



2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PRESERVE affordable homes through the Housing Trust Fund.

- **Invest \$10 million in the Housing Trust Fund.** Many currently affordable homes across Washington are at risk of being lost. An additional appropriation for the Housing Trust Fund in the state's Supplemental Capital Budget would preserve affordable homes and prevent the displacement of people living in them.
- **Fix the property tax exemption for affordable rental housing for very low-income households (Doglio).**

PREVENT homelessness by protecting tenants and increasing access to rental housing.

- **Require a legitimate business reason to make a tenant move (Macri/Kuderer).** Limiting tenancy termination notices to legitimate business reasons will protect tenants from housing discrimination, retaliation, and displacement.
- **Require a move-in fee installment payment plan over a three-month period when a tenant requests it (HB 1694/Morgan).**
- **Enact a state level prohibition on rent gouging (Macri).**
- **Pass a Housing Justice Bill to prevent categorical denial of housing to people with criminal records (Darneille).**

STRENGTHEN & EXPAND Washington's safety net: Reverse cuts, improve housing stability, and don't punish people in shelter.

- **Raise the grant for low income adults who have permanent mental illnesses or physical disabilities in the Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) program.** The Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) program currently provides modest cash assistance of \$197 per month to low income adults with permanent mental health illnesses or physical disabilities. *Nobody can live on \$197 a month!*
- **Eliminate the ABD shelter penalty (Leavitt - budget proviso).** The ABD cash grant is further lowered to \$120/month for an individual who is deemed to not have out-of-pocket housing expenses, often people staying in overnight shelters. The ABD cash grant is a critical resource for addressing basic needs. Every ABD recipient should have access to the full \$197.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).** Even as the number of families with children living in deep poverty has increased by 30% over the last decade, TANF is reaching fewer families that at any point in state history. This dramatic drop in the caseload (more than 30,000 families) is due to harsh recession-era policies that make accessing TANF harder than ever for families.
 - **Ease harsh sanctions and re-instate commonsense time limits extensions (Nguyen/Entenman).**
 - **Reinstate the child support pass-through to ensure families on TANF are not denied access to child support payments (Kilduff - HB 1136/ Dhingra - SB 5144).**

ENSURE that homeless children have access to childcare and youth have access to state ID.

- **Extend the Homeless Grace Period for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) (Callan/Nguyen).** WA currently allows a grace period of up to four months for families experiencing homelessness to meet the full eligibility requirements of the WCCC subsidy, but this is not enough time for over 50% of families. Extending the grace period from 4 to 12 months would maintain access to high-quality early learning environments for homeless children, while giving families time to resolve issues related to homelessness such as housing & employment.
- **Reduce documentation barriers for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness (Callan/Liias).** Establish an ID verification letter for homeless youth that mirrors a similar one for foster youth to reduce documentation barriers for getting a state ID. Note: This doesn't cover Enhanced ID.

EXPAND access to voting rights.

- **Restore voting rights** to eligible voters who have served their time (Kuderer - SSB 5076).

Note: In several cases bill numbers and exact language are still under development. This document will change.

Email Hillary (hillary@homelessinfo.org) if you have any questions or visit leg.wa.gov.

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness works collaboratively to ensure safety and survival for people while they are homeless, and to end the crisis of homelessness in our region.

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