

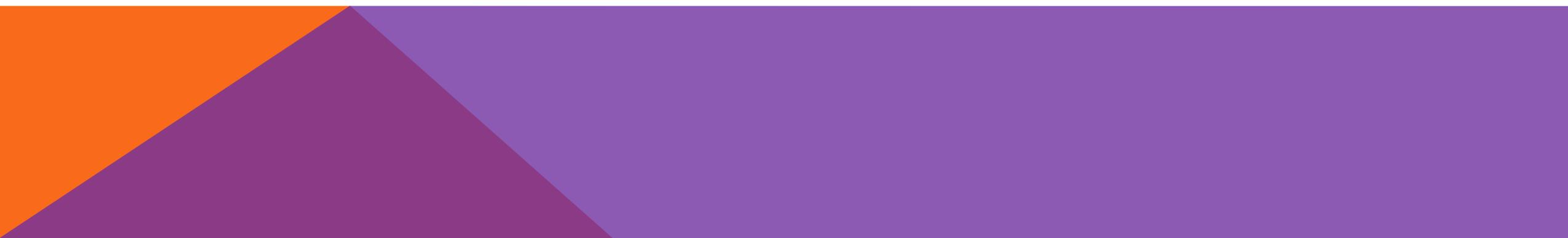
2021 Legislative Policy Priorities



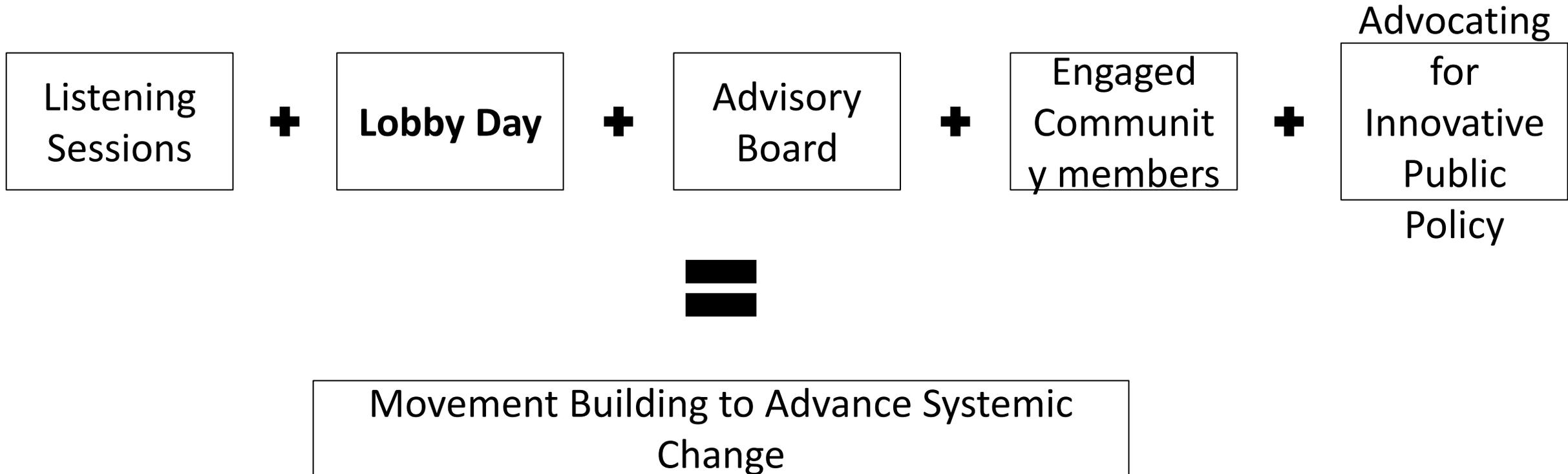
Presenters: Omar Cuevas Vega, Policy
& Field Coordinator
Corina Yballa, Community Organizer

POVERTY ACTION'S MISSION & VISION

We are a catalyst for economic justice. We work alongside low-income communities and communities of color in Washington state to support emerging leaders, mobilize voters, and advance equitable policy solutions. We believe that change starts with community; by centering the voices of those impacted by poverty and injustice, we can build an equitable Washington free of poverty.



