

**Building the movement  
to ensure that everyone  
in Washington has the  
opportunity to live in a  
safe, healthy, affordable home.**



## **2019 Washington State Affordable Housing and Homelessness Legislative Priorities**

### **Create Affordable Homes**

#### **Invest \$200 million in the Housing Trust Fund.**

There is a serious and urgent need for more affordable homes all across Washington. Currently, 71% of renters with extremely low incomes pay more than half their income in rent, leaving little left over for the basics like food, transportation, and childcare. The Housing Trust Fund is Washington's most effective tool for creating affordable homes, but it has been considerably underfunded in recent years. Significantly increasing the investment in the Housing Trust Fund will enable communities to build safe, healthy, affordable homes that are guaranteed to be affordable for at least 40 years.

### **Help Local Communities House More People, Sooner**

#### **Allow local communities to retain a portion of the state's sales tax to invest directly into affordable homes.**

Local communities need significant resources that they can couple with state and federal dollars to build more affordable homes, **now**. Allowing local jurisdictions to keep a portion of the tax dollars they already collect and use them to build affordable homes is a smart use of existing resources. Allowing communities to bond against these dollars ensures a significant infusion of housing capital.

### **Prevent Homelessness By Reducing Evictions**

#### **Implement eviction reform and require cause to terminate tenancy.**

As a key strategy for preventing homelessness, Washington must provide more protections for renters to help keep them in their homes. Reforming the eviction process to increase the time a tenant has to pay the rent will significantly reduce evictions and homelessness, while also reducing court costs and attorney's fees accrued from the eviction system. Additionally, limiting tenancy termination notices to legitimate business reasons will protect tenants from housing discrimination, retaliation, and displacement.

### **Expand Washington's Lifeline for Adults with Disabilities**

#### **Significantly increase the Housing and Essential Needs rental assistance program.**

Rents are out of reach for many in Washington. Adults experiencing a short or long-term physical or mental health disability are in dire need of rental assistance, and the demand has far outpaced the funding for this critical program. In many communities, all available rental assistance funds have been dispersed, as many people in need sit on waiting lists. Washington must increase funding for the Housing and Essential Needs rental assistance program in the next biennial budget.

*Learn more about each of these policy priorities at [wliha.org/advocacy/state](http://wliha.org/advocacy/state)*