



United Ways of Washington State

2024-2026 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, 34 percent of Washington households are struggling to pay bills and advance their lives. This is an improvement from our prior report largely due to the potent and temporary federal COVID response that significantly reduced poverty. However, low and moderate family incomes have not kept up in the past decade with the rising costs of housing, childcare, 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 childcare and early learning for working families!**
 - Provide the full amount of state 50 percent matching funds required 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 for affordable housing, rental assistance, and homeless services.**
 - Use the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance's [Roadmap to Housing Justice](#) as a template for policy and investments.
 - Continue significant investment in affordable housing construction and preservation and ensure continued local funding to replace lost revenue from document recording fees.
 - Increase funding of the Housing Trust Fund beyond 2023's \$400 million.
 - Establish a new local option REET and a new state REET for affordable housing.
- **Strengthen and expand behavioral and mental health services and access - for both adults and children.**
- **Increase investment in accessible public benefits, asset building, guaranteed income programs, and food insecurity to improve financial security, equity, and social justice.**
 - Establish and fund Guaranteed Basic Income pilot programs in regions across the state.
 - Continue to support effective implementation of the Working Families Tax Credit.
- **Expand resources to prepare communities and regions for disaster community response and recovery 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 \$5 million to increase service hours and capacity to complement 9-8-8 and 9-1-1 services.