



WASHINGTON LOW INCOME
Housing Alliance

Advocacy Day

February 3, 2020

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Preparing for #HHAD2020

Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day

- What is WLIHA?
 - What happens at HHAD?
 - Does my participation make a difference?
 - What legislative priorities are important to me?
 - How do I sign up?
 - How do I get there?
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Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

Leading the movement to ensure that all our residents thrive in safe, healthy, affordable homes

- Clark County member organizations in the house!
 - Public Policy Committee
 - Equity & Racial Justice Committee
- Resident Action Project members in the house!
 - Statewide network of people who have experienced housing injustice
 - Building power to change statewide policies through storytelling, civic action, and organizing
 - Clark County has over 100 RAP members!



Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day 2020



- Join over 600 statewide advocates in Olympia for a powerful day of action!
- Meet your legislators in pre-scheduled meetings with experienced advocates from Clark County
- LD Leads in the house!
- Call to Action
- Afternoon Rally

*New phone app for
#HHAD2020*

Why should I go?



- Build power and and a larger network with your statewide community
- Learn from Advocacy Day workshops
 - Advocacy 201: 2020 Legislative Agenda
 - BIPOC Panel: Using and intersectionality lens
 - RAP: Building Local Organizing Committees
- Uplift people who have experienced housing injustice
- Tell your story to your lawmaker and/or educate their staff on issues you care about
- Your advocacy led to...

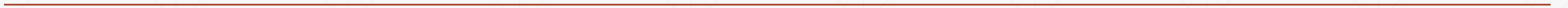
So Many Legislative Wins in 2019!

\$175 Million for the State Housing Trust Fund!	\$14.5M HEN funding increase and new funds for homelessnes s!	HB 1406 = Local funds for affordable homes!	HB 1923 = Making it easier to build affordable homes!	HB 1743 = Clarifies wage rates for builders of affordable homes.
SB 5600 = Eviction reforms to keep people in their homes!	HB 1440 = Doubles the notice requirement for rent increases!	HB 1582 = Improving the rights of manufactured housing homeowners!	SB 5324 = Improves the Homeless Student Stability Act!	HB 1219 = Authority to use local REET funds for affordable homes!

Legislative Priorities



What is important to me?



Equity and Racial Justice

Landlord tenant law has a significant impact on people of color and likely on racial disparities in homelessness.

People of color, especially African Americans and Native Americans, are significantly overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness.

Black families especially are far more likely to be evicted than white families.

People of color are also a greater percentage of renters in Washington state:

- 69% of Black households are renters
 - 57% of Hispanic or Latinx households are renters
 - 66% of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander households are renters
 - 33% of White households are renters
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Require a legitimate business reason to make someone move

- Currently in Washington State, landlords can end a month to month lease without telling the tenant the reason
 - Fear of receiving a no cause notice is a common reason for tenants not to assert their rights
 - This bill also requests for longer notice so people have time to find and afford another home
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Move-in fee installment payment plan over a three-month period when requested

- Move-in fees can add up to thousands of dollars
 - Major barrier to securing a home especially if a person is transitioning out of being houseless
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Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) exemption for selling to a nonprofit who acquires it for affordable housing

- Lack of properties available to develop multifamily housing
 - Competing with for profit developers
 - Incentivize developing affordable homes
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Eliminate the ABD shelter penalty

- The Aged Blind and Disabled cash grant is lowered when a person is deemed not to have out-of-pocket housing expenses from \$197 to \$120
 - People should have access to the full \$197 to address basic needs
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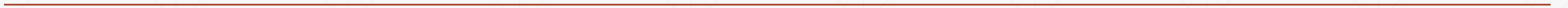
Pilot program to provide rental assistance for disabled adults and seniors

- If a person in the Housing and Essential Needs program (HEN) either gets denied for Social Security benefits or is approved for Social Security benefits, they can lose their housing
 - \$783 is not enough money to pay the rent on a home
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Support Agenda

- Rent Control: Enact a state level prohibition on rent gouging on multifamily and single family rental homes (Lead: Tenants Union of Washington State)
 - Ensure Housing Trust Fund's geographic distributions are met for rural housing (Lead: Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing)
 - Housing Justice Bill to prevent categorical denial of housing to people with criminal records. This significantly impacts Communities of Color (Washington Statewide Reentry Council)
 - Reverse the cuts to TANF made during the Great Recession (Lead: Statewide Poverty Action Network)
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Who should meet with lawmakers?

- People directly impacted by the issue, such as **people who have experienced homelessness and housing instability**, have unique expertise to share with lawmakers.
 - **Non-profit board members and staff at all levels** of an organization have valuable perspectives about emerging needs & policy implementation.
 - **Community leaders and local elected officials** representing city and county governments can be effective messengers and increase the visibility of an issue.
 - **Unexpected messengers** representing sectors outside of homelessness and affordable housing can illustrate **nexus between housing and other issues**.
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