

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish is on a mission to eliminate racism and empower women. We advocate on public policy issues and budget matters that will move our communities and state closer to becoming a just and thriving place for all people.

During the 2022 Washington State legislative session, the leading public policy priorities for YWCA are:

Increase revenue to protect funding for essential human services.

YWCA urges legislators to create equity in our revenue system, fund essential human services, and rebuild an economy that works for all people. We support progressive revenue solutions such as HB 1406, which funds a new tax relief for low and middle-income families by applying a 1% wealth tax on intangible assets exceeding \$1B.

Expand access to affordable housing and eliminate disparities in homelessness.

YWCA urges legislators to address housing instability through increased access to affordable housing for low-income residents, and we call for an investment of \$400M of unspent federal COVID-19 funds to increase access to affordable housing.

Build economic security for Washington women and families.

YWCA urges legislators to implement policies that promote economic security for women and families and support the passage of HB 1412. This legislation provides opportunities for relief from legal financial obligations (LFOs) for those who lack the ability to pay, giving people with criminal convictions a fair chance at rebuilding their lives and achieving economic stability.

Reduce barriers to equity and increase safety for women and BIPOC communities.

YWCA urges legislators to protect the safety of women and BIPOC communities who are furthest from equity, and help eliminate institutional and systemic barriers that drive racial and gender inequity. To help address disparities in the housing and criminal justice systems, we support passage of the Housing Justice Act, which prevents landlords from denying housing to an applicant based solely on their criminal history.

YWCA also stands with our community and partners in support of the following public policy issues:

- Progressive revenue solutions such as estate tax HB 1465
- Invest in the Housing Trust Fund from the capital budget
- End exclusionary zoning laws that restrict the creation of affordable housing units
- Increase support for survivors of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and commercial sexual exploitation
- Ensure access to affordable, high-quality childcare and invest in early childhood education professionals
- Expanded options for emergency shelter and services for survivors and their families