

2021/22 Federal Legislative Agenda Eastside Human Services Forum

Cross Cutting Priorities:

- Preserve/increase funding for human services with 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
- Support legislation that protects and expands voter protections

Support Access to Basic Needs and Health Services:

- Support physical and behavioral healthcare that is affordable and accessible for all (Protect Medicaid/Medicare programs, Support a public health insurance option; Support treatment alternatives)
- Expand funding for food and nutrition programs (Summer EBT, SNAP).
- Extend and expand key tax cuts that benefit lower and middle-income workers and families (Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit)

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

- Expand programs that keep people housed (rental assistance, permanent supportive housing, Medicaid Foundational Community Support Waiver)
- Invest in funding for affordable housing (Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, National Housing Trust Fund)
- Prevent housing discrimination and promote inclusionary zoning practices

Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities:

- Secure the long-term solvency of Social Security (Eliminate or raise income cap, or adopt other methods without reducing current and future retiree benefits)
- Support legislation that makes medications more affordable
- Expand Medicare to cover dental, vision, and hearing

Strengthen Early Learning and Youth Services:

- Make child care and early learning affordable and accessible (Child Care for Working Families Act)
- Increase graduation rates for high school students of color
- Address teacher shortages, improve teacher preparation, and strengthen pipelines for teachers of color

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