

## Eastside Human Services Forum: 2018 Federal Legislative Agenda



*The Eastside Human Services Forum strongly urges Congress to preserve the appropriation of dollars towards human service programs. EHSF advocates for solutions that strengthen and grow the system of diverse and integrated services required for our communities to thrive*

Together, the following items ensure East King County residents reach their full potential: **Basic Needs, Making Homelessness Rare, Brief and One-Time, Programs for Older Adults and People with Disabilities, and Early Learning and Youth Programs.** These issues were selected with a lens on equity and diversity, with each being important to build up a healthy, thriving community.

### FEDERAL AGENDA

#### PRESERVE AND INCREASE ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS AND HEALTH SERVICES

Including:

- Support healthcare that is affordable and accessible for all. Oppose changes to the 2017 **Medicare** and **Medicaid** programs that would result in cuts to benefits, increased costs for beneficiaries or reduced coverage. Expand the current benefits to **include dental, vision and hearing**;
- Support the **DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors)**;
- Expand **Earned Income Tax Credit**. Expand and make refundable the **Child Tax Credit Reimbursement**. Oppose requirements for a social security number for minor children;
- Continue direct funding to local governments through the **Community Development Block Grant** program;

#### ENACT LEGISLATION AND PROVIDE FUNDING TO MAKE HOMELESSNESS RARE, BRIEF AND ONE-TIME

Including:

- Support the **Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (S.548)** ensuring protections remain in place for low-income tax credits;
- Reauthorize the **Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (H.R. 1779/S.262)**.

#### ENACT LEGISLATION AND PROVIDE FUNDING TO SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Including:

- Support critical services which promote the health and independence of older adults, such as services funded through the **Older Americans Act** and the **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)**;
- Eliminate the **income cap** on Social Security to secure the long-term solvency of the system;
- Support **S. 568 and H.R. 1421** which amend the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of **outpatient services** in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital stay requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare;

#### STRENGTHEN FUNDING OF EARLY LEARNING AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Including:

- Renew **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** and **Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)**;
- Support an increase in the number of children served in early learning programs such as **ECEAP** and **Head Start**.