

Advocacy Works! Organizing for the 2019 State Legislative Session

A group of approximately 15 people are walking across a street in front of a large, multi-story stone building. The building has "THURSTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE" inscribed on its facade. The people are dressed in winter clothing, including coats, scarves, and hats. Many of them are wearing red scarves and holding red folders or signs. They appear to be participating in a coordinated walk or protest. The sky is overcast, and the trees are bare, suggesting a cold day.

The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance -
Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe,
healthy and affordable home.

Today's Agenda

- Brief overview of the successful legislative session
- Introduction to “interim advocacy”
- Successful communication
- Overview of the Housing Trust Fund and what to ask your lawmakers for!

2018 Legislative Outcomes for Affordable Housing & Homelessness

- ✓ Biennial Capital Budget with \$107 Million for the Housing Trust Fund = *passed*
- ✓ HB 1570/Macri = *passed*
- ✓ HB 2578/Riccelli = *passed*
- ✓ HB 2667/Macri = *passed*
- ✓ HB 2444/Slatter = *passed*
- ✓ HB 2382/Ryu = *passed*
- ✓ HB 1239/Sullivan = *passed*
- ✓ HB 1831/Pettigrew = *passed*
- ✓ HB 2437/Robinson = *not passed (made it to Senate Floor)*



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HOUSING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH IS AT RISK. Washington Housing Alliance ACTION FUND

Tell your State Senator to vote for the Capital Budget before it's too late.

Pierce County deputy fatally shot after responding to home invasion; manhunt underway

Updated 7:25 am

Dozens evacuate before potential Yakima landslide; 'Oso. We don't want to feel what they feel.' 

Q&A: Gov. Jay Inslee talks carbon pricing, Trump and open state government

New 6:00 am

Feds strike deal with Alaskan village for road through National Wildlife Refuge

As Alaska Air cuts costs, employee discontent grows and passenger loyalty is at risk

Bannon tries to make amends as aides defend Trump's fitness 



Oprah Winfrey accepts the Cecil B. DeMille Award on Sunday. (Paul Drinkwater / The Associated Press)

Oprah and 'Three Billboards' triumph at black-draped Golden Globes

With a red carpet dyed black by actresses dressed in a color-coordinated statement, the Golden Globes were transformed into an A-list expression of female empowerment in the post-Harvey Weinstein era. Oprah Winfrey led the charge. Updated 6:23 am

Winfrey says 'time is up' for abusive men in Globes speech

 Gallery: The 75th Annual Golden Globe

HOUSING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH IS AT RISK. Washington Housing Alliance ACTION FUND

Tell your State Senator to vote for the Capital Budget before it's too late.



Why these victories were possible:

- ✓ Persistent advocacy for Years.
- ✓ Voices statewide demanded action.
- ✓ Lawmakers heard from local advocates throughout the year.
- ✓ Advocates delivered a consistent & strategic message.
- ✓ Housing champions have been elected to state level offices.



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Why these victories were possible:

Actions taken online	2,677
Emails to lawmakers	5,481
Advocacy Day Attendees	630



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Questions?



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Advocating during session is critical,
but the interim offers special opportunities.





Interim: The intervening time between legislative sessions

Interim advocacy: Leveraging the opportunity that the interim provides to educate lawmakers in their own legislative district

- ✓ Lawmakers have more time: Meetings are usually much longer than when based in Olympia during session.
- ✓ In-district advocacy offers opportunity to educate on how the lack of affordable housing and homelessness impact the local community.



How to Set Up a Meeting with Your Lawmaker

- ✓ Call or email the lawmaker directly. If you email, put “Meeting request please” in the subject line.
- ✓ Their legislative assistant “LA” schedules their meetings. Expect to talk to them and be aware that LAs are powerful gatekeepers. Treat them like a person you also need to lobby.

Helpful Information to Know Before Meeting With a Lawmaker

- ✓ What's the lawmaker's position on homelessness and affordable housing issues?
- ✓ Does the lawmaker serve on any key policy committees? Do they hold a leadership position within their caucus?

Helpful Information to Know Before Meeting With a Lawmaker

- ✓ What's the lawmaker's voting record on the legislation you care about?
- ✓ What policy issues does the lawmaker have a history of supporting and opposing?

