

→ Legislative Action Alert



Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home. But in our state, too many families and individuals have to choose between a home and other basic necessities like groceries and childcare. The Washington State Housing Trust Fund is our best tool for helping low-income households afford a home.

On Monday 01-21, the House Capital Budget committee heard testimony on the Housing Trust Fund. Specifically, they heard that it improves children's educational achievements; helps seniors living on fixed incomes; provides stable, supportive homes for individuals with disabilities; and is a key component in our effort to end homelessness. They also heard that it creates jobs and stimulates local economies.

By taking action today, you can reinforce those messages. It's still early in the legislative session. Many lawmakers are still sorting out what will be their top priorities and want to know what their constituents value most. Please take two minutes today to ask your lawmakers to support a \$175 million investment in the Housing Trust Fund.

[Make a difference with one call right now. Visit this page for a sample message and the toll-free phone number.](#)

→ Register now for Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day

Monday, February 11, 2013 "Hear the Call for Housing and an End to Homelessness"

8am – 3pm United Churches, 110 Eleventh Ave SE, Olympia, WA

Information:

https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2685/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=76591

[Register now](#)

→ Project Homeless Connect

Free community event from 9 am - 3 pm Saturday January 26
new Spanaway Elementary School, 412 165th St. S.

It will feature information and a multitude of services including child support, voter registration, tobacco cessation, WIC, community voice mail, replacement driver's license vouchers, pet spay and neuter, adult dental replacement, ID card vouchers, expunging services, disability resources, veterans services, chemical dependency, DSHS benefits, employment resources and more. For additional information, visit pcomelessconnect.com, call 253-593-2111, or email info@pcomelessconnect.com.

Read more here: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2013/01/21/2443182/homeless-program-holds-free-community.html#emlInl=Local_News#storylink=cpy

→ AHC EVENT:

AHC Member Meeting 1st Quarter Member Meeting: Program, Networking, Light Lunch
Wednesday, February 13 noon – 1:30
1323 South Yakima Av, Tacoma
RSVP: connie@tpcahc.org

→ AHC MEMBER EVENTS:

Shared Housing Services *Spring for Housing Dinner & Auction*
Saturday, March 2 6 pm
Tacoma Country & Golf Club, Lakewood
Registration card: <http://sharedhousingservices.org/news.html>

Habitat for Humanity *Changing Lives Luncheon*
Tuesday, March 5 check-in: 11:30 program: noon-1pm
Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center – 1500 Broadway, Tacoma
Register: http://www.tpc-habitat.org/special_events/2013_changing_lives_luncheon.html

→ Affordable Housing Finance – 01-23-2013 issue

<http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/frame.php?i=141754&p=&pn=&ver=swf>

Q&A: Shaun Donovan, Housing's Hardest Act to Follow



→ Audio Conference - Thursday, January 31st @ 2:00pm ET



→ Strong Public Policies are Essential in a Weak Economy

In an economy that is not working, children and families in Washington state need strong

social and economic policies more than ever.

Strong public programs are a cornerstone of a strong economy, and are a major reason why the recent downturn did not become another Great Depression. In 2011 alone, policies like the State Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Unemployment Insurance (UI) kept 40 million people in the U.S. out of poverty.

Washington state's most [recent employment report](#) shows that there still aren't enough jobs being created, and that the slight drop in the most recent unemployment rate is largely due to people who have given up looking for work. The jobs data look grim – 18 of the top 20 occupations with the most vacancies in Washington state do not pay enough for a family of three to even meet basic needs (see graph below).

Available Jobs Pay Too Little for Families to Meet Basic Needs

Top 20 job openings by average pay, Washington 2012



The lack of jobs – especially those that pay enough to get by – is one of the main reasons for Washington state's declining middle class and increase in poverty. One in three kids in our state lives in a low income family, which does not bode well for their future or our collective well-being as a state.

As the Legislature debates a new budget this session, policymakers should keep in mind that investments in programs that help families find or keep a job and keep children out of poverty are essential to improving the overall economy.

Stay tuned to [schmudget](#) this week for a series on investments that will rebuild the middle class and put Washington state on a stronger path to prosperity.

Washington State Budget & Policy: Read the [full post here](#).