OUR PHILOSOPHY



During the 2021 Legislative Session, Poverty Action is committed to:

- **Fighting for what's right**
 - **Upholding community member's stories**
 - **Building community**
- 

Our Policy Priorities

Poverty Action works to eliminate the root causes of poverty through **six** areas of policy work.

- Building a **stronger safety net**
- Expanding access to **dental care**
- Increasing **access to higher education**
- Re-balancing our **state tax code**
- Reimagining **public safety**
- Strengthening **consumer protections**



Building a Stronger Safety Net

Poverty Action is dedicated to strengthening basic needs supports and advocating for policies that will ensure a baseline of economic security, especially in the face of an unprecedented health crisis and economic downturn.

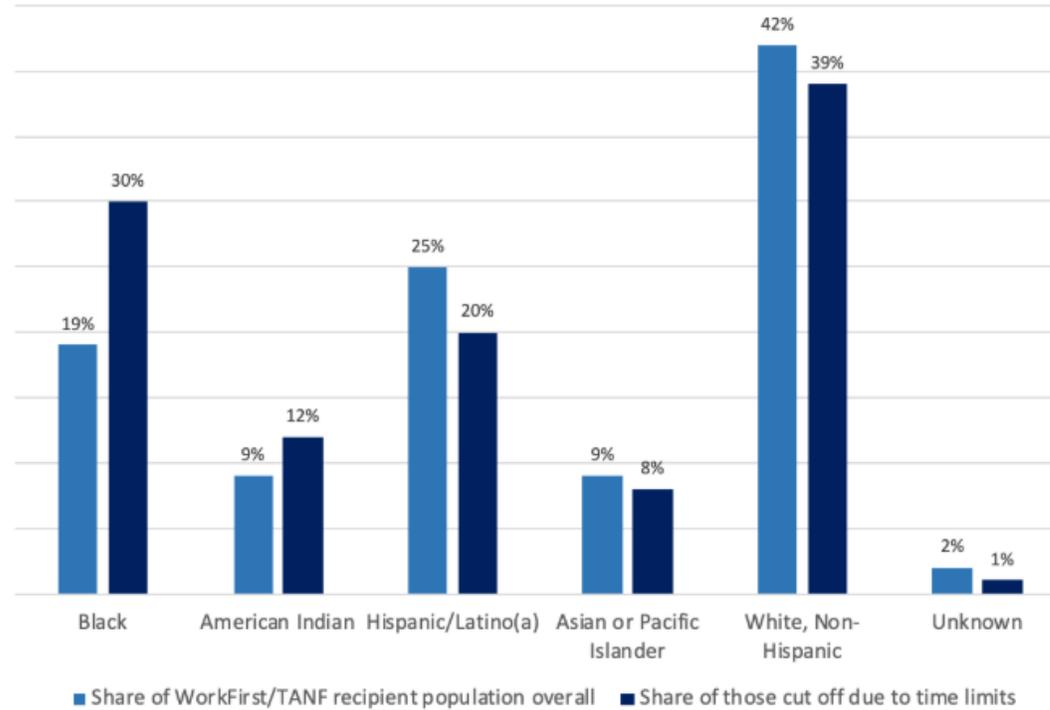
We focus on three programs in particular:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Housing & Essential Needs (HEN)
- Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD)



Providing Assistance to Families

(Strengthening Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)



Key message: Poverty Action supports continued investments to TANF and policy changes that restore policies which prioritize equity and the well-being of families and children.

- Protect current investments in the TANF program that help families meet their most basic needs
- Extend relief measures implemented during COVID, especially through the following economic downturn
- Enacting common-sense time limit extensions and easing harsh sanction policies

Providing Assistance to Adults with Disabilities

(Strengthening Housing & Essential Needs and Aged, Blind, or Disabled)

Key message: Poverty Action supports policies that prioritize the health, wellness, and stability of Washingtonians with disabilities who are living on low incomes.



- 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.

Access to Dental Care

Key message: Poverty Action supports policies that prioritize the health and wellness of Washingtonians by boosting access to affordable and comprehensive dental care.

