DEAR FRIEND,

I’m so glad to share this Report to the Community with you! These last two years have proven to many what we’ve always known to be true: that housing is a fundamental human need and the foundation for everything else that matters. And that when we come together and demand housing justice, we can make meaningful change.

The pandemic impacted all of us in so many ways and it made housing stability even more precarious for many, especially Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, and the lowest-income households in our state. The protections we secured together prevented homelessness and increased stability and safety for many thousands of families and individuals in Washington.

I’m so proud of how our team, and our entire community, responded to the challenges of the last two years. And I’m honored that the Housing Alliance was recognized by the National Low Income Housing Coalition with their 2022 Statewide Organizing Award for our legislative wins and the leadership of people who have experienced housing instability in securing those victories.

This report is an opportunity to share the progress we’ve made and an invitation to our community to hold us accountable to our commitments. Our 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan sets a path for us to:

• **Go deeper** in becoming a fully equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist organization;

• **Be deliberate and strategic** in changing the narrative about the causes and solutions to the affordable housing and homelessness crisis;

• **Develop a Roadmap to Housing Justice** that clearly lays out what it will take to make sure everyone in Washington has a place to call home; and

• **Build the organizational capacity we need** to keep growing the movement for housing justice.

This report is also an invitation for you to join us in this work, however you can. If something in this report intrigues you and you want to know more or learn how to get involved, reach out! If you think we’re missing something that is important to your community, let us know that too. We are committed to learning and welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,

Rachael Myers
Executive Director
SETTING OUR POLICY PRIORITIES

To develop our 2021 and 2022 policy priorities, we engaged communities broadly and deeply, prioritizing feedback from people most impacted by the affordable housing and homelessness crisis in Washington. In addition to an extensive survey of our members and advocates, we conducted listening sessions, meeting virtually with organizations across the state.

For greater exploration of the issues facing communities, in 2021 we also held eight focus groups, and heard from a total of 90 participants. Focus groups included: a Black/African American group from Spokane; a Disabilities group (statewide); a Rural Communities group from Gray’s Harbor; an Urban Indigenous group from Seattle; a Youth and Young Adults group (statewide); a group of public housing tenants (statewide); and two groups of local direct service providers working in Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color (statewide).

We asked questions to understand how rent assistance and other eviction prevention efforts were reaching their communities so we could advocate for changes if needed. And we asked about barriers to housing stability and about what changes were most needed.

WHAT WE HEARD:

- Affordable housing was out of reach before the pandemic, but it is even less accessible now. Communities are seeing drastic and sweeping rent increases that are greatly exacerbating the already crisis level issue of affordability.

- Many highly vulnerable communities are dealing with extreme property neglect because they can’t enforce the protections available to them.

- The greatest barriers to attaining and maintaining long-term affordable housing include criminal legal system involvement, drastic rent increases, racism and other forms of discrimination, inability to access legal services to enforce protections and rights, language barriers, and the lack of affordable homes that are accessible to people with disabilities.

- Workforce challenges are impacting already over-stressed and under-resourced homelessness service providers & community-based organizations across the state. Frontline homelessness workers have faced increased trauma and hazardous conditions over the last two years, often while barely earning a living wage.
PROGRESS IN 2021

Washington had one of the longest and most protective statewide moratoriums on eviction from March 2020 — October 2021. We led the campaign to create and repeatedly extend the moratorium to prevent people from losing their homes during the pandemic, until rental assistance and other protections were available.

A permanent fund source for a new statewide rental assistance program and efforts to prevent and end homelessness

House Bill 1277 will raise almost $300 million over two years. We made sure that the bill included important equity measures while also creating a stakeholder group of people with lived experience of homelessness to inform the creation of the new rental assistance program.

Right to counsel

Washington became the first state to guarantee a lawyer for low-income tenants in eviction court. Senate Bill 5160 also required repayment plans, barred landlords from refusing to rent to tenants who fell behind during the pandemic, and provided an opportunity for mediation. The Housing Alliance made sure that permanent funding was secured for this innovative, game changing right to counsel program.

Just cause

House Bill 1236 required landlords to have a legitimate business reason to make someone move, ending the practice of giving tenants 20 day “no cause” notices. This closed a major loophole in fair housing laws and protects tenants from retaliatory evictions. The Housing Alliance led the campaign to pass this bill, lifting up the experiences of tenants from across the state who have faced discriminatory and unfair evictions.

