



Legislative District Lead Role Description

Thank you for your interest in serving as a Housing Alliance Legislative District Lead. Legislative District Leads help advance state budget and policy priorities by mobilizing others in their networks to take advocacy action at strategic times throughout the year.

Key roles:

- Email, call, and/or meet with state lawmakers to urge action on legislation;
- Build relationships with lawmakers and serve as a trusted source of information;
- Share advocacy opportunities (such as calling the legislative hotline) with neighbors, friends, family, classmates, colleagues, etc. to help others become confident advocates and elevate affordable homes and ending homelessness as constituent priorities;
- Serve as a district lead at Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in the early part of the year, exact date coming soon!

“How do I get started?”

1. Connect with Po Leapai (pol@wliha.org) at the Housing Alliance to sign-up and hear about current advocacy opportunities.

2. Find out about the lawmakers in your district (<http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>), and sign up for their newsletters.
3. Create a list of ten community members in your district that you think would be interested in advocacy and set up conversations with them to ask for their commitment in making a call to their lawmakers about affordable housing or homelessness.

“Why does this matter and how does it work?”

Lawmakers depend on their constituents to understand what is going on in their district, make policy decisions, and influence their colleagues. The more you call, meet, and send personalized messages to your lawmakers, the stronger your relationship will be with them.

The Housing Alliance will track and share strategic opportunities for you to take action and provide you with talking points to make you an effective advocate.

“I’m not sure what I’d offer to influence my lawmaker...”

Lawmakers use constituent feedback to inform their campaign platforms, make policy decisions, and influence their colleagues. Your experience is vital to help lawmakers understand what it is like to live in their district, and how to understand and prioritize challenging issues like affordable housing and homelessness.

The Housing Alliance has many resources to advocate successfully including one-page documents with messaging points (<http://wliha.org/resources/overview>), frequent trainings and updates through webinars and

conference calls (<http://wliha.org/resources/webinars-and-tools>), and direct access to Organizers. These resources are meant to supplement your ability to speak to your experience as a community member.

Expertise in a specific issue or population through your unique professional background or community-based perspective is very important. There may be opportunities to testify in committee on specific legislation.

“What about Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day?”

We invite you to volunteer as a Legislative District Lead for Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in the early part of the year, during the Legislative Session. The exact date coming soon!

Legislative District Leads play an important role by promoting Advocacy Day with their community, and by leading a group of advocates in lawmaker meetings. We'll take care of scheduling meetings, providing training-based workshops for advocates, and preparing materials so your Advocacy Day lawmaker meetings go well.

Stay tuned for Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day registration in Fall!