

AUDIT REPORT

Health Benefits Exchange Authority
Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Reports
Fiscal Year 2024
OIG No. 24-1-26HI

January 31, 2025



DANIEL W. LUCAS
INSPECTOR GENERAL



OUR MISSION

We independently audit, inspect, and investigate matters pertaining to the District of Columbia government in order to:

- prevent and detect corruption, mismanagement, waste, fraud, and abuse;
- promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability;
- inform stakeholders about issues relating to District programs and operations; and
- recommend and track the implementation of corrective actions.

OUR VISION

We strive to be a world-class Office of the Inspector General that is customer focused and sets the standard for oversight excellence!

OUR VALUES

Accountability: We recognize that our duty extends beyond oversight; it encompasses responsibility. By holding ourselves accountable, we ensure that every action we take contributes to the greater good of the District.

Continuous Improvement: We view challenges not as obstacles, but as opportunities for growth. Our commitment to continuous improvement drives us to evolve, adapt, and enhance our practices.

Excellence: Mediocrity has no place in our lexicon. We strive for excellence in every facet of our work.

Integrity: Our integrity is non-negotiable. We act with honesty, transparency, and unwavering ethics. Upholding the public's trust demands nothing less.

Professionalism: As stewards of oversight, we maintain the utmost professionalism. Our interactions, decisions, and conduct exemplify the dignity of our role.

Transparency: Sunlight is our ally. Transparency illuminates our processes, decisions, and outcomes. By sharing information openly, we empower stakeholders, promote understanding, and reinforce our commitment to accountability.






DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

From: Daniel W. Lucas
Inspector General 

Date: January 31, 2025

Subject: **Health Benefits Exchange Authority Annual Financial Statements**
OIG No. 24-1-26HI

This memorandum transmits the final *Health Benefits Exchange Authority Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Reports* for fiscal year 2024. McConnell Jones, LLP (MJ) conducted the audit and submitted these reports as part of our overall contract for the audit of the District of Columbia's general-purpose financial statements for fiscal year 2024.

On January 3, 2025, MJ issued its opinion and concluded that the financial statements are presented fairly in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. MJ found no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting.

Should you have questions or concerns, please contact me or Dr. Slemo Warigon, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, at (202) 792-5684.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT
EXCHANGE AUTHORITY**
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Financial Statements
(With Independent Auditor's Reports)

September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT
EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Independent Auditor’s Report	1
Management’s Discussion and Analysis	4
Basic Financial Statements:	
Statements of Net Position.....	13
Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position	14
Statements of Cash Flows.....	15
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.....	16
Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	32



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor, Members of the Council of the Government of the District of Columbia, Executive Director and the Executive Board of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority and Inspector General of the Government of the District of Columbia Washington, D.C.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority (“the Authority”), a component unit of the Government of the District of Columbia, as of and for the years ended September 30, 2024, and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority’s basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Authority as of September 30, 2024, and 2023, and the respective changes in its financial position and, where applicable, its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Authority and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Authority restated certain balances and accounts for the year ended September 30, 2023. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The Authority’s management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events considered in the aggregate that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, located as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic



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financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 3, 2025, on our consideration of the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

McConnell Jones LLP

Washington, D.C.
January 3, 2025

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)**

**Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)**

Introduction

The following is a discussion and analysis of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority's (the Authority, or HBX) financial performance as of, and for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024, and 2023; with 2022, for comparative purposes. This information should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and the accompanying notes, which follow this discussion and analysis.

About Our Business

Pursuant to the Health Benefit Exchange Authority Establishment Act of 2011, the Authority was established as an independent authority of the Government of the District of Columbia (District of Columbia) as a separate legal entity. The Authority was established to: (a) enable individuals and small employers to find affordable and easier-to-understand health insurance; (b) facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified health plans; (c) assist small employers in facilitating the enrollment of their employees in qualified health plans; (d) reduce the number of uninsured; (e) provide a transparent marketplace for health benefit plans; (f) educate consumers; and (g) assist individuals and groups in accessing programs, premium assistance tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions.

The Authority is governed by an 11-member Executive Board, comprised of seven voting members, who are residents of the District of Columbia; and appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council of the District of Columbia (the Council). The Executive Board also includes four non-voting ex-officio members, or their designees, which include the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance; the Commissioner of the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking; the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health; and the Director of the District of Columbia Department of Human Services. In addition, a standing Advisory Board, consisting of nine members, who are residents of the District of Columbia, works closely with the Executive Board. Pursuant to the Authority's enabling legislation, the Executive Board may create additional advisory boards as it considers appropriate. The advisory boards provide the Executive Board with recommendations on various matters; including insurance standards, covered benefits, premiums, plan certification, internet technology system development, and other policies or operational issues, as required by the Executive Board.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)**

**Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)**

About Our Business (continued)

The Authority is funded by assessments received from insurance carriers. The Health Benefit Exchange Authority Establishment Act of 2011, effective March 2, 2012, (D.C. Law 19-94; D.C. Official Code § 31-3171.01 et seq.), was permanently amended on June 23, 2015, to provide for the financial sustainability of the Authority. The amendment included language that the Authority annually assess, through a Notice of Assessment, each health carrier doing business in the District of Columbia; and having direct gross receipts of \$50,000 or greater in the preceding calendar year, an amount based on a percentage of its direct gross receipts for the preceding calendar year. Each health carrier is required to pay the Authority the amount stated in the Notice of Assessment, within 30 business days after the date of the Notice of Assessment. Failure to pay the assessment shall subject the health carrier to Section 5 of the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund Act of 1993, effective October 21, 1993 (D.C. Law 10-40; D.C. Official Code § 31-1204).

The Authority entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with another State-Based Marketplace (SBM), on March 2, 2017. The agreement between the Authority and the SBM was initially a partnership, whereby the Authority was reimbursed for assisting with the implementation of an operable platform for group insurance offerings for the SBM's Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP). The SBM's platform is now fully operational; and the Authority is currently reimbursed for maintaining and upgrading it. The goal is to expand and share information technology systems, and business and customer service operations. In addition, this cooperative relationship supports a cost-effective, sustainable, state-based marketplace in both jurisdictions; and furthers the shared goals of affordability, functionality, and timely availability of health plans to consumers.

