

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:

- Support and 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**
- 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.