



## Join us for a Community Conversation on Racial Equity and Homelessness

**December 5, 2016**

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Urban Grace Church  
902 Market Street  
Tacoma, WA 98402

### Program Speakers Include:

Emcee: Carol Mitchell, Metro Parks and TV Tacoma  
Jeff Olivet and Marc Dones, Center for Social Innovation  
Carmen White, City of Tacoma  
Jaques Colon, Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department  
Dexter Gordon, University of Puget Sound  
Spoken Word Performances by Lucas Smiraldo and Cathy Nguyen

Light refreshments and an opportunity for more dialogue and conversation following the program

**For tickets, please RSVP at: <https://SPARCTacomapiercecounty.eventbrite.com>**

The Center for Social Innovation has invited Pierce County, the City of Tacoma, and community stakeholders to participate as part of a ten-city cohort in a national research and training project to better understand the nexus between race and homelessness, and to develop tools and approaches that will result in more equitable outcomes for all people experiencing homelessness.

The project, called SPARC: Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities, combines qualitative and quantitative research, training, and community dialog to promote awareness, education, and action. Join us for an evening of learning and conversation to kick-off Tacoma/Pierce County's journey with SPARC.

Learn more at <http://center4si.com/sparc/>

Sponsored By



## ➔ Pierce County Community Development Corporation NOFA

The Notice Of Funding Availability for 2017 Affordable Housing is now posted on the Community Connections website at [www.piercecountywa.org/Solicitations](http://www.piercecountywa.org/Solicitations).

The deadline to submit applications is no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, December 2, 2016 at the Community Connections office located at 1305 Tacoma Avenue South, Suite 104, Tacoma.

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## ➔ Legislative Info from WLIHA

**Action Alert! Tell your members of Congress to pass a clean, full-year 2017 budget**  
[Take Action Now! »](#)

To solve our state’s affordable housing crisis, we need local, state, **and** federal action. We are excited about the passage of the **Seattle Housing Levy**, hopeful for the **Bring Vancouver Home** campaign, and eager to see more local communities championing initiatives to fund affordable homes next year.

**We’re also gearing up for the 2017 legislative session and we’ll need your help in the coming months to make the case for a robust investment in affordable housing and related services.**

All our good work here will either be helped or hindered by what happens in the other Washington. That’s why I hope you’ll take just a minute today to send a message to your members of Congress calling for the **2017 budget to be finalized this year**. Tell them to not kick the can down the road with another continuing resolution, and to reject harmful “poison-pill” policy riders that would derail progress toward a budget agreement.

Maintaining 2016 level funding in to next year, with a long-term continuing resolution, would cause thousands of families to lose housing, put vital investments in affordable homes at risk, and intensify the affordable housing crisis in Washington and across the country.

**TAKE ACTION  
NOW**

The federal budget runs from October 1 – September 30. On September 29, Congress passed a continuing resolution keeping the federal government operating through December 9. The continuing resolution maintains federal spending at 2016 levels. Just to maintain current program levels, **higher spending is needed**, so a long term CR at 2016 levels would result in people losing their homes. Last month, the Housing Alliance joined advocates from across the country in signing a letter urging Congress and the White House to reject any attempts to stall the process of getting to a 2017 budget agreement.

### **Middle Income Housing Tax Credit**

In September, Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon introduced legislation to create a Middle Income Housing Tax Credit. Based on the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, the legislation would provide incentive to build or preserve housing for families earning up to 100% of the area median income and would cost \$4.5 billion per year when fully in effect. The bill won’t progress this year, but may be taken up by the next Congress. The

greatest housing need in Washington, and in every state, is housing for people with the lowest incomes. We oppose this legislation and instead support a robust investment in the National Housing Trust Fund and expansion and improvements to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program.

### Other federal updates

The [Department of Justice brief](#) that argues the Fair Housing Act does not permit landlords to use overly broad generalizations that disproportionately impact protected classes of people when screening applicants' criminal records.

HUD's new [report on homelessness](#).

HUD's [Family Options Study](#) finding that compared to rapid rehousing or transitional housing, a deep, long-term housing subsidy such as a Housing Choice Voucher, was the most effective intervention for homeless families.

TPCAHC & the Housing Alliance are proud to be members of the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) If you are not a member, we hope you'll consider joining today. NLIHC has all kinds of updates on affordable housing issues that will impact our work here in Washington.

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### → Tacoma/Pierce County [Habitat for Humanity](#) is in a client recruitment push

If you work with clients or staff interested in learning more about how to make the dream of affordable homeownership a reality, check out our quick facts handout and/or contact us!