The Authority was also funded in fiscal year 2017 and prior years, by Federal grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that were made available as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the Affordable Care Act or PPACA), which was approved on March 23, 2010. The last available funds awarded through Federal grants, were all spent as of September 30, 2017.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

Financial Highlights

- As noted in Table I on page 8, the Authority's total assets exceeded liabilities by \$102,848,019, as of September 30, 2024, which is classified and reported as Net Investment in Capital Assets, Restricted and Unrestricted Net Position in the Statements of Net Position. This represents an increase of \$1,426,403, or a 1% change from September 30, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The Authority's total assets exceeded liabilities by \$101,421,616, as of September 30, 2023, which is classified and reported as Net Investment in Capital Assets, Restricted and Unrestricted Net Position in the Statements of Net Position. This represents a decrease of \$7,966,593, or a 7% change from September 30, 2022, to September 30, 2023.
- As noted in Table II on page 10, the Authority's expenses exceeded its revenues by \$1,426,403, for the year ended September 30, 2024. This represents an improvement of \$9,392,996, or 118% in the Change in Net Position from September 30, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The improvement in the Change in Net Position is mainly a result of a significant decrease in operating expenses in fiscal year 2024, as compared to fiscal year 2023. The Authority's expenses exceeded its revenues by \$7,966,593, for the year ended September 30, 2023. This represents an improvement of \$1,751,711, or 18% in the Change in Net Position from September 30, 2022, to September 30, 2023. The improvement in the Change in Net Position is mainly a result of significant increase in non-operating revenues in fiscal year 2023, as compared to fiscal year 2022. Refer to Table II on page 10 for further detail.
- The fiscal year 2023 financial statements were restated as described in the Restatement of Financial Statements section of Note 1.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

Overview of the Financial Statements

This Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is intended to serve as an introduction to the Authority's basic financial statements. The Authority's financial statements include three financial statements: the Statements of Net Position; the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position; and the Statements of Cash Flows. These financial statements and the related notes provide information about the financial activities of the Authority.

1. ***Statements of Net Position*** – The Statements of Net Position present information on the Authority's assets, liabilities, and net position (which is defined as the residual balance of all other financial statement elements presented in the Statements of Net Position).
2. ***Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position*** – The Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position report operating and non-operating revenues and expenses for the fiscal years. The increase or decrease in net position is presented as the change in net position for the fiscal years. The cumulative change, since inception, is the total net position of the Authority, and is presented as the total net position on the Statements of Net Position.
3. ***Statements of Cash Flows*** – The Statements of Cash Flows present information showing how the Authority's cash and cash equivalents changed during the fiscal years. The Statements of Cash Flows classify cash receipts and cash payments resulting from operating activities, non-capital financing activities, capital and related financing activities, and investing activities. The net result of those activities is reconciled to the cash and cash equivalents balances reported as of the end of the fiscal years. This statement is prepared, using the direct method, which allows the reader to easily understand the amount of cash received, and how much cash was disbursed. The statements also reconcile the change in operating net position, to the net cash used in operating activities.
4. ***Notes to the Financial Statements*** – The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential for a complete understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Management’s Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

Financial Analysis

Condensed Financial Information:

The following table provides a summary of the Authority’s total assets, liabilities, and net position as of September 30, 2024; 2023; and 2022.

Table I – Condensed Schedules of Net Position
As of September 30, 2024; 2023; and 2022

	2024	2023	2022	Change 2024-2023		Change 2023 - 2022	
				Amount	%	Amount	%
Current Assets	\$ 155,257,392	\$ 145,385,269	\$ 112,507,269	\$ 9,872,123	7%	\$ 32,878,000	29%
Capital Assets, net	13,585,808	23,101,257	35,391,127	(9,515,449)	-41%	(12,289,870)	-35%
Total Assets	168,843,200	168,486,526	147,898,396	356,674	0%	20,588,130	14%
Current Liabilities	65,995,181	67,064,910	38,510,187	(1,069,729)	-2%	28,554,723	74%
Total Liabilities	65,995,181	67,064,910	38,510,187	(1,069,729)	-2%	28,554,723	74%
Net Position:							
Net Investment in Capital Assets	13,585,808	23,101,257	35,391,127	(9,515,449)	-41%	(12,289,870)	-35%
Unrestricted Net Position	89,262,211	78,320,359	73,997,082	10,941,852	14%	4,323,277	6%
Total Net Position	\$ 102,848,019	\$ 101,421,616	\$ 109,388,209	\$ 1,426,403	1%	\$ (7,966,593)	-7%

The net position serves as an indicator of an organization’s financial position. The Authority’s assets exceeded liabilities by \$102,848,019; \$101,421,616; and \$109,388,209; as of September 30, 2024; 2023; and 2022, respectively.

The capital assets of \$13,585,808 as of September 30, 2024, represent a 41% decrease from September 30, 2023. The capital assets of \$23,101,257, as of September 30, 2023, represent a 35% decrease from September 30, 2022. These decreases are related to the depreciation of capital assets, now that the DC Health Link system is developed and operational.

The Authority’s current assets are comprised of cash and cash equivalents; restricted cash; amounts due from the primary government, Federal government, the other State-Based Marketplace, and insurance carriers; investments; and other receivables. The total current assets of \$155,257,392, as of September 30, 2024, represents an increase of \$9,872,123, which also translates to a 7% increase from September 30, 2023. The increase in the current assets was mainly a result of additional funds received from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), \$18,000,000, for the HealthCare4ChildCare (HC4CC) program.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

Financial Analysis (continued)

The total current assets of \$145,385,269, as of September 30, 2023, represents an increase of \$32,878,000, which also translates to a 29% increase from September 30, 2022. The increase in the current assets was mainly a result of a higher investments balance in fiscal year 2023 which resulted from the agency transferring \$27,000,000 from the operating account to the investment account to receive a higher rate of return.

In October 2016, the Authority's Board of Directors approved the funding of its operating reserves, in the amount of \$14,500,000. In January 2018, the Authority's Board of Directors approved additional funding of its operating reserves, in the amount of \$11,390,950, and capital reserves of \$5,000,000. During fiscal year 2018, the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) invested the reserve funds, as required by the Authority's reserve funding policy. The amounts invested were \$25,890,950 and \$5,000,000, related to the operating and capital reserve funds, respectively. In May 2022, the Authority's Board of Directors approved additional funding of its capital reserves, in the amount of \$800,000. This amount was invested, resulting in a total of \$5,800,000 in capital reserves. In September 2023, the Board of Directors approved the earnings in the operations and capital reserve accounts to be added to the capital reserve to help it grow to \$20 million as the Board-approved reserve policy indicates for a capital reserve. The capital reserve holding account balance was \$6,036,771 as of September 30, 2023, and with the market value of the in the operating reserve holding increasing by \$613,462 in fiscal year 2023; the capital reserve was approximately \$6,650,000. In February 2024, the Finance Committee discussed and approved adding \$6,200,000 to the capital reserve. The Authority's reserve policy was updated in March 2024 and approved by the Board of Directors. Under the revised policy the \$20 million capital reserve cap is to be indexed by the Consumer Price Index published monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, beginning with the adoption of the policy in April 2016. In September 2024, the Board of Directors approved fully funding of the capital reserve, in the amount of \$25,660,000.

