






Eastside Human Services Forum
Legislative Update 3/17/20

















The 2020 session ended on March 12th. Given the cascading impacts of the coronavirus and a bipartisan focus on homelessness and affordable housing, it was a historic session in many respects.

We started with 22 priority bills or pairs of bills and 9 passed! There were also several bright spots in the final operating and capital budgets.







Status		Bill #	Key Components
SUPPORT ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS AND HEALTH SERVICES			
	<p>Support and expand access to flexible, accessible prevention and treatment for opioid and other substance use disorders including services delivered on school campuses</p> <p><i>Eastside Sponsors: Kuderer</i></p>	<p>SSB 6086</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves access to medications such as buprenorphine by allowing remote dispensing sites for pharmacies Administer, dispense, or deliver up to 2-week supply of medications to patients who receive evidence-based opioid use disorder treatment at the health care entity
	<p>Create community-based capacity to treat mental illness and drug dependency</p> <p><i>Eastside Sponsors: Goodman, Thai, Callan, Senn, Walen</i></p>	<p>ESHB 2642</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves access to substance abuse disorder treatment by removing prior authorization requirements Provides a more uniform timeline for providers to support faster access to care
	<p>Create community-based capacity to treat mental illness and drug dependency</p> <p><i>No Eastside Sponsors</i></p>	<p>HB 2863</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expands therapeutic alternatives and interventions through courts of limited jurisdiction to provide treatment, long-term recovery, and reduced recidivism for people in the criminal justice system with mental health and/or substance use conditions
	<p>Enact a Working Families Tax Rebate The Working Families Tax Credit is our state's version of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit</p> <p><i>Eastside Sponsors: HB 1527: Senn, Stanford, Walen, Ramos SB 5810: Kuderer</i></p>	<p>HB 1527 SB 5810</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refunds a portion of the state sales tax (aver. \$400) to eligible households Includes a more progressive definition of work to include low-income college students, people who care for family members Recognizes immigrant workers who are not eligible for the federal EITC to be eligible
	<p>Enact a Working Families Tax Rebate <i>Eastside Sponsors: HB 2521: Thai (prime), Senn, Walen, Slatter, Kloba SB 6557: Kuderer</i></p>	<p>HB 2521 SB 6557</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves WFTC to filers with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN filers) Many impacted are immigrants, legally working and paying taxes on all the income

MAKE HOMELESSNESS RARE, BRIEF AND ONE-TIME BY MAKING HOUSING MORE ACCESSIBLE

	<p>Increase funding for Housing and Essential Needs program and increase the value for housing vouchers for SSDI recipients in King County</p>	<p>Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15M increase for HEN • \$5M for Housing Needs Pilot Program
	<p>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</p>	<p>Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40M increase for HTF in operating budget • \$10M increase for HTF in capital budget
	<p>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</p> <p><i>No Eastside Sponsors</i></p>	<p>HB 1581</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives cities the ability to create a local housing trust fund for affordable housing • Allows certain cities to impose a local sales tax, credited against the state sales tax, on construction activities • Requires the additional tax to be deposited in a local housing trust fund
	<p>Continue eviction reform and require just cause to terminate tenancy</p> <p><i>Eastside sponsors: Kuderer (prime)</i></p>	<p>ESSB 6378</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes improvements to eviction notices and the court eviction process • Removes the prohibition on eligibility for judicial discretion if tenant is issued 3 or more 14-day pay or vacate notices within the previous 12-month period
	<p>Continue eviction reform and require just cause to terminate tenancy</p> <p><i>Eastside Sponsors: HB 1656: Goodman, Slatter, Thai SB 5733: 0</i></p>	<p>HB 1656 SB 5733</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends the landlord-tenant act including what constitutes cause for eviction • Establishes a work group • Extends the notice for terminating month-to-month tenancies from 20 to 50 days • Establishes 120-day notice requirement before terminating tenancy if the landlord plans to demolish, rehabilitate, or substantially change the premises
	<p>Continue eviction reform and require just cause to terminate tenancy</p> <p><i>Eastside Sponsors: HB 2453: Thai, Kloba SB 6379: Kuderer (prime)</i></p>	<p>HB 2453 SB 6379</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a landlord to have a legitimate business reason to make someone move • Requires more than 20 days’ notice • Protection for all renters, month-to-month and those with a lease

SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES			
	<p>Support legislation that will make medications more affordable <i>Eastside Sponsors: Thai, Senn, Goodman, Kloba</i></p>	E2SHB 2662	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the Total Cost of Insulin Work Group Caps the total out-of-pocket cost for a 30-day supply at \$100 for two years
	<p>Support legislation that will make medications more affordable <i>Eastside Sponsors: Kuderer, Stanford</i></p>	E2SSB 6087	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses high cost of insulin by imposing cost-sharing requirements for coverage of insulin products Limits out-of-pocket expenses for a 30-day supply to \$100 Requires Health Care Authority to monitor the price
	<p>Support legislation that will make medications more affordable <i>Sponsors: Kuderer, Stanford</i></p>	SSB 6088	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the prescription drug affordability board Requires the board to identify prescription drugs priced above a certain threshold, conduct cost reviews of drugs and set upper payment limits for state purchasers
	<p>Support legislation that will make medications more affordable <i>Eastside Sponsors: Kuderer, Stanford</i></p>	SSB 6113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a central insulin purchasing program by establishing a work group to design a purchasing strategy to allow the Northwest Prescription Drug Consortium to act as the single purchaser for the state
	<p>Help employees save for retirement <i>Eastside sponsors: Duerr (prime), Springer</i></p>	SHB 2516	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates the voluntary Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program at the Employment Security Department by establishing an IRA savings program Requires certain employers to automatically enroll employees
	<p>Help employees save for retirement <i>Eastside sponsors: Mullet (prime), Springer</i></p>	E2SSB 5740	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires certain employers to automatically enroll employees into an IRA in the Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program at the Dept. of Commerce
	<p>Continue support for Long-Term Care needs and increase funding where needed, such as nursing homes and in-home case management services</p>	Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$18.8M increase in Medicaid rates for nursing homes \$1.3M increase for in-home case management
	<p>Continue support for Long-Term Care needs and increase funding where needed, such as nursing homes and in-home case management services <i>No Eastside Sponsors</i></p>	HB 2328 SB 6250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves Medicaid nursing facilities rate by using an annual basis vs. every other year Authorizes one-time inflationary adjustment to rates in FY 2021 Modifies the exception process for nursing facilities subject to the 24/7 registered nurse coverage requirement Updates nursing facility inspection standards to be consistency with federal

