Dear Friend,

When the COVID-19 pandemic started, we were already in the midst of a crisis, and we drew on our broad network of trusting relationships to assess and act. Our Coalition of dedicated advocates moved swiftly, convening meetings to share vital information and contributing to the dramatic changes necessary to keep thousands of people safe or safer in emergency conditions. We made international headlines for our responses to the dual crises of homelessness and COVID-19 in March of last year, and thanks to your generosity, we have not slowed down since.

Our Coalition is in a unique position: we learn from and partner with people who work every day and night in shelters and supportive housing, on outreach teams and in health care settings. This on-the-ground knowledge informs our advocacy and helps us describe real solutions and equitable policies. We listen to direct service providers, advocates, and people who are living through homelessness as they tell us about gaps in services, barriers to access resources, and policies that make life harder for those forced to live outside, and we respond.

With the many hardships and changing conditions caused by COVID-19, we’ve been busier than ever! Here’s how we continue to meet the moment:

- **We created a Solidarity Fund as a rapid response to the pandemic.** Through generous contributions we made small and simple grants of $1000-$5000 to 17 local groups taking creative steps to help fill immediate needs for people experiencing homelessness.

- **Outreach workers alerted us to the fact that people without homes were not receiving their Economic Impact Payments (stimulus checks).** We took the lead to advocate on this issue, checking with agencies across King County and documenting problems and patterns. We reached out to Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, Senator Patty Murray, and their staff, who connected us with the IRS and the Treasury Department. After months of advocacy, thousands of folks experiencing homelessness received their stimulus checks!

- **Through Project Cool we provided 1,394 students experiencing homelessness with new backpacks and school supplies.** Each student got a new book written by BIPOC authors, and hosted a training for staff at our member organizations about how to support students in local public schools who are unstably housed, doubled up, or without homes.

- **We provide information and specialized training for service providers,** on topics including talking to people about vaccination, access to public benefits, Pandemic EBT, financial empowerment, tax filing, federal education laws, voter registration, and local, state, and federal legislative advocacy.

- **We filed a lawsuit,** together with our allies at the ACLU of Washington and Transit Riders Union, to remove the cynically-named Compassion Seattle charter amendment from the ballot, rejecting it as a distraction -- without any funding or a true plan -- from the real work we must do.

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and her Deputy District Director Palmira Figueroa met in July 2021 with Coalition Director Alison Eisinger and Senior Policy Manager Sara Robbins, Dan Wise and Kerry Cooley-Stroum (Catholic Community Services), and Chad Vaculin (Evergreen Treatment Services/REACH) to discuss federal and state policies, and ensuring access to stimulus checks for people without homes.

Read more about our work to help people without homes get their stimulus checks below.

WWW.HOMELESSINFO.ORG
Because of support from people like you we can move with the speed and flexibility these times of multiple crises demand. Your generosity and solidarity make it possible for us to organize effectively, share good and timely information, and be effective advocates beholden to nothing but the truth. Thank you!

Your gift of $100 or more before the end of December will make a real difference.

Your generosity will power our education and advocacy in 2022 as we:

- **Unite advocates** to use the lessons of the pandemic to change our shelters and service systems for the better – and for good!
- **Provide up-to-date training** for case managers and other essential staff about resources and advocacy to strengthen outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Register voters without homes** and expand voting rights so all our neighbors can participate in democracy.
- **Equip students experiencing homelessness** so they can fully participate in their education.
- **Continue to speak up** for more effective housing and services, and the sustained resources to build and maintain them.

Thanks for your true compassion and generosity - together we can act on our shared sense of responsibility to ensure everyone has a home.

With deep gratitude,

Alison Eisinger
Executive Director

P.S. I am excited to share big news for 2022: We are about to introduce our first bill in the state legislature! Your gift will support this fast-moving advocacy to ensure access to vital services such as food and cash benefits, and access to health care and disability assistance. We’ll share details of our bill and stories from our partners with you early in the new year.