The Authority's total liabilities are comprised of current liabilities, which include accounts payable, due to the primary government, due to the Federal government, Other liability-HC4CC, due to insurance carriers, compensation payable, accrued annual leave, and other liabilities. The total liabilities of \$65,995,181, as of September 30, 2024, represents a decrease of \$1,069,729, or a 2% decrease from September 30, 2023. The decrease is primarily due to decreases in amounts due to insurance carriers and Federal government; and accounts payable in fiscal year 2024. The District of Columbia implemented an electronic vendor invoicing system towards the end of fiscal year 2018. HBX required all vendors to submit invoices through e-Invoicing during fiscal years 2024 and 2023. By the end of fiscal year 2024, vendors had entered invoices into the e-Invoicing system and received prompt payment.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Management’s Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

Financial Analysis (continued)

The following table presents condensed financial information from the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024; 2023; and 2022.

Table II – Condensed Schedules of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
For the Years ended September 30, 2024; 2023; and 2022

	2024	2023	2022	Change 2024-2023		Change 2023-2022	
				Amount	%	Amount	%
Operating Revenues	\$ 4,927,285	\$ 3,899,339	\$ 3,638,203	\$ 1,027,946	26%	\$ 261,136	7%
Operating Expenses	48,995,991	55,259,483	46,469,767	(6,263,492)	-11%	8,789,716	19%
Operating Loss	(44,068,706)	(51,360,144)	(42,831,564)	7,291,438	14%	(8,528,580)	20%
Non-Operating Revenues	45,495,109	43,393,551	33,113,260	2,101,558	5%	10,280,291	31%
Change in Net Position	\$ 1,426,403	\$ (7,966,593)	\$ (9,718,304)	\$ 9,392,996	118%	\$ 1,751,711	18%

The operating revenues were derived from the agreement between HBX and the other SBM that was established in fiscal year 2017. The revenues generated were a result of billing the other SBM for incurred expenses related to its SHOP. The operating revenues represent reimbursements obtained as result of providing shared information technology systems, and business and customer operational services to the other SBM. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Authority’s operating revenues totaled \$4,927,285 and \$3,899,339, respectively.

The non-operating revenues were derived from assessments from insurance carriers; interest and fees; investment income; HealthCare4ChildCare (HC4CC) funds; and non-capital Federal grants. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, the Authority’s non-operating revenues totaled \$45,495,109; as compared to \$43,393,551; and \$33,113,260 during the fiscal years ended September 30, 2023, and 2022, respectively. The total cost of the Authority’s activities and services were \$48,995,991; \$55,259,483; and \$46,469,767; for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024; 2023; and 2022, respectively.

There was an overall improvement in the Change in Net Position, mainly due to a significant decrease in operating expenses in fiscal year 2024, as compared to fiscal year 2023. There were reduced contractual agreement cost for data breach, IT consultant, as well as other SBM contracts in fiscal year 2024, compared to fiscal year 2023. Additionally, the depreciation expense decreased as some of the capital assets became fully depreciated in fiscal year 2024.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

Capital Assets

The Authority had \$13,585,808, \$23,101,257, and \$35,391,127, in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, as of September 30, 2024; 2023; and 2022, respectively. Most of the investments for these periods are related to the development of the DC Health Link IT system and infrastructure, an online marketplace system that allows users to shop, compare, and select health insurance plans. The Authority's net capital assets, as of September 30, 2024, decreased by \$9,515,449, or a 41% decrease compared to September 30, 2023, which was due to the depreciation expenses in fiscal year 2024. The Authority's net capital assets as of September 30, 2023, decreased by \$12,289,870 compared to September 30, 2022. This was primarily due to depreciation expenses in the fiscal year 2023.

Budgetary Controls

The Authority adopts an operating budget, which is approved by its Board of Directors in November of each year, for the subsequent fiscal year. Prior to approval by the Board, the budget is reviewed in detail, and adjusted, if necessary. After approval by the Board of Directors, the Authority is required to submit its annual operating budget to the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia, to be included in the District of Columbia's budgets that are sent to the United States Congress for approval. The budget that is originally loaded into the Authority's financial management system is for assessment-based spending only. Any grants that are, subsequently, awarded or extended after the budget has been formulated, will be added to the budget as they are known. The Financial Management Division prepares monthly reports for the Board of Directors and its Finance Committee. The reports are reviewed and acted upon each month, to ensure that the Authority complies with its authorized budget levels. The budget for fiscal year 2024 was \$37,552,148, which was 5% more than the fiscal year 2023 budget. The fiscal year 2024 budget included an increase of \$1,882,312 and 6.0 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in personal services across multiple programs. Additionally, a net increase of \$159,665 across multiple programs aligned the nonpersonal services budget with projected expenses. The budget included a net decrease of \$173,884 in the Agency Management program to align telecommunications, rent, and occupancy fixed costs with projected estimates. The budget for fiscal year 2023 was \$35,684,055, which was 9% more than the fiscal year 2022 budget. The fiscal year 2023 budget included an increase of \$1,767,269 in nonpersonal services, across multiple programs, to align the nonpersonal services budget with projected expenses. This funding was primarily used to support anticipated contractual service costs in the marketplace innovation policy and operations program. Additionally, a proposed increase of \$1,636,323 aligned the personal services budget, with projected costs across multiple programs, and would support an additional 8 FTEs. The budget included a net decrease of \$561,515 across multiple programs, to align rent and telecommunications fixed costs with projected estimates. The budgets for fiscal years 2024 and 2023 do not include revenues from the other State Based Marketplace.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Management's Discussion and Analysis
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

