



Nonprofits Vital to Recovery



FOCUS ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Updated May 14th, 2020

Across Washington State, nonprofit organizations provide a broad range of services for people seeking to access and sustain safe, healthy and affordable housing. The work of these organizations was critical before the COVID-19 pandemic crisis as the state was already experiencing a crisis regarding affordability and homelessness. With the full weight of COVID-19 largely unknown, there are some realities which are undeniable – **the economic, emotional and physical impact will disparately impact those in our communities who were already struggling, while simultaneously creating new experiences of hardship for others, resulting in an increased demand for the services this sector provides.**

The combination of coronavirus and America's unaffordable housing system has resulted in a disquieting paradox: At the same time that public health officials are warning that staying at home, away from others, is essential to preventing the rapid transmission of coronavirus, huge swaths of our community are finding it harder and harder to come up with the money

needed to keep a roof over their heads. **Now, more than ever, housing is essential for our community members to be able to have a place to shelter and stay safe.**

By the Numbers- Nonprofits working on Housing and Homelessness

Direct Service Providers

The 2019 Point in Time count reported 21,621 individuals experiencing homelessness. Annually, direct homeless service providers administer the following programs to house over 98,000 Washingtonians.

- Rapid Rehousing
- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Shelter
- Homeless Prevention Programs
- Permanent Supportive Housing



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(855) 299-2922
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Housing Developers and Providers

Nonprofit housing developers and providers create and maintain hundreds of thousands of affordable homes across the state funded through a combination of public and private investment.

- Over 47,000 affordable homes have been preserved or produced through the State's Housing Trust Fund (HTF). 10% of these investments produced affordable homeownership opportunities.
- Every dollar invested in the State's HTF leverages an additional six dollars for affordable housing development.
- Over 13,000 affordable apartments have been created or preserved using the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) since 2013.

Housing/Tenant Counselors & Mediation Experts

- Washington Home Ownership Resource Center has been managing a 56% increase in demand for foreclosure counseling since the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order was issued.

Dispute Resolution Centers

Mediation of landlord tenant disputes around rents, security deposits, resident behavior, and repairs is a core service of DRCs, which they have provided successfully in collaboration with District Courts for decades. Resolution Washington DRCs mediated 5,385 foreclosures statewide since 2012. The 2019 settlement rate was 76%. DRCs are prepared to engage an increased caseload and proactively seek to support early resolution of disputes arising from the public health and economic crisis. In addition to mediation, several DRCs provide innovative eviction prevention work, and they are sharing these approaches with other DRCs to prevent families and individuals from losing housing and further straining public assistance networks around homelessness.

According to Washington 2-1-1, **Rental assistance requests increased statewide by 106% from February to April 2020, with some Counties reporting a more than 400% increase.** Once the moratoria on eviction are lifted there will be a significant increase in the number of landlord and tenant disputes flooding the courts and threatening housing stability for residents across the State. **The DRCs and their existing collaborations with courts and other local agencies are prepared to address this increased demand.**

Advocacy Organizations

Housing and homelessness advocacy organizations educate, empower, organize, and mobilize Washingtonians to elevate the need for affordable housing through direct advocacy, issue-specific campaigns, and a strong foundation of community engagement.



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- Over 700 advocates gathered and met with their lawmakers in the State Capitol during Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Day on February 3, 2020.
- In King County, members and allies of the Housing Development Consortium contacted their elected officials over 2,500 times to share their positions on funding, regulatory and operational issues.

Solutions and Federal Policy Requests

We remain proud of the progress our state legislators have made by increasing investments in affordable housing production and preservation, strengthening tenant protections to keep folks in their homes, and ensuring homelessness response remains a key priority.

We respectfully and urgently request your strong support for the following policy recommendations:

- \$11.5 billion allocated through **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**,
- \$1.5 billion allocation to the **HOME Investment Partnerships Program**,
- \$100 billion allocated for **Rental Assistance**,
- Passage of the **Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act**,
- A **uniform, national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures**,
- **Increased funding for housing counselors and legal services** to help renters and homeowners stay housed,
- A **requirement that local communities** follow guidance by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and **institute a moratorium on homeless encampment sweeps**.



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