

Advocacy Works! Organizing for State Legislative Victories

A group of diverse people, including men and women of various ages, are walking across a street in front of a large, historic stone building. Many of the participants are wearing red scarves and holding red folders or signs, suggesting they are part of a coordinated advocacy effort. The building in the background has the words "THURSTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE" visible on its facade. The scene is set on a cloudy day with bare trees, indicating a cooler season.

The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance -
Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe,
healthy and affordable home.



Today's agenda

- Introduction with spotlight on recent victories
- Sneak peek: 2021 state legislative priorities
- Tips for Successful Advocacy ★ *Will include live discussion!* ★
- Get involved! Overview of advocacy opportunities
- Advocacy in practice: take action today!
- Q&A



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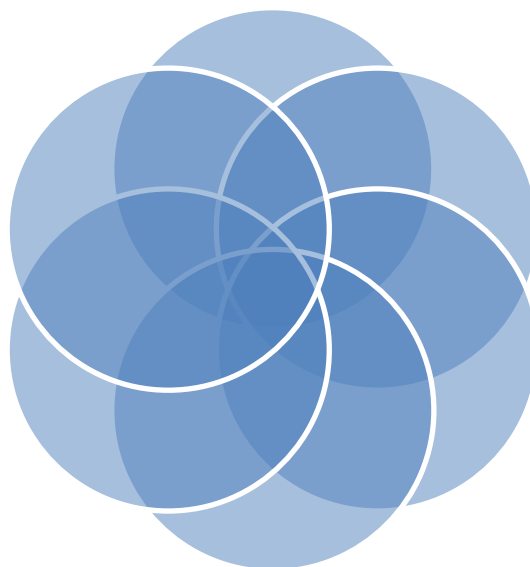
Recent Big Wins for Affordable Housing & Homelessness!

- \$240 million for the affordable homes!!
- \$30 million increase for Housing & Essential Needs rental assistance!
- Eviction reform!
- Statewide COVID eviction moratorium!
- \$100 million for rental assistance!
- Move-in fee installment plans!

Advocacy made those wins possible! How?

Advocates are electing housing champions to state level offices!

Advocates are delivering consistent & strategic message!



Persistent advocacy has been building for years!

Voices statewide are demanding action!

Lawmakers are hearing from local advocates throughout the year!

Sneak Peek! Top 2021 Top Priorities!

- **Increase and Preserve Affordable Housing:**
Invest \$250 million into the Housing Trust Fund to build safe, healthy, permanently affordable homes statewide!
- **Keep people in their homes and prevent an increase in homelessness:**
Pass statewide protections against discriminatory and arbitrary evictions (good cause termination requirements) and prevent evictions based on nonpayment of rent accrued during the COVID economic recession.



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Advocacy is needed all year-round!





Interim: The intervening time between legislative sessions.

Session: The time when lawmakers are convened at the State Capital. Starts the second Monday of each January (1/11/21).

Biennium: The state runs on a two-year budget cycle. Each odd-numbered year is the primary budget writing year and those sessions are 105 days long. Even-numbered years are the second half of the biennium and those sessions are only 60 days long.



Work with a nonprofit 501c3 organization? You can still advocate!

- Advocacy: Educating on an issue = **No limits.**
- Lobbying: Advocating for a specific piece of legislation or budget = **Some (generous) limits.**
- Campaigning: Helping get someone elected = **Not allowed! *But you can do this on your personal time!***

Learn more: Alliance For Justice - Bolder Advocacy at bolderadvocacy.org



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Tips for having a successful lawmaker meeting!





Helpful Information to Know Before Meeting With a Lawmaker

- Does the lawmaker serve on any key policy committees?
- Do they hold a leadership position within their caucus?
- What bills have they sponsored?
- What is their voting record?



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www.leg.wa.gov



**Representative My-Linh
Thai (D)**

41st Legislative District

**Email
Details**

Home Page

District Office

1200 12th Avenue S
Suite 801
Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 435 - 7034

Olympia Office

424 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7926

Committees

Civil Rights & Judiciary (Vice Chair)
Education
Health Care & Wellness



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Know what you want to accomplish with your meeting:

- Develop a relationship?
- Educate the lawmaker?
- Make a specific request?
- Express concerns about their position?
- Thank them for something specific?





Who should attend the meeting?

- You! Be ready to share why you care about the issue.
- People directly impacted by the issue have especially important and unique expertise to share with lawmakers.
- Non-profit board members often have valuable perspectives about why these issues matter to the public.



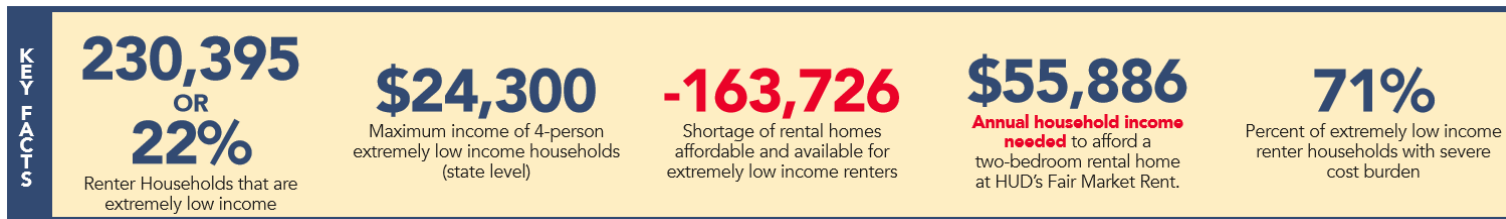
Tips for effective communication: Be prepared!

