

## Eastside Human Services Forum: 2020 State Legislative Agenda



*The Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) advocates for solutions that strengthen and grow the system of diverse and integrated services required for our communities to thrive.*

The categories below ensure East King County residents reach their full potential and issues were selected with a focus on equity and diversity, with each being important to build up a healthy, thriving community.

### **Cross Cutting Priorities:**

- Increase **funding levels** for human services
- Build agency capacity by **increasing reimbursement rates** through Medicaid, Social Security Act 4E and 4B, and Working Connections Child Care
- Provide **support for the work force** including living wages and programs such as affordable housing and child care
- Increase **coordination and funding for transportation** to ensure equitable access.

### **Support Access to Basic Needs and Health Services:**

- Expand access to **flexible, accessible prevention and treatment** for opioid and other substance use disorders including services delivered on school campuses
- Create **community-based capacity** to treat mental illness and drug dependency
- Enact a **Working Families Tax Rebate**.

### **Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and One-Time by Making Housing More Accessible:**

- Increase funding for **Housing Essential Needs** program and increase the value for housing vouchers for SSDI recipients in King County
- Continue to invest in the **Housing Trust Fund** and allow local communities to retain a portion of the state's sales tax to invest directly into affordable home construction
- Continue **eviction reform** and require just cause to terminate tenancy.

### **Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities:**

- Support legislation that will make **medications more affordable** and help **employees save for retirement**
- Continue support for **Long-Term Care needs** and increase funding where needed, such as nursing homes and in-home case management services.

### **Strengthen Early Learning and Youth Services:**

- Make **child care and early learning accessible** to all
- Improve **educational re-engagement programs** and the GRADS program
- Provide **wrap-around supports** for college students
- Support the **Child Support Pass Through**.

*The Eastside Human Services Forum fosters strong public and private partnerships for a stable network of health and human services for the benefit of all East King County residents. For more information about EHSF's mission and efforts, please visit [www.eastsideforum.org](http://www.eastsideforum.org).*