



United Ways of Washington State 2019-2021 State Legislative Framework Adopted September 2018

United Ways of the Pacific Northwest represents 21 local United Ways in Washington committed to mobilizing the caring power of communities to advance the common good and improve lives. Healthy families keep our communities strong. We advocate for these critical public and private investments to help build wellbeing for all families:

Build Economic Mobility for Struggling Families and Individuals

- Fund the working families tax credit and expand eligibility to more low-wage workers. This credit will provide critical tax relief to low-income workers who pay the largest percentage of their income for sales tax.

Increase Access, Affordability, and Quality of Early Learning Programs and Resources

- Improve child care affordability, access and quality for all Washington families.
- Improve Kindergarten readiness for all Washington children by expanding access to high quality early learning opportunities.
- Support early learning providers and their workforce with the resources needed to attract and retain talent and ensure provider availability across the state for working families.

End Homelessness and Increase Access to Affordable Housing

- Secure and increase funding for programs that prevent and end the crisis of homelessness.
- Provide policy and resource incentives to boost the creation of more affordable housing.
- Ensure adequate supportive housing resources such as behavioral health services for people impacted by chronic homelessness.
- Invest a historically-high level in the Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve affordable housing across the state.

Fully Fund the 2-1-1 Call System to Ensure Access to Critical Human Services and Resources

- Provide robust funding to support the statewide 2-1-1 system, which coordinates public and private, faith based and nonprofit services to connect people in need with the resources they require before costly emergencies develop and to help divert calls from 9-1-1.