## DO I QUALIFY?

*Willingness to Partner • Need • Ability to Pay*

- ✓ Must have lived or worked in Pierce County for the last 12 consecutive months
- ✓ Ability to pay at least \$1,000/month toward escrow (mortgage, taxes, and insurance)
- ✓ Willingness to volunteer a minimum of 200 hours (sweat equity)
- ✓ Cannot have owned property in the past 3 years
- ✓ Demonstrated need: unsafe/unhealthy living environment
- ✓ At least one applicant must have legal residency status

Contact Homeowner Services at [homeowner@tpc-habitat.org](mailto:homeowner@tpc-habitat.org) or call to request an application and information  
4824 South Tacoma Way – Tacoma, WA 98409 • (253) 627-5626 • fax: 253-284-2805 • [www.tpc-habitat.org](http://www.tpc-habitat.org)

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### → Sound Transit seeks input on proposed 2017 service changes

Sound Transit is proposing a number of service improvements in 2017 to meet growing demand and deliver voter-approved projects that include adding two new Sounder commuter rail trips and improving schedule reliability on Sound Transit's busiest bus routes. [Read more »](#)

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### → *Statewide Policy Event of the Year*

The Budget Matters 2016 Policy Conference features panels on:

- What's at Stake in the 2017-2019 Budget: Funding *McCleary* and More
- Raising the Floor: Strategies to Promote High-Quality, Living-Wage Jobs
- Advancing Bold Solutions to Reduce Poverty
- The Long & Short of It: Practical Revenue Options for *McCleary* and Systemic Reform
- Being All In for Washington!
- Removing Barriers to Re-entry through Legal Financial Obligations Reform
- The Affordable Care Act: How Far We've Come, How Far We Have to Go

**And it features these keynote presentations:**

- **Dr. Manuel Pastor:** *Looking Forward: Racial Equity, Just Growth, and the American Future*
- **Anat Shenker-Osorio:** *United We Stand: New Messaging Research to Move People on Economic, Environmental, Education, and Racial Justice*

See more details about the day – including the names of our many awesome panelists – [here](#).

**Sign up by November 11!**

**Location:** Washington State Convention Center; Seattle, WA

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. (Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

**Cost:** \$115\*

**Registration deadline:** November 11

**➔ APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

The application deadline for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Demonstration Program is Nov. 30, not Nov. 20 as published.

Access the application»

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp>/<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/yhdp/>

**➔ Nonprofit Life event - Greater Tacoma Community Foundation**

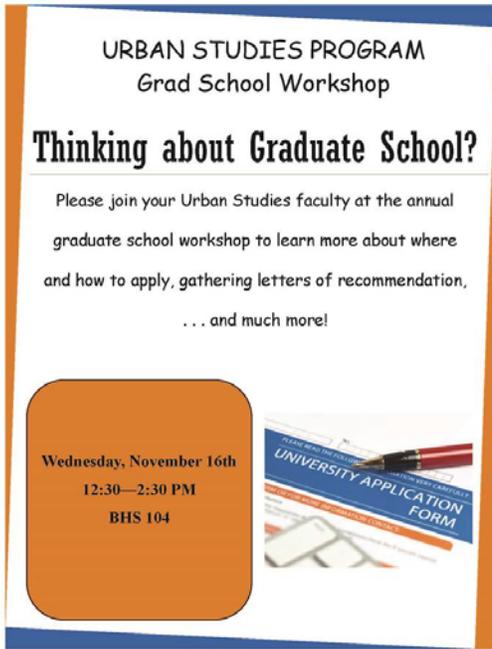
Thursday, December 1st - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

University of Puget Sound - Commencement Hall - Tahoma Room

This innovative and free event features insider tips, tricks and trade secrets from Pierce County's nonprofit community. These true tales about professional best practices will give insights into how organizations thrive in this region. This third session will focus on Motivation: Discovering Hidden Gifts. In the 1946 movie "It's a Wonderful Life," George Bailey discovered the wealth of his community was in the people. Just like this holiday classic, local nonprofits will share how financial support has thrived when a passion for community and service is shared with donors.

Former KUOW-NPR Executive Producer Megan Sukys will host this free and informative storytelling session. Complimentary wine, beer and gourmet appetizers will be served.

Learn More & RSVP. [If you have questions, please call: 253.383.5622](#)



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## ➔ NEW INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

UW Tacoma Institution-to-Institution Internship Opening

[TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY](#) Executive Director Intern

Preference to First Generation College Students

Seeking students with proficiency in Spanish, Vietnamese, Cambodian or Russian Language

**Screening of applications will begin November 14, 2016 and continue until position is filled.**

Click here to **APPLY NOW** <https://catalyst.uw.edu/collectit/dropbox/rozjohn/38570>

All internship applications should include cover letter and resume.

For more information contact Roz Johnson ([rozjohn@uw.edu](mailto:rozjohn@uw.edu)) or Julia Smith ([jbsmith@uw.edu](mailto:jbsmith@uw.edu)).

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## ➔ Position Open at Shared Housing Services

Adult Homesharing Case Manager



Job Description Adult  
Homesharing Case Ma

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## ➔ Read the New Edition of “The Bridge” Newsletter

“The Bridge” is HUD’s Office of Housing Counseling Newsletter for Housing Counselors. Read the current edition as well as our archive of past issues on [HUD's Website](#).

