

Build Healthy Communities by Investing in Affordable Homes

Access to a stable home improves health & education outcomes

Track our advocacy on these issues on Twitter using this hashtag: #HTF2015

A home leads to positive health outcomes for kids

- National Center on Family Homelessness: homeless children are sick 4x more often than housed children.
- A study in the journal *Pediatrics* found that homeless children have frequent respiratory and ear infections, stomach conditions, and high rates of asthma.
- That same study found that 27.9% of children without a stable home suffered from asthma rates 3x the national average.

Leaving families & children behind damages the economy

- The average net benefit to taxpayers for each student who graduates from high school rather than drops out is \$200,000.
- The cost to taxpayers if homeless students not proficient in math fail to graduate: \$3.4 billion.

Building & preserving affordable homes has other economic benefits.

Every 1,000 apartments developed with capital budget dollars creates 1,220 jobs & generates \$79 million in local income. This includes the direct and indirect impact of construction activity, as well as the ripple effect of that income spent on other locally produced goods and services.

A home: the key to a new life



When Scott (pictured right) returned from serving 8 years in the Army, he experienced daily stressors, which made it difficult for him to function. So his family started in transitional housing in Yakima, a home made possible thanks to a Washington State capital fund investment in affordable housing. Today, he's in a WorkFirst job training program learning new skills to maintain full time employment. He and his family now live in a safe, healthy, affordable permanent home.

Updated 1/29/2015

All Washington residents deserve an opportunity to live in a healthy home.

- 32,494 homeless children attended Washington public schools in the 13-14 SY.
- Throughout January 2014, volunteers counted 6,289 homeless people living in the cold without shelter across the state.
- More than 195,000 of the poorest Washington households are spending more than half their income for rent.

How Washington can help shrink the state's affordable housing gap.

Building affordable homes can be challenging in communities across Washington. The private, for-profit housing market builds market-rate developments with rents out of reach for lower income families and individuals. The legislature evens the field by creating safe, healthy, and affordable homes through the capital budget.

These capital budget funds (aka the Housing Trust Fund) are used to build and preserve affordable homes across Washington. HTF is a critical funding component to assemble the dollars needed to build & preserve affordable homes.

Whom does it house?

The vast majority of people living in homes built or preserved by the HTF are extremely low-income, **earning less than \$19,000 per year for a family of three**. HTF has also funded **first-time homeownership programs**, and homes for vulnerable communities, such as **veterans, people with disabilities, and seniors**.

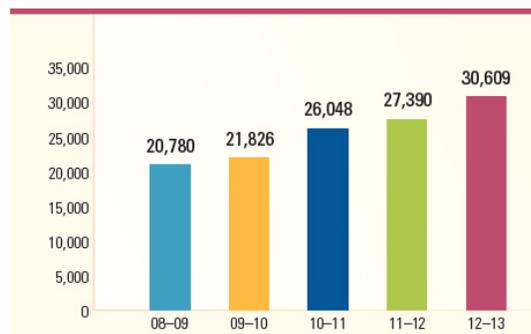
Housing is a racial equity issue.

Both federal & local policies over time have led to huge racial disparities, preventing opportunities to safe, healthy, affordable homes. African Americans make up a little more than 7% of Seattle's population. But that demographic is tripled for the homeless population. The statistics are worse nationwide, as African Americans make up roughly 13.1% of the population, but 37% of the homeless population. The capital budget is an opportunity to bridge the racial housing gap.

What is the legislative solution?

Invest at least \$100 million to build and preserve safe, healthy, affordable housing.

Homeless Schoolchildren



The population of homeless schoolchildren in Washington has increased steadily (see above). The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction counted 32,494 for the 13-14 school year.

Across Washington, renting a home is out of reach for too many (see below).

Renting a Stretch for Low-Income Households