THE LEGISLATURE INVESTED $1.7 BILLION IN 2021 to address the housing needs of people in Washington, including:

$350 million in the capital budget to build and preserve affordable homes
$658 million for rental assistance
$187 million for foreclosure prevention
$72 million for shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness
$27 million increase to the Housing and Essential Needs rental assistance program

PROGRESS IN 2022

This year, we successfully advocated for even more investments to address our state’s affordable housing and homelessness crisis — totaling over $700 million on top of the 2021 appropriations.

Capital Budget investments included:

- $114 million for the Housing Trust Fund
- $240 million for Rapid Housing Acquisition
- $60 million for the new Apple Health and Homes program

Operating Budget investments included:

- $55 million for frontline homelessness service providers
- $68.5 million for rental assistance
- funding to permanently increase the Aged, Blind, and Disabled cash grant from $197 to $417 per month

Although the legislature missed opportunities to improve housing stability for more Washington residents by failing to pass several important bills, progress was made that will help advance them in 2023:

House Bill 1904, sponsored by Representative Strom Peterson, would have required landlords to give six months’ notice of significant rent increases and cap late fees.

House Bill 2017, also known as the Housing Justice Act, sponsored by Representatives Lauren Davis and Tarra Simmons, would have protected people who have been incarcerated and their family members from housing discrimination.

House Bill 2023, sponsored by Representative David Hackney, would have added enforcement mechanisms for tenants to enforce their rights and fight illegal actions by their landlords.

We intend to bring these bills back in 2023 and will be working throughout the year to build the movement needed to pass these critical protections.

Visit wliha.org for full agendas and legislative outcomes.
"Housing justice is racial justice! The Housing Alliance pays attention to the data, and the data is CLEAR. People who have been racialized have also been historically excluded from housing and continue to be discriminated against. We are examining and changing how we work — both internally and externally — to become a fully inclusive, anti-racist organization."

— CAROLINE LOPEZ, DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZING

OUR COMMITMENT

Our Board and Staff have made the following commitments and we invite you to ask questions, share your thoughts, and hold us accountable as we work to become a fully inclusive and anti-racist organization.

• We commit to actively working to dismantle white supremacy culture within our spaces. This includes internal spaces (our workplace, our board, and organizational committees) and external spaces, including the state legislative policy and advocacy arena.

• We commit to developing our policy priorities in authentic collaboration with organizations rooted in communities of color and with people with lived experience with homelessness and/or housing instability.

• We commit to leading with race, while also working to undo all forms of inequity. Racism is an effective tool that divides our movements and communities, and undoing racism will create an environment where all forms of inequity can be more effectively disrupted.

• Our true north is a safe, affordable home for everyone in Washington — a universal goal. We know we can only achieve this by pursuing targeted policies that directly attack the unique barriers to housing experienced by each different community. We will use this targeted universalist framework — universal goal, targeted strategies — to develop our policy priorities.

• We commit to using our platform as a statewide membership organization to offer education on anti-racism and anti-Blackness to members, allies, and partners.

• We commit to ensuring that our leadership better reflects communities that are most impacted by the affordable housing and homelessness crisis. This includes our staff, board, committees, and membership.
We hope that equity and racial justice shows up throughout all our work. Here are some changes we’ve made in recent years to put our values into practice:

**BOARD LEADERSHIP**
A joint Housing Alliance/Housing Action Fund Equity and Racial Justice Committee meets monthly to provide strategic direction and oversight for this work. The committee evaluates our policies and practices including hiring, personnel policies, compensation philosophy, performance evaluations, legislative agenda setting process, membership dues levels, new board member recruitment strategies, and board support practices.

**CAUCUSING AND RACIAL JUSTICE CONVERSATIONS**
Staff participate in racial caucus spaces for support and learning. White staff work together to better understand white privilege and deepen their analysis of racism. Staff of color work together to address the impact of racism and create space for healing and liberation. Learn more about race-based caucuses and affinity groups at [racialequitytools.org/resources/act/strategies/caucus-and-affinity-groups](http://racialequitytools.org/resources/act/strategies/caucus-and-affinity-groups).

All staff come together monthly for a conversation on racial justice convened by Caroline Lopez, Director of Organizing. For the last year we have been diving deeply into Tema Okun’s work on *White Supremacy Culture* and identifying how that shows up in our work and exploring how we can change that.

**ACCESS FOR ALL**
To make our work more accessible, we have significantly increased our budget for interpretation and translation. To ensure that people with low-incomes can fully participate as leaders in our organization, we have adopted a board policy to reimburse board members for the costs associated with their board service, including transportation, childcare, internet access, or other costs.

