











United Way of King County

UWKC 2021 State Legislative Priority Bill Results


United Way of King County divides its legislative priorities into three key areas: Helping Students Graduate, Breaking the Cycle of Poverty and Ending Homelessness. For the 2021 session, we prioritized 18 bills under these categories. Of these, 11 passed and are now session law! Below is a detailed table of this session's results including key components of each bill we advocated for.

Helping Students Graduate	
	<p>Learning Assistance Program (LAP) Flexibility (SHB 1208), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$275K of Final Budget • Requires that school districts budget and expend Learning Assistance Program (LAP) funds • Makes changes to requirements and restrictions on the use of LAP funds. • Directs the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning to annually summarize innovations made by school districts to reduce barriers to the academic achievement of students participating in the LAP. • Expands the Extended Learning Opportunity Program to ninth and tenth grades
	<p>CTC Equity and Access (E2SSB 5194), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$16.1M of Final Budget • Requires development of a diversity, equity, and inclusion strategic plan. • Defines required elements of Guided Pathways implementation and requires a WSIPP evaluation. • Provides for hiring 200 full-time faculty over three years. • Creates a grant program for additional mental health counselors. • Modifies residency requirements.
	<p>Open Doors (Budget Request), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to original Open Doors leg: CBOs eligible to draw down BEA funds directly, expansion of BEA funding from 10 months to 12 months, fund barrier reduction (mental health/social services).
	<p>Digital Equity Initiative (Budget Request), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-pronged approach to provide access to quality digital services for students and families in need, particularly low-income BIPOC communities.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty






	<p>Working Families Tax Credit (ESHB 1297), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$260.9M of Final Budget • Expands eligibility for the working families tax exemption to include Individual Taxpayer Identification Number filers. • Expands the base remittance amount for the working families tax exemption and establishes phaseout rates for the remittance.
	<p>Economic Recovery (SHB 1151), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$969K of Final Budget • Allows Consolidated Emergency Assistance to be provided more than once in a 12-month period when directed by the Governor during a state of emergency. • Provides a one-time cash benefit and transitional food assistance to certain qualifying households. • Directs the Department of Social and Health Services to update the standards of need for cash assistance programs.
	<p>TANF Changes (2SSB 5241), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20.5M of Final Budget • Creates local Economic Inclusion Grants to be administered by the Department of Commerce (COM) in partnership with other agencies and distributed to local communities. • Establishes requirements for local leadership coalitions and fiscal agents to fulfill responsibilities associated with the Economic Inclusion Grants. • Requires annual reporting by the COM on progress, cost avoidance, measures of equitable and inclusive recovery, and model legislative language.
	<p>K-12 Food Assistance (E2SSB 5128), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows schools districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools that provide remote instruction during an emergency to use student transportation allocations to fund certain expanded transportation services for students. • Allows the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to use student transportation data from prior reporting periods to calculate transportation allocations for schools and school districts that provided remote instruction during an emergency. • Appropriates \$100 million to a newly created Public Schools Emergency Transportation Relief Account and authorizes expenditures from the account to backfill reductions in state funding allocations resulting from transportation declines caused by a declared statewide emergency.


Ending Homelessness

	<p>Just Cause Eviction (ESHB 1236), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not included in Final Budget • Specifies exclusive causes for eviction, refusal to renew, and ending a tenancy under the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act and makes other changes to rights and remedies
	<p>Right to Counsel in Eviction Cases (E2SSB 5160), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$31.2M of Final Budget • Modifying how rent is defined and how and when landlords apply tenant payments to rent or other costs and nonpossessory fees. • Providing a uniform 14-day notice to pay or vacate with an updated summons form for landlords to use when a tenant fails to pay rent. • Modifying the tenancy reinstatement process, with limits on late fees, before a judgement is issued during an unlawful detainer action.






- Establishing how and when judges can exercise judicial discretion to stay a writ of restitution after judgment in cases involving non-payment of rent.
- Prohibiting access to such judicial discretion if a tenant is issued three 14-day notices to pay or vacate within the prior 12-month period.
- Requiring landlords to accept any pledge of emergency rental assistance funds provided to the tenant from a governmental or nonprofit entity before the notice to pay or vacate for nonpayment of rent expires, and to suspend any court action for seven court days after they provide necessary payment information to the nonprofit or governmental entity to allow for payment of the assistance funds.