Economic Outlook

HBX's IT systems enhancement spending will remain focused on improving and adding functionality to DC Health Link and updates related to federal or local legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the Affordable Care Act. HBX's partnership with the other State Based Marketplace will continue to produce revenue and reduce costs for IT development. HBX is finding efficiencies and ways to mitigate increased costs such as transitioning consultants to Full Time Equivalents.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Authority's finances, for all those with an interest in its finances. Additional information regarding the Authority's financial statements, may be obtained from the Authority's Executive Director, at 1225 I Street, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20005.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Statements of Net Position
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,149,650	\$ 12,635,923
Restricted cash	51,867,798	48,263,123
Due from the primary government	130,667	-
Due from the Federal government	-	117,217
Due from the Other State Based Marketplace	1,324,777	1,029,744
Due from insurance carriers, net	582,931	1,778,373
Investments	98,088,574	81,465,281
Other receivables	112,995	95,608
Total currents assets	<u>155,257,392</u>	<u>145,385,269</u>
Capital assets:		
DC Health Link IT infrastructure	122,898,697	122,898,697
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(109,312,889)</u>	<u>(99,797,440)</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>13,585,808</u>	<u>23,101,257</u>
Total Assets	<u>168,843,200</u>	<u>168,486,526</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	2,022,734	4,292,504
Due to the primary government	9,349,198	11,701,055
Due to the Federal government	61,073	61,073
Other liability-HC4CC	23,851,046	14,882,838
Due to insurance carriers	27,728,626	33,123,595
Compensation payable	1,578,460	1,549,510
Accrued annual leave	1,404,044	1,388,130
Other liabilities	-	66,205
Total Liabilities	<u>65,995,181</u>	<u>67,064,910</u>
NET POSITION		
Net investment in capital assets	13,585,808	23,101,257
Unrestricted net position	<u>89,262,211</u>	<u>78,320,359</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 102,848,019</u>	<u>\$ 101,421,616</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
For the Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Operating Revenues	\$ 4,927,285	\$ 3,899,339
Operating Expenses:		
Salaries	18,481,860	18,173,544
Telephone	148,535	183,931
Supplies and materials	16,771	3,713
IT and communications	7,804,125	11,768,295
Consumer education and outreach	1,815,723	2,074,214
Building and equipment rental	1,471,980	1,428,284
Professional support	9,096,042	8,817,899
General and administrative	645,506	519,733
Depreciation expense	9,515,449	12,289,870
Total Operating Expenses	48,995,991	55,259,483
Operating loss	<u>(44,068,706)</u>	<u>(51,360,144)</u>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses):		
Assessments	39,903,710	38,822,286
Interest and fees	2,977	924
Investment income	6,085,425	4,476,042
Federal grants- non-capital	-	160,324
Federal grant expenditures	-	(35,476)
HealthCare4ChildCare (HC4CC) operation funds	-	742,514
Staff for HC4CC	(497,003)	(501,324)
HC4CC contractual services	-	(271,739)
Total Non-Operating Revenues	45,495,109	43,393,551
Change in net position	1,426,403	(7,966,593)
Net position - beginning of year	<u>101,421,616</u>	<u>109,388,209</u>
Net position - End of Year	<u>\$ 102,848,019</u>	<u>\$ 101,421,616</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Statements of Cash Flows

For the Years Ended September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Payments to employees	\$ (18,436,996)	\$ (17,612,376)
Payments to suppliers	(23,405,089)	(22,664,936)
Receipts from customers	4,632,252	3,518,646
Net cash flows used for operating activities	<u>(37,209,833)</u>	<u>(36,758,666)</u>
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:		
Proceeds from assessments	41,032,947	38,207,140
Proceeds from Federal grants non-capital	117,217	10,877
Proceeds from OSSE for HC4CC operation funds	-	742,514
Payments to staff for HC4CC program	(527,552)	(501,324)
Payments for HC4CC contractual services	-	(271,739)
Proceeds from OSSE for HC4CC subsidies	18,000,000	18,000,000
Payments for HC4CC subsidies	(10,100,312)	(3,779,757)
Payments for other non-operating activities	(11,417)	(95,608)
Premiums received on behalf of insurance carriers	702,780,739	614,733,672
Premiums transferred to insurance carriers	(708,175,708)	(614,151,565)
(Payments to) / advances from primary government	(2,351,857)	10,824,358
Net cash flows provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>40,764,057</u>	<u>63,718,568</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Net payments for acquisition of investments	(10,537,868)	(24,278,333)
Proceeds from HC4CC dividends earned	1,099,069	662,595
Proceeds from interest and fees	2,977	924
Net cash flows used for investing activities	<u>(9,435,822)</u>	<u>(23,614,814)</u>
Net (decrease) / increase in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	(5,881,598)	3,345,088
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash, beginning of the year	<u>60,899,046</u>	<u>57,553,958</u>
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash, end of year (Note 2)	<u>\$ 55,017,448</u>	<u>\$ 60,899,046</u>
Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Operating loss	\$ (44,068,706)	\$ (51,360,144)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash flows from operating activities		
Depreciation expense	9,515,449	12,289,870
Effect of changes in non-cash operating assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) / decrease in due from the primary government	(136,637)	81,425
Increase in due from the State Based Marketplace	(295,033)	(380,693)
(Decrease) / increase in accounts payable	(2,269,770)	2,049,708
Increase in compensation payable	28,950	180,793
Increase in accrued annual leave	15,914	380,375
Net cash flows used for operating activities	<u>\$ (37,209,833)</u>	<u>\$ (36,758,666)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)**

**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)**

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Background

The District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority (the Authority or HBX) was established, pursuant to Section 3 of the Health Benefit Exchange Authority Establishment Act of 2011, which became effective on March 2, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-0094). The Authority began operations on October 1, 2012.

HBX's mission is to implement and administer a health care exchange program in the District of Columbia, in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the Affordable Care Act or PPACA), thereby ensuring access to quality and affordable health care to all District of Columbia residents.

The health care exchange program is designed to provide individuals and small employers with the ability to find affordable and easier-to-understand health insurance, and assist small employers in purchasing qualified health benefit plans for their employees. The Authority also serves to facilitate the purchase of qualified health plans; and assist individuals and groups in accessing premium assistance tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.

To fulfill its purpose, as mandated by law, the Authority manages the DC Health Link, an online marketplace created for individuals, families, and small business owners and their employees in the District of Columbia; to shop, compare, and select health insurance that meets their health needs and budgets. District residents, and small business owners and their employees can use the DC Health Link to apply for coverage, determine whether they are eligible for help to lower the cost of their insurance, compare options, and enroll in a plan of their choice. Each application for financial assistance through the DC Health Link, also checks eligibility for Medicaid.

