



NEWS UPDATE 02-23-2015

No Time to let up on Affordable Housing advocacy at the State Legislature

Many bills & budget items to support

→ WA State Legislative Session UPDATE

News & legislative agenda from Washington Low Income Housing Alliance:

Go to: WLIHA Bill Tracker for info on Lead & Support items Click → <http://wliha.org/2015-bill-budget-tracker>

Fair Tenant Screening Act

This bill would create a comprehensive screening report allowing a prospective tenant to pay one fee and use that report to apply for multiple rentals for up to 30 days. If a landlord wanted a special screening report different from this model report, they could acquire that. But the landlord would pay that cost.

[SB 5123](#) (Frockt) Status: **DEAD - was not passed by Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee.**

[HB 1257](#) (Walkinshaw) Status: **ALIVE - amended and passed out of Judiciary Committee on Thursday, February 12 and referred to Rules Committee.**

Source of Income Discrimination Protections

This legislation would prohibit discrimination in housing based on participation in government assistance programs. Many rental ads now list “not accepting Section 8,” referring to those receiving assistance with their rent. These tenants should be subject to screening checks just like any other tenant, but Section 8 status alone is no reason to prevent a prospective tenant from even applying.

[SB 5378](#) (Kohl-Welles) Status: **DEAD - was never heard by Human Services, Mental Health & Housing Committee.**

[HB 1565](#) (Ormsby) Status: **DEAD - was not passed by Judiciary Committee.**

Truth in Evictions Reporting Act

Currently, a tenant can be caught in a landlord’s foreclosure, win an appeal, be wrongfully named, settle to the landlord’s satisfaction, or not be evicted. Despite all this, their name can still show up with an eviction on their screening report, which usually results in landlords being reluctant to take them as tenants. Tenant screening reports should only name evictions when the tenant has actually been found guilty.

[SB 5376](#) (Habib) Status: **ALIVE - amended and passed out of Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee on Thursday, February 19 and referred to Rules Committee.**

[HB 1460](#) (Robinson) Status: **DEAD - was not passed by the Judiciary Committee.**

LEAD BUDGET PRIORITIES

Capital Budget - Investments in Affordable Housing (HTF)

The legislature should invest at least \$100 million to build and preserve safe, healthy, affordable housing.

Governor's Budget: \$100 million for affordable housing.

Senate Budget: TBD

House Budget: TBD Operating Budget - HEN/ABD/SSI Facilitation Services

These services provide a lifeline of support for very low-income single adults with disabilities so they can keep their home and thrive.

Governor's Budget: HEN and ABD funding not cut, nor increased.

Senate Budget: TBD

House Budget: TBD

Operating Budget - Medicaid Permanent Supportive Housing Services

With a Medicaid Supportive Housing Services Benefit, supportive housing providers could bill Medicaid for supportive services provided to eligible residents. This would allow more chronically homeless people to access services, improve the integration of behavioral and health care, and would help individuals with severe and chronic health issues stay off the street and live in a healthy home.

Governor's Budget: Not funded.

Senate Budget: TBD

House Budget: TBD

Raising Revenue for Washington State

Washington residents value caring for our most vulnerable, and our budget priorities should reflect that. Washington should enact a variety of revenue generating policies that fund safety net programs and advance equity in our state.

Governor's Budget: Raises about \$1.4 billion in new revenues. His cap and trade plan allocates money to the Housing Trust Fund.

Senate Budget: TBD

Homeless Student Stability Act

This act will provide schools with much-needed support to identify and serve homeless students. It will encourage schools and housing providers to establish partnerships to increase access to stable housing for homeless students and their families.

SB 5065 (Frockt) Status: ALIVE - amended and passed out of Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee on Tuesday, January 20 and referred to Ways & Means Committee.

HB 1682 (Fey) Status: ALIVE - amended and passed out of Education Committee on Tuesday, February 17 and referred to Appropriations Committee.

Homeless Youth Act

The act will also establish the Office of Homeless Youth Programs to coordinate funding, policy, and practice efforts related to homeless youth and young adults and to make recommendations to the Governor. In addition, the act will create a Homeless Youth Advisory Council to serve as a liaison between service providers and state government.

SB 5404 Status: ALIVE - last heard in Human Services and Mental Health & Housing Committee on Thursday, January 29.

HB 1436 Status: ALIVE - to be heard in Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday, February 24 at 1:30pm.

Foreclosure Fairness Act

The state legislature passed the Foreclosure Fairness Act in 2011 to provide homeowner foreclosure assistance. This legislation seeks to improve this program that offers free housing counseling, civil legal aid, education and outreach, and the opportunity for mediation.

SB ##### Status TBD

HB ##### Status TBD

SUPPORT BUDGET PRIORITIES

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a critical lifeline for vulnerable families across Washington. We support our partners' goals of restoring the 15% cut to the TANF cash grant and implementing other improvements to make TANF work better for Washington's families.

Governor's Budget: The Governor's budget did not restore the grant. However, significantly it didn't cut it either.

