

Legislators must include new revenue, not more cuts, in the budget!

Over the past four years, the legislature has cut over \$10.5 billion, but has increased revenue by less than \$1 billion. As the state House & Senate work to balance the budget for the next two years, programs and services that support the most vulnerable members of our communities are again on the chopping block. Since the Great Recession hit in 2008, we have cut more services than at any time in our state's history. These cuts damage our state's ability to create jobs and recover from the recession, and they balance the budget on the backs of people who already struggle the most.

By reconsidering Washington's tax system, we can rebuild our revenue base and prevent drastic cuts to vital programs. Tax breaks should be regularly reviewed and renewed only if they are creating jobs and delivering public benefits. Currently, Washington is one of only seven states that do not tax capital gains. An added excise tax on capital gains would create stable revenue and ensure that the very rich are paying their fair share.

KEY BUDGET PRIORITIES**Invest at least \$100 Million in the Housing Trust Fund!**

The Housing Trust Fund is Washington's largest and most effective tool for providing affordable homes for both working families and vulnerable individuals across the state. Since its creation in 1989, investments in the Housing Trust Fund have leveraged over \$3 billion from private and public sector support to build, preserve, and rehabilitate more than 40,000 affordable homes. Investments also create thousands of good jobs in construction and generate local tax revenue. Despite the success of the Housing Trust Fund in providing affordable housing and jobs, it continues to be under-funded. Investing in the Housing Trust Fund will allow communities across the state to increase access to safe, healthy and affordable housing and provided much-needed jobs.

Housing & Essential Needs (HEN), Aged, Blind, & Disabled (ABD), & SSI Facilitation

PROTECT Crucial Programs & Prevent Homelessness for disabled and elderly Washingtonians: Maintain Housing & Essential Needs (HEN), Aged, Blind, & Disabled (ABD) and SSI Facilitation at current funding levels. Seniors and people with disabilities must be able to meet their basic needs and access recovery resources.

RESTORE the 15% cut to Families receiving TANF

Washington's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) system provides struggling families with children a modest cash grant to help meet their basic needs, such as housing, clothing, and health items. Many in our communities rely on this vital program to put food on their tables and provide for their children. During the 2011 Legislative Session, the TANF cash grant was reduced by 15%. It is high time to take action and RESTORE the 15% cut from 2011. This will increase the grant for a family of 3 from \$478 to \$562, providing critical resources to our poorest families.

**Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness**

works collaboratively to ensure safety and survival for people who are homeless, and to end the crisis of homelessness in our region.

77 So. Washington Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Sign up for 'Action Alerts'. Stay in touch. Get involved.

www.homelessinfo.org // www.facebook.com/SKCCH // @homeless2housed

KEY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ENSURE a fairer system for Tenants and Landlords

- **Pass the Fair Tenant Screening Act (SB 5123 / HB 1257)**

Finding a new home or place to rent is hard and usually people apply for more than one place. Currently the average renter will have to pay for three or more tenant screening reports during this process. The Fair Tenant Screening Act would create the a **portable tenant screening report process** where a renter could buy (one time) a standard online tenant screening report and provide access to the report to multiple landlords. *Pass the Fair Tenant Screening Act to make the tenant screening process more affordable and fair for both tenants and landlords.*

- **Pass the Source of Income Discrimination Protection bill (SB 5378 / HB 1565)**

This legislation would prohibit discrimination in housing based on participation in government assistance programs. Many rental ads now list “not accepting Section 8,” referring to those receiving assistance with their rent. These tenants should be subject to screening checks just like any other tenant, but Section 8 status alone is no reason to prevent a prospective tenant from even applying.

- **Truth in Eviction reporting (SB 5376 / HB 1460)**

Currently, a tenant can be caught in a landlord’s foreclosure, win an appeal, be wrongfully named, settle to the landlord’s satisfaction, or not be evicted. Despite this, their names still appear with an eviction on their report, which usually results in landlords being reluctant to take them as tenants. Tenant screening reports should only name evictions when the tenant has actually been evicted.

PREVENT Youth Homelessness

- **Pass the Youth Equality and Reintegration (YEAR) Act (HB 1481/SB 5564)**

Allowing youth who made non-violent mistakes to access housing and employment;

- **Extend Foster Care (HB 1735 / SB 5740)**

Extend Foster Care for youth with significant medical conditions so that these individuals have a safe place to stay while transitioning to adulthood

- **Pass the Homeless Youth Act (HB 1436 / SB 5404)**

Successfully addressing youth homelessness ensures that homeless youth and young adults in our state have the support they need to thrive and avoid more costly outcomes in the criminal justice system, human trafficking, long-term dependence on public benefits, or chronic adult homelessness.

Homeless Student Stability Act (HB 1682 / SB 5065)

Ensure schools have needed supports to identify and serve homeless students.

Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity (CROP) Act (HB 1553)

Ensure opportunities and reduce unnecessary barriers to employment that do not contribute to public safety.

**Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness**

works collaboratively to ensure safety and survival for people who are homeless, and to end the crisis of homelessness in our region.

77 So. Washington Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Sign up for 'Action Alerts'. Stay in touch. Get involved.

www.homelessinfo.org // www.facebook.com/SKCCH // @homeless2housed