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## → Student Eligibility for Housing Trust Fund projects

### Eligibility of Independent Students for Assisted Housing Under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937; Additional Supplementary Guidance – From WA Housing Finance Commission

Dear contractors, partners in housing, and interested parties,

Please see below for a recent clarification of HUD's "Eligibility of Independent Students for Assisted Housing Under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937; Additional Supplementary Guidance." Commerce's position has been that we follow HUD's rule on student housing, as currently specified in the Housing Trust Fund Handbook. We have updated the reference to the clarified rule in our Handbook. More information can be found here:

- HUD's [September 21, 2016, notice](#)
- Housing Trust Fund Handbook [http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/hfu.htf\\_handbook.october.19.2016.pdf](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/hfu.htf_handbook.october.19.2016.pdf)

Please note that Commerce can only speak for the Housing Trust Fund policies. Many of our projects overlap in funding with other programs, such as the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, which may have other rules on student housing. Projects must meet all other programs' requirements, which may or may not conflict with HUD's recent rule on student housing. When rules conflict for a multi-program funded project, the expectation is that the most restrictive requirements apply.

Jason Davidson - Asset Management & Compliance Manager  
Housing Finance Unit  
Washington State Department of Commerce  
360-725-2660

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## → Revisions to proposed changes to Bond/Tax Credit Policies for 2017

**New updates and revisions** have been made to the proposed changes to the *Bond/Tax Credit Policies for 2017*- please [click here](#) to see the updated document. These will be the "FINAL" proposed changes we take before the Commissioners at the October board meeting for approval.

Please contact us at [ASKMHCF@wshfc.org](mailto:ASKMHCF@wshfc.org) with any questions or concerns!

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## → Shelterforce - October 2016

[Click here](#)

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## → News from WLIHA – 10-21-2016

**Seattle:** Last Friday there were hours of emotional testimony at city hall over the encampment proposals. If you haven't yet read anything about that hearing yet, [Seattle Times has the best wrap up](#). Turns out, the biggest hiccup in this whole thing is the council can't agree on [what would be considered a suitable offer of shelter or services](#) before an encampment is swept. There are 3 proposals up in the air - [Seattle P.I. clarifies the differences](#). There will not be any forward movement on the bill until after the budget is done, but nothing seems to quell the pervasive fear that people [have about camping in parks](#).

Another proposal the council is weighing involves capping move-in fees for renters. [There was passionate testimony on Monday](#), but the council ultimately voted to punt the bill back to committee. Washington CAN published [this op-ed](#) as an explainer and says Seattle renters cannot wait any longer.

Union Gospel Mission says [clearing the Jungle](#) “was easily the most successful homeless encampment sweep the City of Seattle has ever done”. In horrible news, [someone was shot in the new encampment](#) NEXT to the Jungle.

Remember [this Sightline article](#) about density and bulldozing affordable homes ... disingenuous and not telling the whole story? [These columnists agree](#) and say Sightline has “whitewashed” the housing crisis.

What if we built a [lid on I-5 and put affordable homes on top of it?](#)

#### **Renton:**

We’ve been helping the Tenants Union and NW Justice Project organize tenants and put pressure on the new landlords of Renton Woods about their eviction of tenants who use Section 8 vouchers. [King 5 attended the Wednesday meeting and did an awesome story](#). Please share this story on your social media if you can. It’s getting a lot of traction and we want to keep the pressure up!

#### **Tacoma:**

A recent court filing indicates that the [Washington State Attorney General’s Office believes that denying a prospective tenant with a felony conviction is racially discriminatory](#). And boy does this reporter, news outlet, and opposition source really hate being called racist. #whitesensitivity

#### **Olympia:**

The [“Just Housing” movement in Olympia is organizing](#) to bring attention to the shrinking stock of affordable homes in Thurston County, and the criminalization of homelessness.

#### **Bellingham:**

A Bellingham Police officer [posted a video to the site NextDoor](#), which features him walking through an encampment, describing every item as stolen, and pointing out the damage the camper has caused, and the challenges of investigating this kind of illegal activity. The Herald got permission to publish the video - watch as this officer films a person’s belongings...

The Lighthouse Mission shelter which announced last week that it will provide 80 new shelter beds [is now open, despite a \\$200,000 budget deficit](#).

#### **Yakima:**

City Council voted to close the homeless camp that has been set up in a parking lot downtown since late Spring, and [eviction notices have been posted](#). Problem is, there are only [45 beds at the cold-weather shelter set to open in November, but more than 100 people at the camp](#) need a place to go. Yakima’s Mayor is [very frustrated by the situation](#) and is appealing to county government for financial help.

#### **Nation:**

*In NYC, low-income tenants facing eviction could have new rights to a lawyer.*

In San Francisco, “Miracle Messages” is [harnessing the power of social media](#) to reconnect people who are homeless with their families.

L.A. [could potentially pass a \\$1.2 billion measure to fight homelessness](#). Even traditionally anti-tax leaders are in support.

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## **➔ Step By Step in Puyallup**

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/community/puyallup-herald/ph-news/article106146617.html>