



## 2021 Policy Agenda At-A-Glance

1. **Building a Stronger Safety Net**
  - a. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** – continued investments to TANF and policy changes that restore policies which prioritize equity and the well-being of families and children
    - i. Protect current investments in the TANF program that help families meet their most basic need;
    - ii. Extend relief measures implemented during COVID, especially through the following economic downturn;
    - iii. Enacting common-sense time limit extensions and easing harsh sanction policies.
  - b. **Housing & Essential Needs (HEN) and Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD)** - protecting all investments and refusing any cuts to HEN and ABD. Austerity budget cuts harmed adults with disabilities during the great recession, and our state has the opportunity to refuse to make the same mistake during this economic downturn. A state budget shortfall does not have to mean fewer supports for adults with disabilities.
2. **Access to Dental Care**
  - a. **Medicaid Adult Dental** - Maintain current levels of funding for the Medicaid Adult Dental program
  - b. **Dental Therapy** - Expand dental therapy across Washington state. Dental therapists are dental care professionals who can provide high-quality, preventative oral health care for a lower cost, and work in dental offices under the supervision of licensed dentists.
3. **Access to Higher Education** - Increasing access and graduation rates for students of color in Washington calls for new levels of investment in students before they get to college, increased financial aid, funding for critical retention services, and a student body and staff that reflects the diversity of Washington state by:
  - a. Protecting and increasing existing financial aid programs such as the WA College Grant, and other financial aid investments made by the WA Education Investment Act.
  - b. Expanding financial aid programs that assist students with housing, food, books, transportation, health care, and other associated costs.
4. **Progressive Revenue** - implement progressive revenue solutions that rebalances our state tax code by:
  - a. Urging Washington state lawmakers to rebalance our tax code with measures like estate taxes, capital gains taxes, and payroll taxes,
  - b. Encouraging Washington elected leaders to explore programs like universal basic income, and to use federal COVID relief funds or other state funds for a Recovery Rebate to put cash in the pockets of all Washingtonians.
  - c. Funding and expanding the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC), which is Washington state's version of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the federal government's most



successful poverty reduction program. WFTC became law in 2008, but the state legislature has never funded the WFTC in the budget, missing a vital opportunity to rebalance our tax code for low- and moderate-income Washingtonians. We propose expanding the credit to people, often immigrants, who file their taxes with an Individual Tax ID Number (ITIN), as well as to low-income students and caregivers.

- 5. Consumer Protections** - As vulnerable Washingtonians are impacted by the recessionary climate of COVID-19 now is the time for consumer protections that defray the very real costs of an unequal economic system.
  - a. Ending debt-based driver's license suspension.
  - b. Pushing the Washington state legislature to reiterate and strengthen SB 6314, which prevented home foreclosures due to property tax foreclosure.
  - c. Strengthening our laws that protect against the garnishment of bank accounts by making protections automatic, rather than through a complicated legal process.
  
- 6. Reimagining Public Safety** - We support calls to distribute funds formerly spent on over-policing to long-neglected Black and Indigenous communities, and to exonerate and heal all protestors who have been charged or harmed for exercising their constitutional right to assemble.
  - a. Demanding that Washington lawmakers adapt police accountability bills that decertify officers who abuse their power and that creates peer-intervention models of policing where officers are encouraged to report and reveal the misdeeds of other officers.
  - b. Press state lawmakers to draw funding from the Washington State Patrol budget to focus, instead, on upstream investments of health and public safety—like jobs programs, cash assistance, housing, and social services.