



→ Affordable Housing Consortium supports Pierce Transit Proposition 1

The Board of Directors of the Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium endorses Proposition 1, the 2012 ballot measure to increase sales tax by 0.3% to support Pierce Transit operations.

The Consortium's mission – to advocate for expanded opportunities to finance, produce, and manage housing for low-income people by advising on public policy and building strategic alliances on matters important to affordable housing – aligns well with the provision of bus service in Pierce County. The cost of housing and transportation combined has become a critical factor in the ability of low-income citizens to live in stable, affordable homes and travel to work, school, and personal destinations.

Noting that 56% of all Pierce Transit riders come from households with annual incomes below \$20,000 and 70% of all Pierce Transit riders come from households with annual incomes below \$40,000, the Consortium member organizations clearly recognize that our clients are Pierce Transit's clients. They deserve our support in affordable, reliable transportation as well as safe, healthy, affordable housing.

→ Number of Washington Students Who Are Homeless up 50%

An analysis of homeless student data collected by Washington state school districts shows the problem continuing to grow statewide.

The advocacy group Columbia Legal Services looked at data reported by local school districts to state education officials over five school years, ending with 2010-11.

The state's large urban counties – Pierce, King, Snohomish, Spokane and Clark – accounted for more than half of the more than 26,000 homeless Washington students counted during the 2010-11 school year. But almost one-third of the state's homeless students lived in rural areas, according to the report from Columbia.

Tacoma counted 1,273 homeless students. Only the Seattle School District had more, with 1,324 homeless students.

Read more here: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/08/04/2241731/number-of-students-who-are-homeless.html>