



United Ways of Washington State

2023-2024 State Legislative Framework

United Ways of the Pacific Northwest represents 20 local United Ways in Washington working every day to mobilize the caring power of communities to advance the common good and improve lives. As our [ALICE report](#) demonstrates, 43 percent of Washington households were already struggling to pay bills before COVID hit. Low and moderate family incomes have not kept up in the past decade with the costs of housing, child care, health care and the other life necessities. Racial and gender inequities are strongly manifested across all elements of the ALICE research.

- **Increase Access, Affordability, and Quality of Child Care and Early Learning for Working Families**
 - Provide state matching funds to enroll 300,000 children ages birth to five in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
 - The Legislature should continue to ensure that the Fair Start Act and new state and federal investments are implemented in the best ways possible for families and providers.
 - Support increases in early learning wages and strengthen language access to retain and recruit highly skilled and multilingual educators.
 - Increase investments to child care mental health consultation and complex needs grants
- **Increase Access to Affordable Housing and Invest in Solutions to the Homeless Public Health Crisis**
 - Provide policy and resource incentives to boost the creation of more affordable housing by public, private and nonprofit sectors.
 - Ensure adequate permanent supported housing including resources such as behavioral health services and increase Housing and Essential Needs funding.
 - Continue significant investment in affordable housing construction and preservation and ensure continued local funding to replace lost revenue from document recording fees.
 - Fund the Housing Trust Fund at \$400 million from the state capital budget.
 - Establish a new local option REET and a new state REET for affordable housing.
- **Invest in Policies to Advance Economic Justice and Equity**
 - Establish and fund Guaranteed Basic Income pilot programs in regions across the state.
 - Continue to support effective implementation of the Working Families Tax Credit.
- **Create a statewide disaster fund account and coordinated plan so our state and regions are prepared for our new normal of wildfires, floods and other natural events.**
 - Support and incentivize regional funding pools and preparedness for relief and recovery.
- **Ensure Efficient Access to Human Services and Resources by Expanding the Capacity of the 2-1-1 Call System.**
 - Provide \$10 million to increase service hours and capacity to complement 9-8-8 and 9-1-1 services