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→ **Washington 2012 Legislative Session: Whew!**

Thanks to a lot of good work by legislators, stakeholders, & advocates, outcomes for low-income people are much better than they might have been. Here are highlights, thanks to Seth Dawson:

**Operating Budget:**

- No cut to Community Services Block Grant
- No cut to Street Youth Funding
- No cut to Child Advocacy Centers or other crime victim services
- No cut to Behavioral Rehabilitative Services
- \$1.6m is allocated for Performance Based Contracting of Child Welfare Services
- \$224k provided for the Evidence Based Practices bill re: children's mental health services
- Mental Health is cut very little! No RSN cuts. The B-3 Waiver is eliminated, with no special language for clubhouses – we will need to seek replacement funding from each relevant RSN.
- Disability Lifeline – both medical and housing – fully preserved, except for an okay one-time cut of \$5m due to first year HEN under-expenditure
- Community Mobilization cut \$196k
- Asset Building cut \$52k
- ADATSA (page 138) cut relatively little -- \$2.1m for residential and sheltered services
- \$567k General Fund for homelessness assistance in Commerce is supplanted by the new recording fee (which is expected to raise \$4.4m)
- No more cuts to TANF, I'm told
- Supported Employment for People with developmental disabilities:  
There have been no cuts to employment.  
State Only Funds have been fully maintained. No cuts.  
High School Transition students on a waiver have been fully funded. No cuts.

**Capital Budget, Jobs Package:**

SB 6074 – Housing for

People with developmental disabilities: \$2.9 million

People with Chronic Mental Illness: \$1.125 million

Homeless: \$28.944 million

Farmworkers: \$6.215 million

Low-income households: \$2.982 million

Competitive Pool (of which \$1.5 M must be used for a demonstration project that houses the homeless with low cost living quarters.) \$4.530 M

SB 5127 – Housing for

Families with Children: \$8.250 million

Seniors, People with Physical Disabilities: \$9.666 million

People at Risk of Homelessness: \$2.5 million

SB 6074 - Set-asides for

LIHI: \$1.8 million

Weatherization in SB 6074 -

Energy Matchmakers: \$10 million

WSU Community Energy Efficiency Program: \$15 million

**Total for HTF = \$67,112,000**

**Total for Affordable Housing (with LIHI set-aside) = \$68,912,000**

**Total if weatherization is included (as the Senate will frame) = \$93,912,000**

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## → City of Tacoma Mental Health Tax

The City Council unanimously passed a 1/10 of 1% sales tax increase for mental health and chemical dependency treatment. TNT story: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/03/20/v-lite/2075713/tacoma-council-oks-sales-tax-increase.html>

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## → Draft Action Plan for Washington State's 2012 formula funds from HUD

is available for public comment on the Department of Commerce's website ([www.commerce.wa.gov/cdbg](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/cdbg)) from April 5 to May 5, 2012.

The Action Plan is the annual amendment to the state's 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan that determines priorities, establishes strategic goals, and allocates resources for the state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs.

For additional information on these Commerce programs, contact:

CDBG -Kaaren Roe, (360) 725-3018, [kaaren.roe@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:kaaren.roe@commerce.wa.gov)

ESG -Kathy Kinard, (360) 725-2939, [kathy.kinard@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:kathy.kinard@commerce.wa.gov)

HOME -Michelle Campbell, (360) 725-3039, [michelle.campbell@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:michelle.campbell@commerce.wa.gov)

HOPWA -Mollie Gaspar, (360) 725-2943, [mollie.gaspar@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:mollie.gaspar@commerce.wa.gov)

The draft 2012 Action Plan is also available in hard copy or in alternative format upon request. To submit comments or to request the document in hard copy or alternative format, contact Lois Shye at (360) 725-3150, [lois.shye@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:lois.shye@commerce.wa.gov), or mail to Commerce, Attn: Lois Shye, PO Box 42525, Olympia WA 98504-2525 by 5pm, May 5, 2012.

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## → 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Conference

April 19 Tacoma

Agenda, information, registration:

<http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/hrhs/FHCMaterials/2012OnlineFHCRegistrationPage.pdf>

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## → AHC Training: *The Green Renovation*

May 22 [8-4] & May 23 [8-12:30]

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

<http://www.affordablehousingconsortium.org/client/assets/files/MAY-2012%20GREEN%20RENOVATION.doc>

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## → 22nd Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness

May16-18 Yakima Convention Center

Now [online](#)! The theme of this year's conference is The Changing Face of Homelessness. There will be workshops on a variety of topics, including policy and advocacy presentations that will offer tools to build the movement to end homelessness. Back by popular demand, the conference will include the SOAR academy which helps service providers better assist people who are homeless to access disability income benefits. Space for the SOAR academy is limited, so register today! The last day to register for the conference at the early rate and to get the best price for your hotel is April 20. [Register here](#).

