

Principles to guide our legislative priorities

- Lead with equity.
- Provide immediate, impactful, and sustained relief.
- Make permanent fixes to underlying structural failures.
- Implement policy responses rooted in trust and dignity, not paternalism.
- Reject a scarcity mindset: there is enough wealth in our state to invest in our people.

The Washington State Budget and Policy Center

is a research and policy organization that works to advance the well-being of all Washington residents.



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2024 Legislative Agenda

The Washington State Budget and Policy Center envisions a Washington state where everyone – no matter where they're from, who they love, or what they're paid – can live a life of economic dignity, take care of themselves and their loved ones, and have opportunities for joy and rest. In 2024, state lawmakers must enact policies and a budget that move us closer to this vision. **We call on lawmakers to create an economy that works for everyone.**

Our Policy Priorities:

Pass a **bold budget that funds community priorities** like infrastructure, schools, housing, food access, and health care. With revenue projections for the next four years higher than previously estimated, lawmakers can invest more state resources in these building blocks of thriving communities. In doing so, they must prioritize resources for people with low incomes; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); undocumented immigrants; and others who have been historically denied economic justice.

Advance cash assistance policies rooted in trust and autonomy. Lawmakers should pass a **Guaranteed Basic Income** policy to reduce poverty and improve people's well-being. They should create a **Baby Bonds program** (Washington Future Fund), which would help level the playing field for children from families with lower incomes by making a down payment on their future. Lawmakers must also increase the impact of the **Working Families Tax Credit** by ensuring that seniors and young adults without qualifying children can receive the credit.

Promote policies that repair harm and treat people with dignity. Lawmakers should **enhance consumer protections and close corporate loopholes** to return unclaimed gift card money to consumers or use it to fund public services. They should make changes to recently passed **legal financial obligations** law to ensure that courts have the ability to eliminate fines and fees debt for juvenile cases. Legislators must ensure immigrant communities have greater access to public services by passing **unemployment insurance for undocumented immigrant workers**, funding a **Medicaid-like program for immigrants**, and creating a **community energy ambassadors program** for equitable distribution of clean energy programs.

Advance tax reform that promotes economic justice through taxes on Washington's wealthiest residents and large corporations. This includes passing a **wealth tax** and increasing the **Real Estate Transfer Tax** on high-value properties. Revenue generated from these reforms should fund community priorities and address the inequities in Washington's tax code.