- **Medicaid Adult Dental** - Maintain current levels of funding for the Medicaid Adult Dental program
- **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.

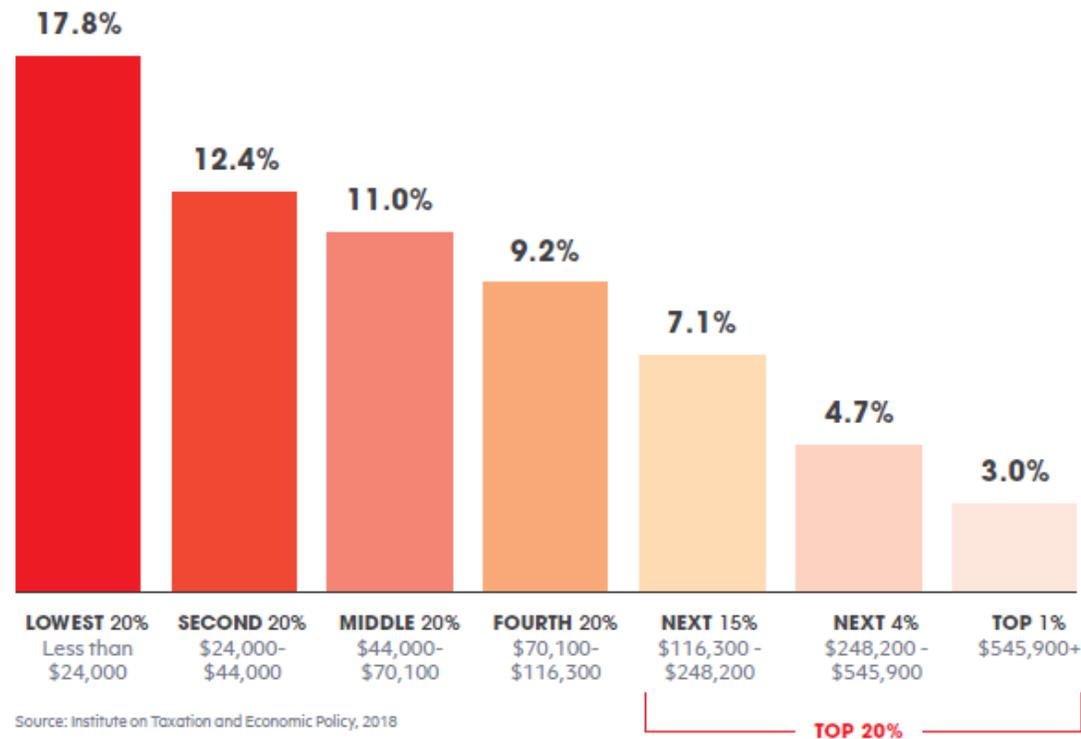


Haven't signed our petition to ensure Washingtonians have access to dental care, [click here](#)

State Tax Code

Key message: We support implement progressive revenue solutions that rebalances our state tax code.

State and Local Taxes in Washington as a Share of Family Income



- Urging Washington state lawmakers to rebalance our tax code with measures like estate taxes, capital gains taxes, and payroll taxes
- 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.
- Funding and expanding the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC), which is Washington state's version of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Strengthening Consumer Protections

Key message: As vulnerable Washington 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.

- Ending debt-based driver's license suspension.
- Pushing the Washington state legislature to reiterate and strengthen SB 6314, which prevented home foreclosures due to property tax foreclosure.
- Strengthening our laws that protect against the garnishment of bank accounts by making protections automatic, rather than through a complicated legal process.

Re-imagining **Public Safety**

Key message: Poverty Action supports 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

- 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.
- 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.

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY

Re-Imagining Our Future

Join the fight for a just recovery
and a better Washington

Poverty Action's 2021 virtual
Lobby Day

When: January 18, 9:30-5:00

Where: Join online or call in
from wherever you are

This event is free and all are welcome. Interpreter services, closed captioning, and other accommodations will be available.

Visit <https://bit.ly/lobbyday2021> for information and sign-up.

Register by January 4th to receive your advocacy toolbox in the mail



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HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED

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