**COMPENSATION FOR LIVED EXPERTISE**
Our work is better when it is informed by people with lived experience with housing instability and homelessness. People who work in the affordable housing and homelessness field are compensated for their time and expertise. People who contribute their lived expertise to our work should be compensated as well. We have significantly increased our budget to pay people for those contributions.

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**REPRESENTATION MATTERS!**

**WA LOW INCOME HOUSING ALLIANCE BOARD**

- 10 White
- 2 Native American
- 2 Latinx/o/a
- 1 Asian American/Pacific Islander
- 1 Black/African American
- 1 Multi-racial/Bi-racial

**WA HOUSING ALLIANCE ACTION FUND BOARD**

- 1 Black/African American
- 1 Asian American/Pacific Islander
- 2 Native American
- 2 Latinx/o/a

**STAFF**

- 3 White Women
- 1 Filipino
- 2 White Men
- 2 Black Women
- 1 Indigenous Latina
- 1 Pacific Islander Man

As of May 2022
We are honored to have received the 2022 Statewide Organizing Award from the National Low Income Housing Coalition for the monumental progress we made last year!

For their effective advocacy — driven by the leadership of directly impacted residents — in securing statewide tenant protections and significant housing resources in the 2021 legislative session, NLIHC presents the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance with the 2022 Statewide Organizing Award. The annual NLIHC Organizing Awards recognize outstanding achievements in state, local, or residential organizing that further NLIHC’s mission of achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice. In particular, the awards recognizes achievements in tenant- or resident-centered organizing and leadership.

“The policies we passed last year created a more just and equitable housing system that will last well beyond the pandemic,” said Rachael Myers, Executive Director of WLIHA. “That progress was possible because of years of organizing led by our incredibly talented staff, RAP (Resident Action Project) members and other impacted people sharing their experiences and organizing their communities, and advocates across the state speaking up over and over.”

Read more at NLIHC’s blog: bit.ly/2022StateAward

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“Those closest to the problem are closest to the solutions, and furthest away from the decision-making tables and the resources. To that we say no more! We are building a statewide network of people who are directly impacted to advocate on housing and unhoused issues. Join us!”

— DUAA-RAHEMAAH WILLIAMS
STATEWIDE ORGANIZER
CONFERENCE ON ENDING HOMELESSNESS

In 2021 we held our second ever fully virtual conference, convening 769 people over three days to learn from each other, share ideas and best practices, and grow the movement to end homelessness in Washington and beyond. In partnership with the Housing Washington conference, keynote speakers included Dr. Ibram X. Kendi in conversation with Marc Dones and former HUD Secretary and political analyst Julián Castro. The conference included 38 breakout sessions and plenaries with 120 speakers and four caucus spaces (for BIPOC, people with disabilities, LGBTQI2S+ people, and people who wanted to explore their identities of privilege). Holding the event virtually was more accessible for many who would have otherwise had the additional time and expense of traveling across the state. Just over half of survey respondents said this was their first time attending the conference!

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT LEADS

We know that lawmakers listen first and foremost to their local constituents. LD Leads build and maintain an active local base of housing advocates in their state legislative district, alerting them to take advocacy action at strategic times. Working closely with the Housing Alliance, LD Leads can strengthen their legislative and advocacy skills while building community and developing stronger relationships with their lawmakers.

BOARD ADVOCACY

Thousands of community leaders serve on boards of affordable housing and homelessness organizations in Washington, and are powerful advocates when they speak up for their communities! The Housing Alliance engages board members in advocacy and can provide tools and resources to support boards in collective action.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOUSING ACTION PLAN

In 2021 we began a contract with the Health Care Authority to develop a Behavioral Health Housing Action Plan, intended to be a guiding ‘north star’ for the agency’s housing policies and programs. The community input period will include surveys, interviews, and focus groups, and a Lived Expertise Advisory Group will play key roles in developing the survey and report recommendations. The final report will be submitted in October 2022.

EVICTION PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Thanks to support from All In Washington and the National Low Income Housing Coalition, in 2021 and into 2022 we educated tenants across Washington about new rights and how to access rental assistance. We mailed over 450,000 “know your rights” postcards to low-income households in Washington and provided postcards in English and Spanish to organizations working directly with tenants. We ran a digital campaign using Google Search Ads, Facebook (in English and Spanish), and TikTok that reached over 247,000 people across Washington and sent almost 16,000 people to nwjustice.org/eviction-help. We are running short radio ads in Spanish multiple times per day on La Pera Radio TV.

