastructure.
2. Participating in an offsite mitigation option by forgoing a small portion of awarded annual relief to fund a green infrastructure project elsewhere in the District, on behalf of the organization.

Through the end of FY 2025, DOEE had reserved $245,033.58 in awarded relief to fund an alternative stormwater mitigation project on behalf of organizations unable to complete a stormwater mitigation project on their own. However, due to transfers to the General Fund over multiple fiscal years, including in FY 2025, the annual funding available for the Nonprofit Relief Program has not allowed this project objective to be achieved.

More Information

The CRIAC Residential Relief Program is managed by the Utility Affordability Division in DOEE's Utility Affordability Administration. Questions about the CRIAC Residential Relief Program may be directed to (202) 350-9649 or waterassistance@dc.gov.

The CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program is managed by the Green Infrastructure Incentives and Assessment Branch in DOEE's Regulatory Review Division within the agency's Natural Resources Administration. Questions about the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program may be directed to (202) 844-5880 or criac.nonprofit@dc.gov.

Please visit doee.dc.gov/service/criacrelief for more information about DOEE's CRIAC Relief Programs.