

## Together we are working toward a racially just community where all people have homes, students graduate and families are financially stable.

United Way of King County is proud of the generous donor support that allows us to invest millions of dollars annually. Our investments support people closest to the challenges—those who are marginalized, oppressed and disadvantaged—whose immediate needs can't wait.

United Way is advocating for policies that promote our community's ability to thrive—especially our Black, Indigenous and other communities of color (BIPOC). The complex social systems that drive disparities need to change. And that change has to be driven by listening to the needs and solutions identified by the people closest to the issues. We center BIPOC community voices in creating our investment strategies and in developing our advocacy agendas.

To that end, we call on the Legislature to ensure adequate funding streams to proactively create equitable access to a high quality of life and resources for people at the intersection of racism and poverty.



### Breaking the Cycle of Poverty—Increase Financial Security for Families

- **Support undocumented workers** by creating parallel unemployment and Medicaid-funded systems and childcare subsidies.
- **Provide financial relief to families with youth involved in the legal system** by removing the costly victim's penalty assessment and DNA collection fees for youth.
- Create the Evergreen Basic Income Trust account to pilot and evaluate the impacts of **providing a guaranteed income to families in poverty.**
- Ensure Washington's Department of Revenue is implementing the Working Families Tax Credit **in a manner that maximizes working families' access to the credit.**
- **Continue home grocery delivery of culturally relevant food to BIPOC households** in South Seattle, Renton and Skyway by funding United Way to purchase food to supplement overburdened area food banks.
- **Maximize child care subsidies and other benefits** to families receiving TANF by excluding child support as countable income for eligibility purposes and pass through 100% of child support payments to TANF eligible families.
- **Reduce racially disproportionate TANF audits** by reallocating some staff from the DSHS Office of Fraud and Accountability to TANF intake and eligibility screening.
- **Make human service wages more equitable** by supporting human services contract increases.



## Fighting Homelessness—By Keeping People in their Homes

- **Increase tenant rental protections** to prevent evictions.
- **Repair some of the harm that systemic discriminatory housing practices** wreaked on Black communities by **facilitating Black home ownership** through programs such as the Covenant Reinvestment Account.
- **Increase funding to expand rental assistance.**
- **Expand the Homeless Student Stability Program, which funds rental assistance for families of students** who would otherwise have to move away from their local school because of rental costs.



## Helping Students Graduate—From Early Learning through College Completion

- **Update reengagement legislation** to increase resources for students with many barriers to success.
- **Fund on-campus navigators** to expand access to basic needs and financial assistance services for higher education students.
- **Support positive behavior interventions and restorative practices in K-12.** Transition from punitive measures that disproportionately affect students of color, including the use of school resource officers and suspensions, to adding equity-based, Multi-tiered Systems of Support.
- **Every student eats free with Universal School Meals:** Eliminate means testing for school meal eligibility.
- **Make child care accessible and attainable for BIPOC providers and families** by increasing subsidy reimbursement rates and wages, removing barriers for student access, and increasing grants for facilities and equity curricula.
- **Increase access to dual language learning** for all Washington K–8 students.

As of 12/20/2022