Financial Reporting Entity

For financial reporting purposes, the Authority is reported as a discretely presented component unit of the government of the District of Columbia. Consistent with the authoritative guidance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), the following criteria are used to determine the entity's financial reporting status:

- The organization is a legally separate entity.
- The District of Columbia appoints a voting majority of the organization's board.

There is a financial benefit/burden relationship between the District of Columbia and the organization, and the District of Columbia is able to impose its will on the organization.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Financial Reporting Entity (continued)

The Authority is reported as a discretely presented component unit of the government of the District of Columbia, because the District of Columbia is able to approve or modify the Authority's budgets; and may overrule, veto, or modify certain decisions made by the Authority's governing board (e.g., the awarding of contracts valued at \$1 million or more). Therefore, the District of Columbia is able to impose its will on the Authority. Also, the governing Council of the District of Columbia must approve the rules adopted by the Authority, thereby demonstrating the District of Columbia's ability to modify or approve the implementing and appeals regulation, related to the assessment charged by the Authority.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements of HBX have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, as prescribed by GASB. The Authority has prepared Statements of Net Position; Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position; and Statements of Cash Flows; along with the required supplementary information titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis", which precedes the financial statements.

The Authority's financial transactions are accounted for as a discretely presented component unit, in the District of Columbia's financial statements. The accompanying financial statements are only those of the Authority, and are not intended to present the financial position, changes in financial position, and cash flows of the District of Columbia, taken as a whole. The District of Columbia provides certain legal, central, accounting, and other services to the Authority. The costs and revenues associated with these services are not reflected in these financial statements.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The Authority's transactions and business events are accounted for, using a flow of economic resources measurement focus. Under this measurement focus, all assets and liabilities associated with HBX's operations, are included on the Statements of Net Position. The net position of the Authority is further categorized into net investment in capital assets and unrestricted net position.

The Authority prepares its financial statements, using the accrual basis of accounting. Under this basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned, and expenses are recognized when a liability is incurred; regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized when all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash; and mature in such a short period of time that their values are effectively immune from changes in interest rates. The Authority considers all highly liquid investments, with an original maturity of 90 days or less when purchased, to be cash equivalents.

Capital Assets and Depreciation

The Authority defines capital assets as classes of assets with an initial aggregate cost of more than \$5,000, and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost, if purchased or constructed.

The estimated useful lives for capital assets are as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life</u>
Internally Developed Software	3 – 10 years
Equipment and Machinery	5 – 10 years
Furniture and Fixtures	5 years
Vehicles (and Other Mobile Equipment)	5 – 12 years

Depreciation is calculated on each class of depreciable property, using the straight-line method. Depreciation expenses for the years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$9,515,449 and \$12,289,870 respectively.

Operating and Non-Operating Revenues and Expenses

Revenues and expenses are distinguished between operating and non-operating items. The Authority is authorized to generate revenues through various sources; including user fees, licensing fees, and other assessments on health carriers selling qualified dental plans or qualified health plans in the District of Columbia.

Operating revenues generally result from providing services in connection with the Authority's principal ongoing operations. The Authority generated operating revenues, which solely represented reimbursements obtained as a result of providing a shared information technology system, and business and customer operational services to another State Based Marketplace (SBM).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Operating and Non-Operating Revenues and Expenses (continued)

Operating expenses include all costs associated with assisting individuals and employers in finding affordable and understandable health insurance, facilitating the purchase and sale of qualified health plans, helping employers enroll their employees in qualified health plans, and providing a transparent marketplace for health benefit plans. Operating expenses also include costs associated with assisting persons in accessing programs, premium assistance tax credits, and cost sharing reductions; educating consumers; and maintenance of the other SBM's SHOP (Small Business Health Options Program).

All revenues and expenses not meeting these definitions, are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

It is the policy of the Authority to use restricted resources first, followed by unrestricted, when expenses are incurred for purposes for which any of these resources are available. Therefore, the Authority considers restricted amounts to have been spent when expenses are incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

Compensated Absences

Employees accumulate unused sick leave, with no maximum limitation. Annual leave may be accumulated up to 240 hours, regardless of the employee's length of service.

Accumulated annual leave is recorded as an expense and liability, as the benefit accrues to the employees. HBX does not record a liability for accumulated sick leave; however, at the time of retirement, for those who are civil service employees with unused sick leave, HBX may use the balance of the employees' leave to determine their years of service.

Post-Employment Benefits

Full-time employees receive pension benefits through the Social Security System, and/or the District of Columbia's Retirement Programs.

Under the provisions of D.C. Official Code § 1-626.05, the District of Columbia sponsors a defined contribution pension plan (Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a) Plan) for permanent, full-time employees, pursuant to § 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 401). The Authority's employees are eligible to participate in this plan after one year of employment with the District of Columbia, and they do not contribute to the plan. The Authority contributes 5% of base salaries for eligible employees in each pay period. During the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Authority contributed \$691,737 and \$650,535, respectively, on behalf of the Authority's employees. Contributions and earnings vest incrementally, beginning after two years of employment,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Post-Employment Benefits (continued)

including a one-year waiting period; and vest fully after five years of employment, including the one-year waiting period. Contributions and earnings are forfeited for the period of service during which the employee does not achieve incremental vesting, if separation occurs before five years of credited employment. The forfeited contributions and earnings during fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023 were \$4,553 and \$1,332, respectively.

The Authority's employees may also participate in the District of Columbia's deferred compensation plan, established under D.C. Code § 47-3601 in accordance with IRC Section 457. Employees are able to defer the lesser of \$23,000 and \$22,500, or 100% of includable compensation, in calendar years 2024 and 2023, respectively. A special catch-up provision is also available to the participant, which allows them to make up or catch up for prior years in which they did not contribute the maximum amount to the plan. The "catch-up" limit is the lesser of: (a) twice the annual contribution limits, \$46,000 and \$45,000; or (b) the annual contribution limit for the year, plus underutilized amounts from prior taxable years; for the calendar years 2024 and 2023, respectively. An additional deferral of \$7,500 is available to participants, who are at least 50 years old before the end of the calendar years 2024 and 2023. Contributions are not assets of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia has no further liability to the plan.