Senate Budget: TBD

House Budget: TBD

Washington Youth and Families Fund

The legislature should invest \$6 million for the Washington Youth and Families Fund, which provides stable, long-term funding for both on- and off-site supportive services linked to affordable housing for young people and families.

Governor's Budget: \$3 million for WYFF.

Senate Budget: TBD

House Budget: TBD

Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Households

The legislature should invest \$20 million in weatherization improvements of low-income owner-occupied homes.

Governor's Budget: \$15 million for low-income weatherization.

Senate Budget: TBD

House Budget: TBD

→ Washington Housing Trust Fund

A 2015 capital investment will fund rental homes that will remain affordable for at least 40 years and will help low-income households become first-time homeowners. The vast majority of state investments in affordable homes assist people who are extremely low-income and are otherwise unable to afford a home. We are asking for \$100M dedicated to this important source of revenue for affordable housing. **See [Pierce County projects on Stage 1 applications List \[several important projects that have cleared the Stage 1 hurdle but will need funding in the Housing Trust Fund to go forward\]](#) Page 5.**

→ Overriding Issues in Washington State

From the Washington State Budget & Policy Center: reforming our failing tax system, addressing income inequality and working toward a better future, see following PowerPoints available on our [website](#):

- *Revenue Reforms We Need to Build a Better Future for All Washingtonians*
- *Minimum Wage Updates 2014*
- *Advancing Racial Equity, Addressing Income Inequality & Climate Change in California*
- *Two Generations, One Future: Reigniting a Movement to End Poverty*

→ Do you live in 25th Legislative District? Mark your calendar

Senator Bruce Dammeier and Representative Hans Zeiger to host telephone town hall March 18

Residents of the 25th Legislative District are invited to participate in Sen. Bruce Dammeier's & Rep. Hans Zeiger's telephone town hall meeting on Tuesday, March 18. The event begins at 6:30 pm & will last an hour. Constituents can join the community conversation by calling toll-free 1-800-761-6280. They can listen in, ask questions and take part in instant polls.

Any questions or comments before the event can be directed to Dammeier at (360) 786-7648 or bruce.dammeier@leg.wa.gov, and Zeiger at (360) 786-7968 or hans.zeiger@leg.wa.gov.

The 25th District includes the communities of **Puyallup, South Hill, Summit-Waller, Midland and Fife.**

→ 2015 Washington State Housing Needs Assessment *A comprehensive review and forecast of affordable housing in our state.*

In 2014, the Affordable Housing Advisory Board and other partners launched the 2015 Housing Needs Assessment, the first effort in over 10 years to collect and analyze federal, state and housing authority data on affordable housing in our state.

Note: Pierce County has largest gap between Rent-burdened Households & Affordable Housing Available

→ Report documents:

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov/commissions/AffordableHousingAdvisoryBoard/Affordable-Housing-Needs-Study/Pages/default.aspx>

→ CITY OF TACOMA - NOTICE OF CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY

The City of Tacoma informs you that a new contracting opportunity has been issued for the following solicitation:
Request for Proposals

Surplus Real Property - 35th and Pacific

Specification No. PW15-0013F

Submittal Deadline: 03/10/15 11:00 AM, Pacific Time

To view and download an electronic copy of the Specification, visit the City of Tacoma Purchasing website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org and click on “Contracting Opportunities” and then “Supplies Solicitations” and navigate to referenced specification.

The Questions and Answers are being distributed via the website only. If you received this notification in error or a different e-mail address should be used for your company, please contact the City of Tacoma Purchasing Division at email bids@cityoftacoma.org to update your company information. Include the Specification No. in your correspondence.

→EVENTS

Mercy Housing NW: New Tacoma II Groundbreaking Celebration

Wednesday, February 25: 4 – 5:30 pm

South G Street between 17th and 18th

PCAF Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening

Wednesday March 18: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

3009 South 40th Street, Tacoma 98409

25th Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness

May 13 and 14, 2015

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center

The 2015 conference will bring over 600 homelessness providers and advocates from across the state to exchange innovative ideas, best practices, and grow the movement to end homelessness in Washington. Program and registration information will be available beginning in February 2015.

**Pierce County Stage 1
Housing Trust Fund
Projects**

Organization	Project	City	County	Leg District	# Units	\$ Amount requested
Housing Authority Tacoma	Bay Terrace Phase II	Tacoma	Pierce	27	80	3,000,000
Housing Authority Tacoma	Hilltop Lofts	Tacoma	Pierce	27	50	3,000,000
Many Lights Foundation	Hope Lights Community	Tacoma	Pierce	27	52	3,000,000
YWCA Pierce County	406 Broadway	Tacoma	Pierce	27	70	3,000,000
Habitat for Humanity of Tacoma/Pierce County	Swan Creek Lane	Tacoma	Pierce	27	5	250,000
Habitat for Humanity of Tacoma/Pierce County	Trafton Street	Tacoma	Pierce	27	4	200,000
Pierce County Affordable Housing Association	Sumner Senior Housing	Sumner	Pierce	31	40	3,000,000
Multi-Service Center	MSC Pierce County Portfolio	Buckley, Gig Harbor	Pierce	26,31	46	550,000