IMPLEMENTING A LOCAL REVENUE OPTION FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES

In 2020, the Legislature passed house bill 1590, allowing city and county elected bodies to implement a local tax to support housing for low-income people in their communities. Thanks to a generous individual donor and the Campion Foundation, we engaged Beth Doglio (former legislator and prime sponsor of HB 1590) and Paul Knox to work with communities to implement this tax.

In 2021 through April 2022, Kitsap, Skagit, Snohomish, Clallam, and Thurston counties took advantage of this new revenue source. They joined Jefferson, King and Whatcom counties and the cities of Olympia, Port Angeles, Anacortes, Ellensburg, Spokane, Vancouver, Wenatchee, East Wenatchee, and Tacoma. In total these communities will generate over $132 million per year for affordable homes. If your community hasn’t implemented this revenue yet, but would like to explore the possibility, contact Caroline Lopez, caroline@wliha.org.

“Ready to get more involved in the fight for housing justice? If you’re interested in learning about becoming a legislative district lead, getting your board involved in advocacy, or sharing your experience with housing, get in touch — I’d love to help you connect! Contact me at pol@wliha.org.”

—PO LEAPAI ADVOCACY ORGANIZER
### 2021 FINANCIALS

#### HOUSING ALLIANCE

**2021 REVENUE**
- Grants $735,889
- Membership $191,831
- Sponsorship $177,302
- Individual Contributions $158,328
- Event registration $82,037
- Other $5,730
Total Revenue $1,351,118

**2021 EXPENSES**
- Staff + benefits $693,322
- Operating Expenses $168,257
- Consultants $162,867
- Professional fees $47,716
- Events and Accessibility $19,264
- Travel $1,211
- Other $27,870
Total Expenses $1,120,507

#### HOUSING ALLIANCE ACTION FUND

**2021 REVENUE**
- Grants $230,000
- Individual contributions + membership $83,475
Total Revenue $313,475

**2021 EXPENSES**
- Staff + benefits $174,601
- Advertising $30,105
- Operating expenses $26,806
- Consultants $12,854
- Professional fees $7,724
- Events and Accessibility $2,820
- Other $14,248
Total Expenses $269,158

### WASHINGTON LOW INCOME HOUSING ALLIANCE

Adria Buchanan, Fair Housing Center of Washington
Bertrand “Mr. B” Harrell, Resident Action Project
ChrisTiana Obey-Sumner, Epiphany of Equity: Education and Consulting
Elizabeth Trautman, Mockingbird Society, President
Emily Alvarado, Enterprise Community Partners, Vice President
J. Peter Shapiro, Community Volunteer

Jennifer Bereskin, Resident Action Project
Julia Cortes, City of Everett
Kate Budd, Community Volunteer
Kathy Morgan, Olympic Community Action Programs
Kim Toskey, Snohomish County Community Land Trust
Lee Murdock, Homeless Network of Yakima County
Lisa Byers, OPAL Community Land Trust, Strategic Planning Committee Chair

Mark Blatter, Treasurer, Community Volunteer
Mindy Woods, Community Volunteer
Pam Duncan, Community Volunteer, Equity and Racial Justice Committee Co-chair
Paula Carvalho, Raikes Foundation, Equity and Racial Justice Committee Co-chair
Poppi Handy, third place design co-operative, Secretary
Shannon Phillips, Summit Law Sol Villareal, Realtor

### WASHINGTON HOUSING ALLIANCE ACTION FUND

Andy Silver, Secretary-Treasurer
Christena Coutousbous
Emily Alvarado
J. Peter Shapiro
Jennifer Bereskin
Kim Herman
Kyle Rolf
Loren Tierney
Paula Sardinas
Sharonne Navas
Sheila Babb Anderson, President
Tami Anderson

### STAFF

Angela Hudson, Finance and Operations Manager
Caroline Lopez, Director of Organizing
Duaa-Rahemaal Williams, Statewide Organizer
Itzchel Bazan, Development and Events Manager
John Stovall, Special Policy Projects Manager

Rob Huff, Communications Specialist (beginning May 2022)
Kendra Allman, Community Organizing Fellow
Michele Thomas, Director of Policy and Advocacy
Po Leapai, Advocacy Organizer
Rachael Myers, Executive Director
Teresa Clark, Deputy Director
Organizational members of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance bring their expertise to our advocacy and ensure we understand the needs and challenges in communities all across Washington.