The District of Columbia's defined contribution and deferred compensation plans are administered by MissionSquare.

Contractual Commitments

The Authority's contractual commitments are primarily associated with the IT projects related to the development of the online health insurance marketplace, DC Health Link. Outstanding contractual commitments related to the IT projects as of September 30, 2024, totaled \$1,700,000.

Net Position and Reserves

The Authority adopted a long-term plan for financial sustainability. As part of that plan, a policy on the Reserve Fund was created to address spendable fund balance. The policy has two categories of reserves: Operating and Capital. The operating reserve is funded, using 6 to 9 months of the previous year's Council-approved budget. The Authority's board-assigned operating reserves were \$25,890,950, as of September 30, 2024 and 2023. Capital reserves are authorized to be funded up to \$20 million, after the full funding of Operating Reserves. The Authority's board-assigned capital reserves were \$25,660,000 and \$6,650,000 for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. These reserves were included in the unrestricted net position, reported on the Statement of Net Position.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Net Position and Reserves (continued)

When multiple categories of funds are available for an expenditure, such as a capital project being funded by a combination of grant funds, funds set aside by HBX, and unassigned reserves; HBX will spend project funds from the most restricted category first (i.e., grant funds).

Investments

The Authority's investments are reported at fair value, in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. Fair value is defined by GASB Statement No. 72, as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The authority categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy, established by GASB Statement No. 72. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure fair value of the assets.

Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2 inputs are inputs, other than quoted prices, included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These inputs are derived from, or corroborated by, observable market data through correlation or by other means.

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs, such as management's assumptions and information about market participant assumptions that are reasonably available.

Unrealized and realized gains and losses are included in investment income, as non-operating revenues (expenses), in the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with GAAP, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. However, actual results could differ from those estimates.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

New Accounting Pronouncements

GASB issued Statement No. 104, *Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025; Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025; Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024; Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023; GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023; and GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022*, with certain requirements effective upon issuance and others effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022, and June 15, 2023.

The Authority adopted GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022*, for effective requirements; and GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62. Implementation of the adopted GASB statements had no material impact on the Authority's fiscal year 2024 financial statements. The Authority has not completed the process of evaluating the impact that will result from adopting the other GASB statements, but does not expect these GASB statements would have a material effect on the financial statements. The Authority will be adopting those GASB statements, as applicable, by their effective dates.

Restatement of Financial Statements

During fiscal year 2023, the Authority erroneously reported HC4CC subsidy funds received and associated dividends earned and subsidy payments as non-operating revenues and expenses instead of as amounts due to OSSE. As result the Other liability-HC4CC was understated by \$14,882,838 in fiscal year 2023. In addition, the Authority reclassified \$49,488,532 of the cash and cash equivalents reported to restricted cash, for amounts that were restricted for insurance carriers' premium payments and HC4CC program payments. The Authority also reclassified \$1,274,035 that was previously reported as eligibility and enrollment support to salaries on the Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. The effect of correcting the error and the restatements are shown in the table below.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

	2023			2023
	As Previously	Error	Reclassification	As Restated
	Reported	Correction		
Statements of Net Position				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 60,852,460	\$ -	\$ (48,216,537)	\$ 12,635,923
Restricted cash	46,586	-	48,216,537	48,263,123
Other liability-HC4CC	-	14,882,838		14,882,838
Unrestricted net position	93,156,611	(14,882,838)	-	78,273,773
Total Net Position	\$ 116,304,454	\$ (14,882,838)	\$ -	\$ 101,421,616
Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position				
Salaries	\$ 16,899,509	\$ -	\$ 1,274,035	\$ 18,173,544
Eligibility and enrollment support	1,274,035	-	(1,274,035)	-
Interest and fees	3,924	(3,000)	-	924
HC4CC subsidy funds	18,000,000	(18,000,000)	-	-
HC4CC subsidy payments	(3,779,757)	3,779,757	-	-
HC4CC dividends earned	659,595	(659,595)	-	-
Change in net position	6,916,245	(14,882,838)	-	(7,966,593)
Net position - End of Year	\$ 116,304,454	\$ (14,882,838)	\$ -	\$ 101,421,616
Statements of Cash Flows				
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Payments to employees	\$ (16,338,341)	\$ -	(1,274,035)	\$ (17,612,376)
Payments to suppliers	(23,938,971)	-	1,274,035	(22,664,936)
Net cash flows used for operating activities	\$ (36,758,666)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (36,758,666)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Proceeds from HC4CC dividends earned	\$ 659,595	\$ 3,000	-	\$ 662,595
Proceeds from interest and fees	3,924	(3,000)	-	924
Net cash flows provided by investing activities	\$ (23,614,814)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (23,614,814)

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The District of Columbia follows the practice of pooling cash and cash equivalents for some of its governmental funds and component units, in order to provide better physical custody and control of cash, to enhance operational efficiency, and to maximize investment opportunities.

The Authority's cash and cash equivalents, including restricted cash as of September 30, 2024, and 2023, were \$55,017,448 and \$60,899,046, respectively. Restricted cash represent amounts received from the Federal Coronavirus recovery funds for relief payments for premium shortfall, premiums received on behalf of insurance carriers, and amounts received for the HealthCare4ChildCare program. The following table provides a reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash reported within the Statement of Net Position that sum to the total of the same such amounts shown in the Statements of Cash Flows.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 2: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (continued)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,149,650	\$ 12,635,923
Restricted Cash	<u>51,867,798</u>	<u>48,263,123</u>
Total cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash shown on the Statements of Cash Flows.	<u>\$ 55,017,448</u>	<u>\$ 60,899,046</u>

The Authority maintains cash and cash equivalent balances at a financial institution. The cash and cash equivalent balance at the financial institution is insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), up to \$250,000. At times, the balances on deposit may exceed the balance insured by the FDIC; however, to date, the Authority has not experienced any losses related to this concentration.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, HBX's deposits may not be returned to it. The HBX deposits are under the control of the District of Columbia, in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Institutions Deposit and Investment Act of 1997 (D.C. Law 12-56); and are insured or collateralized with securities held by the District of Columbia or by its agents in the District of Columbia's name. As of September 30, 2024, and 2023, there were no deposits exposed to custodial credit risk.

The following is the breakout of the deposits held by financial institutions as of September 30, 2024, and 2023.

