

Eastside Human Services Forum: 2019 Federal Legislative Agenda



The Eastside Human Services Forum strongly urges Congress to preserve and invest in human service programs while determining the appropriations which align with the Budget Control Act. 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

SUPPORT ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS AND HEALTH SERVICES

Including:

- Support healthcare that is affordable and accessible for all. Oppose changes to **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 eligibility for the **Earned Income Tax Credit**. Oppose requirements for a social security number for minor children;

MAKE HOMELESSNESS RARE, BRIEF AND ONE-TIME

Including:

- Support the **Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act** ensuring protections remain in place for low-income tax credits;
- Reauthorize the **Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act**;
- Preserve and increase resources for federal **affordable housing programs**;
- Protect and expand the **National Housing Trust Fund**;

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 **Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act** 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 EARLY LEARNING AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Including:

- Support an increase in the number of children served in early learning programs such as **ECEAP** and **Head Start**;
- Support the **Child Care for Working Families Act**.