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## ➔ NeighborWorks Center for Homeownership Education & Counseling

Foreclosure Counseling Training

May 21-25, 2012

Seattle, WA

Build your foreclosure counseling skills with up to a full week of top-quality NCHCEC training

[Apply today for a scholarship](#) for free tuition and lodging for qualified counselors

More information:

<http://www.affordablehousingconsortium.org/client/assets/files/Complimentary%20Foreclosure%20Counseling%20Training%20-%20Seattle.htm>

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## ➔ Foreclosure Prevention Workshops

South Sound Outreach Services

Information: [http://affordablehousingconsortium.org/client/assets/files/03-](http://affordablehousingconsortium.org/client/assets/files/03-2012%20SouthSoundOutreach-Foreclosure%20Prevention%20Class%20General%20.pdf)

[2012%20SouthSoundOutreach-Foreclosure%20Prevention%20Class%20General%20.pdf](http://affordablehousingconsortium.org/client/assets/files/03-2012%20SouthSoundOutreach-Foreclosure%20Prevention%20Class%20General%20.pdf)

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## ➔ Pierce County Center for Dispute Resolution

2012 Basic Mediation Training

July 16-20    October 12-14/26-27

Downtown Tacoma, WA 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

More Information & Registration: [http://www.pccdr.org/storage/forms/BMT\\_Flyer\\_Regist\\_2012.pdf.pdf](http://www.pccdr.org/storage/forms/BMT_Flyer_Regist_2012.pdf.pdf)

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## ➔ Graphs & Laughs

Despite what you think, monetary policy has not been expansionary, and that's the problem. While the Fed's assets grew from \$0.8 trillion to \$2.8 trillion between 10/08 and 7/11, it was matched, almost dollar for dollar, by a \$1.6 trillion increase in commercial bank deposits at the Fed. The money supply cannot expand when banks keep their excess reserves at the Fed. It only grows when banks lend those monies to businesses and households.

- Elliot F. Eisenberg, Ph.D.    GraphsandLaughs, LLC

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➔ **Bank of America recently announced a pilot program** that could help folks facing foreclosure shift from ownership (and under water debt) to rental. This is excellent news and, hopefully, will become wider spread.

As you'll see in the following blog post, Yves Smith of nakedcapitalism applauds B of A for doing this -- while also raising a number of serious issues/constraints that could impede further expansion of this approach:

<http://www.nakedcapitalism.com/2012/03/bank-of-america-launches-test-mortgage-to-lease-program-%E2%80%93-should-we-be-impressed.html>

I encourage you to read the post -- and my prime reason for this lies in encouraging you to think about how your organizations, cdfs and others might strategically respond to this situation ... how might you approach B of A -- or other players (the big banks, hedge funds, gov't, others?) with sound and strategically attractive proposals for anything from purchasing distressed properties in this manner all the way to joint venturing with capital providers who wish to do so.... in particular, what core competencies at property and asset management, underwriting/qualifying, etc might you offer?

My gut says that, even within the constraints of 'second mortgages' that Yves describes, there are lots of opportunities to help distressed homeowners ... even if only for those bank held REO without seconds .... or even within limits of securitized assets .... and, it appears, a key element

to sustainable success lies in property/asset management ..... many of your organizations are very good at this ... so it'd be great to see nonprofits become part of the solution and do so on terms that provide significant cash and capital to your organizations.

- Douglas K Smith, Architect of [\*NeighborWorks Achieving Excellence In Community Development\*](#), Harvard Kennedy School of Government

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### ➔ High Cost of Low Rent

excerpt from article in the Stranger: ...The proposal, issued by the city's Department of Planning and Development (DPD), would require all Seattle landlords to register their rental properties over a period of three years (while "self-certifying" that their properties meet safety and health standards). It would also mandate inspections of properties with multiple reported violations in three years and eventually conduct random inspections by private companies.

For violators, the penalties would remain similar to what we have today: fines, city-enforced closures for deficient properties, and \$3,321 in relocation assistance paid by the landlord to all tenants forced to move. However, the new inspection process could discourage landlords from violating at all, says DPD code compliance director Karen White.

Entire article: <http://www.thestranger.com/seattle/Content?oid=13259403&mode=print>

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