STRENGTHEN EARLY LEARNING AND YOUTH SERVICES

	<p>Make child care and early learning accessible to all</p> <p><i>Eastside sponsors: Senn, Kloba</i></p>	<p>ESHB 2455</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows WCCC eligibility for parents attending high school or working toward completion of a high school equivalency certificate and who have an income below 85% of state median • Requires school districts to provide transportation upon request for parenting students who are transporting an infant
	<p>Make child care and early learning accessible to all</p> <p><i>Eastside sponsors: Ramos, Senn, Thai, Goodman</i></p>	<p>SHB 2456</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends grace period for homeless families to fulfill WCCC program requirements from 4 to 12 months (House version passed!) • Timing starts when they find child care and not when authorized for the subsidy
	<p>Improve educational re-engagement programs and the GRADS program</p> <p><i>Eastside sponsors: Slatter</i></p>	<p>2SHB 1182</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifies LAP to balance local control and state accountability by making uses of program funds more flexible • Requires fund expenditure be consistent with WA integrated student supports protocol • Eliminates 5% cap on school districts contracting LAP funds with nonprofits (Senate increased to 15%) • Eliminates requirements to use WA Integrated Student Supports Protocol best practices list
	<p>Improve educational re-engagement programs and the GRADS program</p> <p><i>Eastside sponsors: Slatter</i></p>	<p>SB 6132</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows the LAP to support school-wide behavioral health system of supports and interventions including social workers, counselors, instructional aides, and other school-based health professionals • Requires school districts to spend portion of LAP funding to address the needs of students in grades K-4 who are deficient in reading or reading readiness skills rather than focus first on these students
	<p>Support the Child Support Pass Through</p> <p><i>Eastside sponsors: Dhingra (prime)</i></p>	<p>2SSB 5144</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families on TANF can receive part of their child support with a maximum of \$100/month per family or \$200/month for families with 2 or more children • Money passes through DCYF so no garnishment
	<p>Provide wrap-around supports for college students</p>	<p>SB 6424</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires colleges to provide homeless, first-year College Bound Scholarship recipients with free on-campus housing on a space-available basis

Overview of 2020 Supplemental Budgets

Supplemental budgets are passed in even years to make mid-course corrections to the two-year budgets passed in odd years. It typically has minor tweaks and relatively low new spending.

In December, the Governor released his budgets that included unprecedented amounts of over \$300M for affordable housing and homelessness using the Rainy Day Fund. These proposals set the stage for a strong focus on addressing the homelessness crisis.

Impact of Coronavirus

When budgets were being built, no one could have foreseen the impact of the coronavirus. The first drafts of the budgets relied largely on data from the very positive revenue forecast in mid-February and proposed significant new spending that did not need to rely on the Rainy Day Fund.

As the virus implications became more evident, the proposed amounts were greatly reduced and \$200M was allocated from the Rainy Day Fund to cover costs associated with the outbreak. \$175M is targeted toward slowing the spread of the virus and for treatment of those infected and \$25M is for assistance to businesses forced to temporarily lay off employees as a result of the outbreak.

The final supplemental operating budget totals over \$1B in new spending with no new general taxes and over \$3B in total reserves, the largest balance in state history. Overall, this is a great budget.

Highlights Related to our Priorities

Capital Budget

\$10M was allocated to the Housing Trust Fund to preserve affordable homes already subsidized, but at risk of loss. This is a new approach to saving affordable housing in WA state.

Operating Budget

\$170M+ to address homelessness and affordable housing, including:

- \$60M in one-time funding to shelter homeless adults, families and youth across the state

- \$15M for the Housing and Essential Needs program

- \$40M for the Housing Trust Fund

- \$10M in rapid-response funding to help more individuals stay in their homes

- \$15M for operations and maintenance of permanent supportive housing

- \$5M for the Housing Needs Pilot Program to provide rental assistance to low or extremely low-income elderly or disabled adults living in certain counties including King

- \$600,000 for foreclosure counseling

\$18M to support nursing homes by increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates

\$1.3M for Area Agencies on Aging case managers to serve in-home clients with mental health needs

\$65M to reduce childcare rates for working families

\$15M to expand early learning programs

[Click here](#) to find budget documents and summaries.

Thank you for your advocacy!

Liz Mills, Legislative Communications Consultant
Eastside Human Services Forum