

United Way of King County is proud of our deep roots in the community and the donor support that allowed us to invest **a record \$69 million** to support a racially just community where people have homes, students graduate and families are financially stable.

Yet, we know these efforts alone will not result in the just recovery we are committed to. United Way is advocating for policies that promote our community's ability to thrive—especially our Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities' (BIPOC). With the historically large state budget reserve, we have a unique opportunity to respond to the effects of the twin pandemics of racism and COVID-19.



## Helping Students Graduate

- **Improve reengagement outcomes for BIPOC youth** by revamping Open Doors legislation (house bill 1418). Advocate for changes in the policy that center successful outcomes for BIPOC youth.
- **Stabilize and bolster our child care system** by paying state child care subsidies monthly rather than by attendance, which chronically under-resources providers who accept families paying with state subsidies, often BIPOC child care providers. This has the added benefit of eliminating disproportionate auditing of BIPOC child care providers receiving state subsidies, because the auditing is all about tracking attendance.
- **Help 2-year college students meet their basic needs** through a statewide assessment and expansion of a homeless college student support program.



## Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

- **Support people in gaining housing stability and career pathways** by creating a Guaranteed Basic Income program and addressing benefit cliff issues.
- **Leverage federal efforts to reduce childhood hunger** by exercising the option to go statewide with expanded community eligibility for free and reduced lunch program.
- **Increase funding for distribution of healthy and culturally relevant food** through investments in Washington State Department of Agriculture nutrition programs.
- **Eliminate mandatory fees and interest on court costs** and restitution for people living below the poverty line.



## Fighting Homelessness

- **Use federal stimulus dollars to rapidly acquire hotel/motel and apartment properties** to quickly house unsheltered individuals and families and dedicate budget to provide services.
- **Prevent homelessness and economic evictions** by increasing access to rental assistance and legal services and ensuring equitable eviction prevention policies.
- **Use state and federal dollars to meet the needs of chronically homeless adults** with serious health challenges by rapidly providing the housing and health care they need to keep them stably housed.