- Have the “story of you” ready: short and clear statement on who you are and why you care.
- Have your ask prepared: “I hope you will vote yes on Senate Bill 2245.”
- Listen carefully and ask questions: “What leads you to that conclusion?”, “What might change your mind?”, etc.

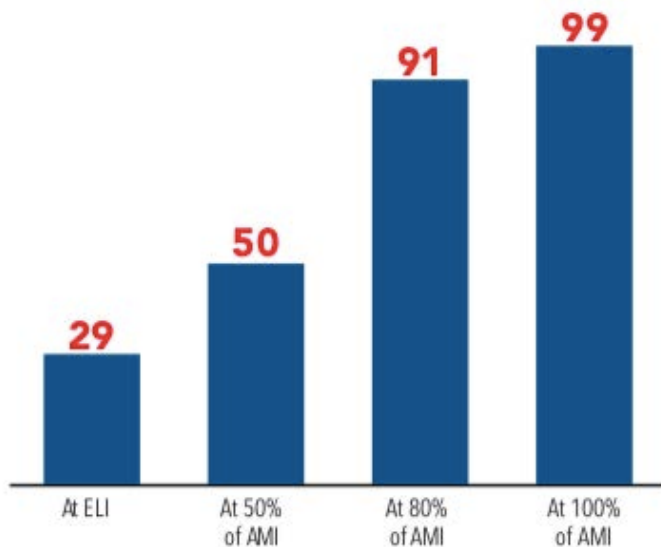
Tips for effective communication: Challenge harmful comments.

- Don't be afraid to challenge stereotypes or stigmas of homelessness. Polite, but clear communication is a key part of educating lawmakers. "95% of the people experiencing homelessness in our county are from here."
- For more see <https://www.wliha.org/toolkit>

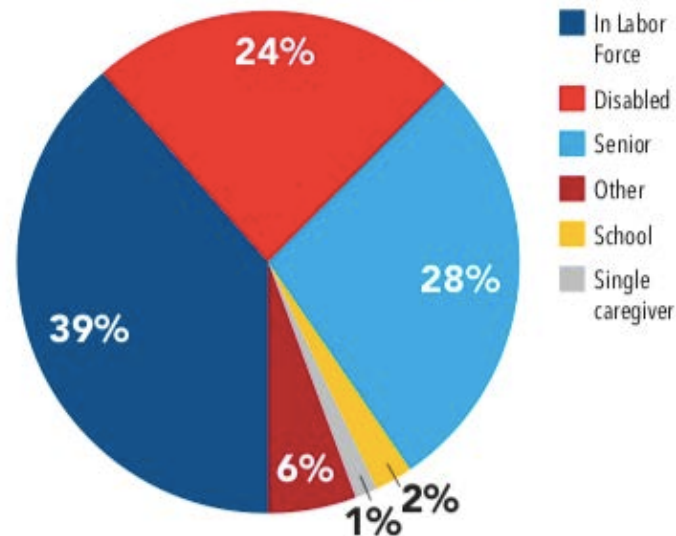
Tips for effective communication: Use reliable data that helps to illustrate the problem.



AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOMES PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Data from the NLIHC Gap report: [NLIHC.org](https://www.nlihc.org/)



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Tips for effective communication: Pitfalls to avoid.

- Don't offer up other programs to cut in the budget.
Do pivot back to the importance of your ask.
- Don't spend most of your time making small talk.
Do get to know the lawmaker, but make sure you have time to get to the point.
- Don't use acronyms.
Do offer to provide full background on the issue or program you want them to understand.



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HB 1109 OPERATING BUDGET 2019-2021

3/25/19

PUBLIC HEARING

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.LEG.WA.GOV





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Michele's top tip!

"You are part of a movement, make sure your comments reflect that. Don't just talk about what you need, talk about what we all need."





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John's top tip!

"Always remember to make a very clear ask of your lawmaker, and use that commitment to hold them accountable!"





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“Tell your story!
Storytelling is very
important. Make sure you
have your two to three
minutes ready to go, and
highlight the particulars in
the story that are most
relevant. Also share how
a program or bill would
benefit you and how it
would benefit others in
your situation.”

- Mr. B, RAP Steering
Committee, LD Lead





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“Everyone is nervous when they talk to lawmakers, but they are human just like you and me. Mostly they don’t know the experiences that you go through. That’s why we tell our stories.

They are the ones supposed to work things out for us, they’re the people we elected in.”

- Lisa Sawyer, RAP Steering Committee, LD Lead





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"I have learned that voices like mine are missing in rooms where decisions are being made. Each time that I can speak for myself, I am lifting up my community, and creating space for other voices that have been excluded in the conversation but impacted significantly. For I have been given a microphone for the first time and I plan to use it to best serve my community."

- Kati Ortiz, LD Lead





The Housing Alliance is a resource for engagement:

- “Learn at Lunch” educational webinars,
- Advocacy tools at www.wliha.org,
- Staff are available to provide support,
- Sign up for our emails and follow us on social media to stay engaged!



The Housing Alliance advocacy programs:

- Resident Action Project
- Board Advocacy Project
- Legislative District (LD) Leads



Get Active Today!

- Take action to prevent the expiration of the statewide eviction moratorium today!

Org Sign-on Letter:

<http://bit.ly/extendmoratoriumletter>

AND Call Governor Inslee! 360-902-4111

- Share your story!
 - Have you received a no-cause notice to move?
 - Has your life been positively impacted by a state funded affordable home? We need your stories! **JohnS@wliha.org**



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Q & A

Any questions?



Contact us with questions and to get involved!

Michele Thomas, Director of Policy and Advocacy She/Hers
MicheleT@wliha.org

John Stovall, Member Organizer, He/Him
JohnS@wliha.org