	<p>Rent Relief and Affordable Housing (HB 1035), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes cities and counties to create an affordable housing incentive program. • Authorizes an affordable housing incentive program to provide a six-year property tax exemption to certain qualifying properties.
	<p>Eviction Prevention Services (E2SHB 1277), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$572.3M of Final Budget • Establishes a \$100 surcharge on recorded documents to fund various housing services. • Creates the Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program in the Department of Commerce. • Requires the COM to develop performance metrics for each county receiving funding from the surcharge and dedicate a portion of funding to performance-based allocations.
	<p>Tax Revenue for Affordable Housing (ESHB 1070), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands uses of revenues from the housing and related services local sales and use tax to include acquiring facilities and land for affordable housing, housing-related services, and behavioral health services. • Expands uses of revenues from the state-shared lodging tax to include housing and facilities for homeless youth for counties with a population of at least 1.5M
	<p>Emergency Shelters and Housing (E2SHB 1220), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$702K of Final Budget • Updates the housing goals of the Growth Management Act (GMA) to include planning for and accommodating affordable housing. • Requires GMA jurisdictions to address moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income housing, moderate density housing options, and racially disparate impacts and displacement in the housing element of the comprehensive plan. • Requires the Department of Commerce to provide the inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs required in the housing element of the comprehensive plan. • Prohibits a city from preventing transitional housing or permanent supportive housing in zones where residential dwelling units or hotels are allowed, and from preventing indoor emergency shelters and indoor emergency housing in zones where hotels are allowed unless the city has an ordinance authorizing such shelters and housing in a majority of zones within 1 mile of transit. • Directs GMA jurisdictions to consider certain policies that encourage the construction of accessory dwelling units to meet affordable housing goals.
	<p>Limiting Post-Moratorium Rent Increases (SB 5139), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits increases in rent, other charges for 6 mos. after expiration of the eviction moratorium. • Limits rent increases for 6 mos. to 3 percentage points above the CPI and based on monthly rent as of 3/1/20

<p>Other</p>	
	<p>UWKC Roof & Window Replacement (Budget Request), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Way is requesting \$285K from the state's Capital Budget for a new roof for our building, and new windows

Support Highlights

	<p>Reopening WA Childcare System (E2SSB 5237), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$295.3M of Final Budget• Establishes a new account for childcare and early learning purposes and includes a non-exhaustive list of spending goals and strategies.• Expands eligibility and decreases copayments in the Working Connections Child Care Program and expands eligibility in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.• Provides for increased rates, training, grants, supports, and services for childcare and early learning providers.• Increases supports for families of children from birth to age 3, as well as for providers.
	<p>WA 2-1-1 Funding (Budget Request), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$3M, a \$1M increase over last biennium, and up from \$1M/biennium a few years ago.
	<p>Eliminating Reduced-Price Lunch Copays (HB 1342), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliminates lunch co-pays for students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth- grade who qualify for reduced-price lunches.• Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to allocate funding for this purpose.

Budget Highlights

<p>Helping Students Graduate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6.7M to fund HB 1166 and SB 5030 and increase graduation rates • \$245,000 to fund SB 5044 and reduce school expulsions. • \$16.1 to fund E2SSB 5194 for community and technical college equity/access • \$275K to SHB 1208 for LAP funding • \$8.8M to fund HB 1342 and eliminate school lunch co-pays • \$400M for childcare stabilization grants • \$40M for community-based youth development programs such as expanded learning, school-age childcare, mentoring, and school-based wrap-around programming
<p>Breaking the Cycle of Poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$261M to fund the Working Families Tax Credit • \$12M to fund one-time Disaster Cash Assistance as part of HB 1151 • \$52.2M to fund TANF 15% grant increase (largest increase since 1980) • \$23.7M to fund SB 5214, TANF time limit extension and work requirement waiver through 6/22 • \$22.9M for one-time Pandemic Emergency Assistance for TANF & certain SNAP families • \$23.1M for the Emergency Food Assistance Program • \$3M for SNAP Fruit and Veg Incentive Programs
<p>Ending Homelessness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$350M in the Capital Budget including \$175M for the Housing Trust Fund, \$120M to rapidly acquire properties for emergency shelter and affordable housing, \$10M to preserve affordable housing • \$658M to extend the state's rental assistance program • \$35M for local shelter capacity grants • \$31.2M to fund SB 5160 and provide for legal representation in eviction cases • \$130.7 funding for the Housing and Essential Needs program (\$27M increase) • \$187M for foreclosure prevention
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$24.9M to expand Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP) • \$303M to fund SB 5237, the Fair Start Act, with a variety of early learning and childcare initiatives. • \$45M for foodbanks with a focus on BIPOC communities, and farmer-to-families food box program • \$411M for broadband infrastructure (capital budget) • \$30M in digital equity investments including the digital navigator program. • \$16.1M to fund SB 5194 and improve equity and access in higher education