

FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA 2018

In 2017, United Way's Free Tax Preparation Campaign brought hardworking families **\$30.5 million** in tax refunds, including **\$9.7 million** from the Earned Income Tax Credit—one of the strongest federal anti-poverty tools.



United Way of King County is proud of donor support that allows for more than \$31 million in investments to build a strong community. We know it also takes partnership with federal government and programs for our community to thrive and are focused on these key areas:



Tax Reform Priorities

Include these provisions in any tax reform legislation:

- **Expand Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) eligibility** to allow the EITC to reach two currently ineligible groups: families without dependent workers and young workers.
- **Expand and make refundable the Child Tax Credit (CTC)**. A refundable credit increases low-income families' tax refunds to pay for more child care.
- **Boost the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)** to increase volunteer recruitment and training for free tax preparation programs that help people rise out of poverty.



Human Services Appropriations Priorities

Pass a Fiscal Year 2018 Spending Bill to raise Budget Control Act spending caps and increase funding for human services in these areas:

- **Ending homelessness**, including Housing Choice Vouchers, McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Grants and the Housing Trust Fund.
- **Financial stability**, including SNAP, civil legal aid, TANF, LIHEAP and Social Security.
- **Student success**, including Child Care & Development Block Grant, Head Start, WIOA and Pell Grants.
- **Crosscutting programs**, including preserving AmeriCorps and block grants to states and localities.



Human Services Policy Priorities

- **Reauthorize the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program** to support home visiting services that improve maternal and infant health, school readiness and achievement, and family economic stability.
- **Pass legislation to protect DACA recipients** by providing them with temporary protected status and a direct road to citizenship.
- **Pass the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act** to encourage a shift from cash bail to risk assessment for pretrial detention.
- **Reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins CTE)** to prepare high school and community college students with skills and experience needed for the current and future job market.

STATE POLICY AGENDA 2018

HOW WE MEASURE UP TO HUNGER

In percentage of low-income students participating in both lunch and breakfast programs Washington state ranks

← **45th**
out of 50 states.

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Building Financial Stability

- **Pass Breakfast After the Bell (lead):** Require schools with a high percentage of hungry students to provide breakfast during the school day.
- **Reform the system of Legal Financial Obligations:** Make assessment of ability to pay uniform and objective, ban incarceration and manual labor sentences for non-payment, and suspend interest accrual during incarceration.
- **Pass the Fair Chance Act:** Remove questions about convictions or arrests from initial job applications to give people with criminal records an opportunity to have their qualifications considered in the hiring process.



Ending Homelessness

- **Increase and make permanent the real estate Document Recording Fee** to improve the state's services to prevent and reduce homelessness.
- **Eliminate source of income discrimination** by prohibiting landlords and management companies from rejecting rental applicants solely because they are paying with housing vouchers or other public income.



Helping Students Graduate

- **Improve Open Doors implementation:** Partner with the Superintendent of Public Instruction to increase program support, data collection and reporting, and program outcomes.
- **Increase resources and quality in early learning programs:**
 - Fund teacher training for dual-language classrooms.
 - Expand Home Visiting Services.
 - Improve funding for Working Connections Child Care reimbursement rates for providers serving our lowest-income children.
 - Expand ECEAP facilities and eligibility: Pass a capital budget that includes ECEAP facilities funding, and expand eligibility for specific vulnerable populations.

In addition, we're advocating for better access to services through **increased funding for the 2-1-1** system's technical infrastructure.



United Way of King County