NOT A MEMBER YET? Learn about organizational membership at wliha.org/about/membership or individual membership bit.ly/joinWHAAF. Contact Itzchel Bazan for more information.
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

A Way Home Washington
All Saints Community Services
Association of Manufactured Homeowners
Attain Housing
Bailey-Boushay House
Bellwether Housing
Bremerton Housing Authority
BRIDGE Housing Corporation
Catholic Charities Housing Services
Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (AKA Catholic Charities of Spokane)
Catholic Charities: Central Washington
Catholic Charities: Western WA King County
Chelan Douglas Community Action Council
Chelan Valley Hope
Chief Seattle Club
City of Olympia
City of Seattle Office of Housing
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence
Community Action of Skagit County
Community Health Plan of Washington
Community Roots Housing
Community Youth Services
Compass Housing Alliance
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council for the Homeless
Crossroads Housing in Shelton
Dept of Commerce
DESC
Disability Rights Washington
Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County
Environmental Works
Family Support Center of South Sound
FareStart
Goodwill Industries of the Inland NW
Greater Matriarchs Society
Habitat for Humanity Seattle King County
Habitat for Humanity Whidbey Island
Habitat for Humanity Yakima County
Habitat for Humanity Yakima Valley
Habitat for Humanity of Skagit County
Habitat for Humanity of Skagit Valley
Habitat for Humanity of South King County
Habitat for Humanity of Western WA
Habitat for Humanity of Whitman County
Heather Hope
Homes and Hope Community Land Trust
Homes First
Homestead Community Land trust
Housing Authority of Grant County
Housing Authority of the City of Bellingham
Housing Authority of the City of Pasco & Franklin County
Housing Authority of the City of Tacoma
Housing Authority of Vancouver
Housing Authority of Whatcom County
Housing Consortium of Everett & Snohomish County
Housing Development Consortium Seattle
King County
Housing Initiative LLC
Housing Resources Bainbridge
Imagine Housing
Impact Capital
Inland Empire Residential Resources
Interim CDA
King County Housing & Community Development
King County Housing Authority
Kitap Collaborative
Kitap Homeless Continuum
Kitap Homeless Services
Kulshan Community Land Trust
Lake Washington United Methodist Church
League of Women Voters
Lifelong
Lopez Community Land Trust
Low Income Housing Institute
Lower Columbia Community Action Council
Lydia Place
Mary’s Place
Mental Health Housing Foundation
Mercy Housing
Multi-Service Center
Muslim Housing Services
Neighborhood House
NeighborhoodWorks of Grays Harbor County
Next Step Housing
Northwest Cooperative Development Center
Northwest Hospitality
Office of Rural & Farmworker Housing
Okanogan County Community Action Council
ORAL Community Land Trust
OPEIU Local 8
Parkview Services
Peninsula Poverty Response
Pioneer Human Services
Plymouth Housing Group
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
REACH Community Development
Real Change
Renton Housing Authority
Resolution to end Homelessness
Rod’s House
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Salazar Architect
San Juan Community Home Trust
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness
SEED South East Effective Development
Serenity House of Clallam County
Share Vancouver
Solid Ground
Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium
Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Surviving Change
Tacoma Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium
Tacoma Urban League
The Mockingbird Society
UFW 21
United Way King County
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
Vision House
Volunteers of America Eastern WA & Northern ID
Volunteers of America Western Washington
Walla Walla Alliance for the Homeless
Walla Walla Community Council
Walla Walla Housing Authority
Washington Community Reinvestment Association
Washington Homelessness Resource Center
Washington Kids in Transition
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Washington State Community Action Partnership
Women’s Resource Center
Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
Youthcare
YWCA of Seattle, King, Snohomish

County Homelessness Network members include county government and nonprofits that administer Consolidated Homelessness Grant funds in each county. Participating organizations designate someone to serve on our Homelessness Advisory Committee.

Quality Behavioral Health (Asotin)
Benton County (Benton/Franklin)
Clark County
Grays Harbor County
Island County
Olympic CAP (Jefferson)
King County
Kitsap County
Washington Gorge Action Programs (Klickitat/Clark/Skamania)
Lewis County
Okanogan CAP
Pacific County
Family Crisis Network (Pend Oreille)
Pierce County
Opportunity Council (San Juan)
Skagit County
Snohomish County
Thurston County
Walla Walla County
Whatcom County
Whitman CAC
Yakima County

Thank you for being part of the Housing Alliance! Whether you are a member, donor, advocate, or all of the above, you are part of a powerful movement!