<u>Depository accounts as of September 30</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Insured	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000
Collateralized by securities		
Collateral held by the District or by its agents in the District's name	<u>54,767,448</u>	<u>60,649,046</u>
Total Deposits	<u>\$ 55,017,448</u>	<u>\$ 60,899,046</u>

NOTE 3: DUE FROM THE OTHER STATE-BASED MARKETPLACE

The Authority bills the other SBM, monthly, for all charges incurred for providing services, as set forth in the agreement between the Authority and the other SBM. The amounts of \$1,324,777 and \$1,029,744, due from the SBM, represent charges that have been billed, but not paid by the SBM as of September 30, 2024, and 2023, respectively.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 4: INVESTMENTS

The District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer invests the operating and capital reserve funds on behalf of the Authority. The District of Columbia purchases legally authorized investments, consistent with the provisions of the Financial Institutions Deposit and Investment Act of 1997 (D.C. Law 12-56); and the District of Columbia Cash and Investment Management Policy, adopted in November 2008. During fiscal years 2024 and 2023, the Authority’s investments consisted primarily of money market funds, and U.S. Treasury bills.

The Authority categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy, established by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Authority had the following recurring fair value measurements as of September 30, 2024:

	September 30, 2024	Fair Value Measurement Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Investments by fair value level				
Fixed Income				
U.S. Treasury Bills	<u>\$ 85,581,067</u>	<u>\$ 85,581,067</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total investments by fair value level	<u>85,581,067</u>	<u>85,581,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Investments measured at the net asset value (NAV)				
Money Market Fund	<u>12,507,507</u>			
Total investments measured at the NAV	<u>12,507,507</u>			
Total investments measured at fair value	<u>\$ 98,088,574</u>			

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 4: INVESTMENTS (continued)

The Authority had the following recurring fair value measurements as of September 30, 2023:

	September 30, 2023	Fair Value Measurement Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Investments by fair value level				
Fixed Income				
U.S. Treasury Bills	\$ 17,060,384	\$ 17,060,384	\$ -	\$ -
Total investments by fair value level	<u>17,060,384</u>	<u>17,060,384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Investments measured at the net asset value (NAV)				
Money Market Fund	<u>64,404,897</u>			
Total investments measured at the NAV	<u>64,404,897</u>			
Total investments measured at fair value	<u>\$ 81,465,281</u>			

Investments in U.S. Treasury bills are classified as Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. The assets are valued, using quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market.

Money market funds generally transact at a \$1 stable Net Asset Value (NAV). However, the fund's NAV is calculated daily, using the amortized cost, which approximates fair value of the securities held in the fund. Investments in the money market funds can be redeemed daily.

NOTE 5: INVESTMENT RISKS

The Authority's investments are subject to credit, custodial credit, concentration of credit, and interest rate risks. These risks to which the Authority may be exposed, are described as follows:

Credit Risk: Credit Risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment may not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by the assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization. To mitigate such risk, the District of Columbia's investment policy requires that for investments in money market mutual funds, the funds be rated AAAM, AAAM-G, or an equivalent rating by a credit rating agency. As of September 30, 2024 and 2023, the money market funds held by the Authority had a Standard and Poor's rating of AAAM.

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk is the risk that the value of its investment securities that are in the possession of an outside party, the government may not be able to recover if the counterparty to the investment fails. The Authority had no custodial credit risk exposure during fiscal years 2024 and 2023. All of the Authority's investments in fiscal year 2024 and 2024 were held by the custodian in the District of Columbia's name.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 5: INVESTMENT RISKS (continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk: Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of a government’s investment in a single issuer. To mitigate such risk, the District of Columbia’s investment policy does not allow investment in a single issuer, to exceed five percent of the District of Columbia’s total investment portfolio. However, this requirement does not apply to the following investments, which have various investment limits: U.S. Treasury, 100% maximum; each Federal agency, 40% maximum; each repurchase agreement counterparty, 25% maximum; and each money market mutual fund, 25% maximum. As of September 30, 2024, and 2023, the District of Columbia was in compliance with its policy. Therefore, HBX was in compliance.

Interest Rate Risk: Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates may adversely affect the fair value of an investment. An investment with a longer maturity may generally have a greater sensitivity to fair value changes that are related to market interest rates. The weighted average days to maturity for the U.S. Treasury Bills held by the Authority was 61 days and 17 days as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses resulting from rising interest rates, the District of Columbia’s investment policy limits the Authority’s portfolio to specific maturities. The Authority had investments in U.S Treasury Obligations and money market funds as of September 30, 2024 and 2023. As of September 30, 2024 and 2023, the Authority was in compliance with this policy.

The District of Columbia’s maturity limits for current investments, as detailed in the District of Columbia’s investment policy, are presented in the table below:

<u>Type of Investment</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Maximum Investment</u>
U.S. Treasury Obligations	Five Years	100%
Money Market Mutual Funds	Not Applicable	100%

NOTE 6: CAPITAL ASSETS

A summary of the Authority’s capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, follows:

	<u>October 1, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>September 30, 2024</u>
Capital Assets Subject To Depreciation:			
DC Health Link IT infrastructure	\$ 122,898,697	\$ -	\$ 122,898,697
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(99,797,440)	(9,515,449)	(109,312,889)
Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 23,101,257</u>	<u>\$ (9,515,449)</u>	<u>\$ 13,585,808</u>

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 6: CAPITAL ASSETS (continued)

A summary of the Authority’s capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, follows:

	<u>October 1, 2022</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>September 30, 2023</u>
Capital Assets Subject To Depreciation:			
DC Health Link IT infrastructure	\$ 122,898,697	\$ -	\$ 122,898,697
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(87,507,570)</u>	<u>(12,289,870)</u>	<u>(99,797,440)</u>
Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 35,391,127</u>	<u>\$ (12,289,870)</u>	<u>\$ 23,101,257</u>

NOTE 7: DUE TO INSURANCE CARRIERS

District of Columbia residents participating in the Affordable Care Act are required to use DC Health Link to select an individual health insurance plan. After the selection of a plan, individuals and families make payments directly to their insurance carriers. These payments are not made to or through the Authority. DC Health Link’s Small Business Health Options Program Exchange (SHOP Exchange), the small business marketplace, is where small employers and their employees, and Members of Congress and their designated staff, apply for and select qualified health plans. These groups make their premium payments to HBX; either electronically, via the Automated Clearing House (ACH); or by mail, via lock box. These payments are deposited directly into the Authority’s bank account. The premiums are then aggregated and wired to the various insurance companies.

