

Eastside Human Services Forum – 2021 State Legislative Agenda

Cross Cutting Priorities:

- Preserve/increase funding for human services and enact new revenue with policy and budget decisions centered on racial equity
- Invest in digital equity solutions to reduce barriers to telehealth visits, distance learning, community resources, civic engagement, family and social connections
- Ensure access to COVID-19 testing and PPE for health and human service providers and the people they serve

Support Access to Basic Needs and Health Services:

- Support cash assistance programs regardless of citizenship status (i.e. Disaster Cash Assistance, Working Families Tax Credit, TANF)
- Expand funding for food and nutrition programs
- Preserve/expand flexibility in program eligibility (i.e. TANF, LTC in-home assessments)

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

- Expand programs that keep people housed (e.g. rental assistance, supportive housing, Medicaid Foundational Community Support Waiver, fair chance housing)
- Pass statewide protections against discriminatory and arbitrary evictions (good cause termination requirements) and prevent evictions based on non-payment of rent and alleviate debt due to the COVID economic recession
- Invest in measures/funding for affordable housing (i.e. Housing Trust Fund, bond measures, FEMA/CARES Act)

Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities:

- Preserve/expand funding for the full continuum of long-term care services and programs that serve older adults and people with disabilities
- Support COVID-19 response and recovery plans that prioritize the needs of older adults and people with disabilities (i.e. transportation)
- Support legislation that will make medications more affordable

Strengthen Early Learning and Youth Services:

- Make child care and early learning affordable and accessible to all (i.e. continue homeless childcare subsidy and expand to school age youth K-5th)
- Increase graduation rates for high school students of color (i.e. Open Doors)
- Support initiatives to reduce preschool, child care, and public-school expulsions

The mission of the Eastside Human Services Forum is to bring together a wide range of voices to build a stable and equitable network of health and human services accessible to all residents, strengthening our East King County communities. Educate - Advocate – Collaborate. For more information, please visit www.eastsideforum.org or contact Liz Mills at liz@eastsideforum.org.