

**Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe,
healthy, affordable home.**



2017 WASHINGTON STATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PRIORITIES

Create Affordable Homes

Build and preserve 5,700 safe, healthy, and affordable homes. Invest \$200 million in the Housing Trust Fund.

The Housing Trust Fund creates affordable homes for low-income households in every corner of the state. The Housing Trust Fund provides homes for families, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, farmworkers, and more. Two thirds of households in homes created by the Housing Trust Fund are extremely low-income and approximately ten percent of homes have helped low-income families become first time homebuyers.

Protect Services that Prevent and End Homelessness

Eliminate the sunset on document recording fees, increase the fee, and eliminate the 45% mandate.

A modest fee paid to file real estate related documents provides the most important source of funds to combat homelessness in Washington. The fees support domestic violence shelters, youth shelters, outreach services, short- and long-term rental assistance, move-in assistance, permanent supportive housing services, and more. Unless current law is changed, a portion of the fee will sunset and more than 60% of the state homelessness funds will vanish. More than 22,500 additional people are likely to experience homelessness in the first two years after the fees sunset.

Ban Discrimination Based on a Renter's Source of Income

Eliminate barriers to housing for renters relying on housing subsidies or income assistance to help pay the rent.

In most places in Washington, landlords are allowed to deny applications from tenants simply for using housing subsidies or income supports to help pay the rent. This limits mobility for low-income households and can be a legal loophole for racial discrimination or discrimination against members of other protected classes. Several cities and counties already prohibit this practice. That prohibition should be extended statewide.

Protect Washington's Lifeline for Elderly and Disabled Adults

Fully fund life-saving services that prevent homelessness.

- The **Housing and Essential Needs** (HEN) Program provides housing support to ensure a temporary disability does not result in homelessness for very low-income adults, and ensures access to essential basic needs, including rental assistance and health and hygiene products.
- The **Aged, Blind, and Disabled** (ABD) Program helps extremely low-income adults with permanent mental illnesses or permanent physical disabilities by providing cash assistance of up to \$197 per month while they apply to the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The legislature should enact the Governor's proposal to increase the cash grant to \$400 per month.
- **Medical Care Services** (MCS) provide health coverage for immigrants who are disabled and elderly and who have legally verified immigration status.
- **SSI Facilitation Services** help disabled individuals through the process of applying for SSI benefits, which can be lengthy and complicated.

Medicaid Transformation Demonstration

Expand housing for people with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness by ensuring full Operating Budget authority for our state's Medicaid Transformation Demonstration.

The federal government recently approved the state's request to use federal Medicaid resources to pay for tenancy support services delivered in permanent supportive housing. This will increase access to housing for people who have a disability, mental illness, or who are experiencing chronic homelessness. The Operating Budget should provide full authority to implement this benefit.

Track our advocacy on social media: #WAhomes