The amounts of \$27,728,626 and \$33,123,595, due to insurance carriers as of September 30, 2024, and 2023, respectively, represent the deposits and premium payments from SHOP Exchange and insured and congressional staffers, that have been deposited into the Authority’s bank account, but have not yet been wired to the various insurance companies.

NOTE 8: ASSESSMENTS

The Authority is funded by assessments received from insurance carriers. The Health Benefit Exchange Authority Establishment Act of 2011, effective March 2, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-94; D.C. Official Code § 31-3171.01 et seq.), was permanently amended on June 23, 2015, to provide for the financial sustainability of the Authority. The amendment included language that the Authority, annually assess, through a Notice of Assessment, each health carrier doing business in the District of Columbia and having direct gross receipts of \$50,000 or greater in the preceding calendar year, an amount based on a percentage of its direct gross receipts for the preceding calendar year. Each health carrier is required to pay the Authority the amount stated in the Notice of Assessment, within 30 business days after the date of the Notice of Assessment. Failure to pay the assessment shall subject the health carrier to Section 5 of the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund Act of 1993, effective October 21, 1993 (D.C. Law 10- 40; D.C. Official Code § 31-1204).

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 8: ASSESSMENTS (continued)

The Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking, on behalf of the Authority, sends Notices of Assessment to health insurance carriers, with payment due by the end of the fiscal year. Assessments are recognized as non-operating revenues on the Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position.

The assessments for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, were \$39,903,710 and \$38,822,286, respectively. The net assessment due from insurance carriers as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, was \$582,931 and \$1,778,373, respectively. Amounts due from insurance carriers are recorded, net of estimated allowances and amounts estimated to be uncollectible.

The due from insurance carrier receivable is reduced by the allowance for uncollectible accounts, to reserve for accounts, which are expected to become uncollectible in future years. In evaluating the collectability of accounts receivable, HBX utilizes historical collections and age of the accounts. The amounts due from insurance carriers as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, were not reduced by any allowance for uncollectible assessments from the insurance carriers. No amounts were expected to be uncollectible.

NOTE 9: FEDERAL GRANTS

The Authority was awarded a Federal grant of \$1,107,393, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, in fiscal year 2022. This grant was made available as part of the Section 2801 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-2). These CMS grants (modernization grants) were made to American Health Benefits Exchanges, established under section 1311(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to enable such exchanges to modernize or update any system, program, or technology to ensure that the exchanges were compliant with all applicable Federal requirements.

The Authority expended and recognized non-capital Federal grants as non-operating revenue of \$0 and \$160,324 for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The modernization grant allowed for reimbursement of costs incurred from March 15, 2021 to September 9, 2023. The award date of the modernization grant was September 10, 2021, with a 12-month no-cost extension awarded on July 11, 2022. The amounts due from the Federal government, reported on the Statements of Net Position, were \$0 and \$117,217, as of September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 10: HEALTHCARE4CHILDCARE

The Authority entered into memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education-Division of Early Learning (OSSE-DEL), in November 2023 and September 2022. The MOUs were to support outreach to, and communication with, eligible child care employers, sole proprietors, and employees, about DC Health Link and the benefits and subsidies available to them through the exchange; assist eligible child care employers, sole proprietors, and employees in selecting individual or employer-sponsored benefits packages that best meet their needs; efficiently leverage District and Federal resources; provide financial assistance to increase the affordability of coverage for child care employers and employees; and increase the number and percentage of child care employees with adequate and affordable health benefits coverage. The Authority was required to equip and direct its grantees that provide exchange navigator and assister services, to prepare them to assist child-care employers and employees in selecting and enrolling in health care coverage through DC Health Link. Additionally, the Authority was required to work with OSSE-DEL, to design policies and subsidies to increase access to, and affordability of, health care coverage through DC Health Link for eligible childcare employers and employees.

The Authority was awarded \$478,151 and \$466,514 for fiscal years 2024 and 2023, under the November 2023 and September 2022 MOUs, respectively, to employ staff to assist eligible child-care employers and employees in selecting health care benefits packages and purchasing health care coverage through DC Health Link. The authority was also awarded \$18,000,000 and \$18,000,000 for subsidy payments to health insurance carriers, for plan year 2024 and 2023, under the November 2023 and September 2022 MOUs, respectively. The MOUs required that the subsidy funds be maintained in a segregated fund that earned dividends of \$1,099,069 and \$662,595 in fiscal years 2024 and 2023, respectively.

In February 2024, the Authority was awarded a \$200,000 grant by DC Action for technology upgrades made to implement the HC4CC program. The September 2022 OSSE MOU was modified to award \$276,000 for the Authority to update its IT systems, including but not limited to its eligibility and enrollment systems, to carry out the purposes of the MOU.

The Authority expended \$10,627,864 and \$4,552,820 for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively for the HC4CC staff, IT updates and subsidy payments. The amount due to OSSE was \$23,851,353 and \$14,882,838 in fiscal year 2024 and 2023, that was included in the due to the primary government, reported on the Statement of Net Position. The funding remaining from the November 2023 and September 2022 MOUs, will remain with HBX to continue funding premiums for plan years 2024 and 2023; and future plan years, as stipulated by the MOUs.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE AUTHORITY
(A Component Unit of the Government of the District of Columbia)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
September 30, 2024 and 2023 (Restated)

NOTE 11: RISK MANAGEMENT

There was a lawsuit related to a data breach that was initiated in 2023. A preliminary settlement was approved by the court in November 2024. The final hearing on the settlement is set for February 2025.

NOTE 12: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In November 2024, the Authority's Board of Directors approved additional funding of its operating reserves, in the amount of \$2,273,050, bringing the reserve to \$28,164,000. This fully funds the Operating Reserve equaling 9 months of the previous year's Council approved budget.

The Authority evaluated subsequent events and transactions, through January 3, 2025, the date these financial statements were available for issue; and has determined that no material subsequent events have occurred, that would affect the information presented in the accompanying financial statements; or require additional disclosure, except as disclosed above.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Mayor, Members of the Council of the Government of the District of Columbia, Executive Director and the Executive Board of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority and Inspector General of the Government of the District of Columbia Washington, D.C.

We were engaged to audit, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority (“the Authority”), a component unit of the Government of the District of Columbia, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Authority’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 3, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Authority’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority’s internal control.

A *deficiency* in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.



Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

McConnell Jones LLP

Washington, D.C.
January 3, 2025

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