Helpful Information to Know Before Meeting With a Lawmaker

- ✓ Are they on social media? Facebook in particular is a very rich source of information on lawmakers.
- ✓ Look up their campaign page. All Representatives are up for election this year and half of the Senate is as well.



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A very valuable resource! www.leg.wa.gov



**Senator Andy
Billig (D)**

Majority Deputy
Leader

3rd Legislative
District

Email
Details

Olympia Office

412 Legislative Building
PO Box 40403
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7604

District Office

25 W Main Ave.
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(509) 209 - 2427

Committees

Early Learning & K-12
Education
Rules
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leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members

Roster of All Members

Members of the 65th Legislature 2017-2018

House Senate **All**

Export to Excel

Filter Item:

To filter by district, enter the two-digit district number (e.g. 02 or 34)

<u>Member</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Legislative Assistant (LA)</u>	<u>LA E-mail</u>
Angel, Jan (R)	26		INB 203	(360) 786-7650	Jan.Angel@leg.wa.gov	Cocci, Holly	Holly.Cocci@leg.wa.gov
Appleton, Sherry (D)	23	1	LEG 132F	(360) 786-7934	Sherry.Appleton@leg.wa.gov	Hardy, Lisa	Lisa.Hardy@leg.wa.gov
Bailey, Barbara (R)	10		LEG 407	(360) 786-7618	Barbara.Bailey@leg.wa.gov	Angelini, Vicki	Vicki.Angelini@leg.wa.gov
Barkis, Andrew (R)	02	1	LEG 122D	(360) 786-7824	Andrew.Barkis@leg.wa.gov	Pelon, Shelby	Shelby.Pelon@leg.wa.gov
Baumgartner, Michael (R)	06		LEG 404	(360) 786-7610	Michael.Baumgartner@leg.wa.gov	McCoy, Matt	Matt.McCoy@leg.wa.gov

Know what you want to accomplish!

- ✓ Develop a relationship
- ✓ Introduce an issue
- ✓ Educate the lawmaker
- ✓ Make a specific request





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Questions?



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Communication Pitfalls to Avoid

Avoid leading with language that labels another person or group, reinforces stereotypes, or equates someone's circumstance with their primary identity.

Language to avoid:

- *The homeless*
- *Homeless people*
- *Homeless*
- *Client*
- *Consumer*
- *Beneficiary*
- *Program user*



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Communication Pitfalls to Avoid

Avoid leading with language that labels another person or group, reinforces stereotypes, or equates someone's circumstance with their primary identity.

Language to Avoid	Try Instead
<i>The homeless, Homeless people, Homeless</i>	Person experiencing homelessness
<i>Client, Consumer, Beneficiary, Program user</i>	What do you think is a better way to refer to people receiving services?



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Communication Pitfalls to Avoid

Avoid language that stigmatizes people experiencing homelessness or frames solutions as unattainable

- *“The homeless problem”*
- *Descriptions of homelessness as an intractable problem*
- *Crisis and scarcity language that frames solutions as out of reach, too expensive, or insurmountable*



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Communication Pitfalls to Avoid

Avoid language that stigmatizes people experiencing homelessness or frames solutions as unattainable

Language to Avoid	Try Instead
<i>“The homeless problem”</i>	The homelessness crisis
<i>Descriptions of homelessness as an intractable problem</i>	Homelessness is preventable and solvable

Answering Hard Questions

- Flip it!
- Never answer a question that you don't know the answer to! *Instead, use it as an opportunity for follow up.* This is a hook to continue the conversation, and to continue developing the relationship!
- Never offer up another program to cut or eliminate.
- Expect a question or statement that says because homelessness is growing, the resources we are already investing are not working.

Answering Hard Questions about the increase in homelessness

Focus on:

- Homelessness is rising because every region has experienced sky-high rent increases.
- Rent increases cause homelessness.

Be prepared for:

- Statements or questions about personal responsibility.
- Allegations that homelessness is increasing solely because of the opioid crisis.

Answering Hard Questions about homelessness increasing

- A study in the *Journal of Urban Affairs* found that every **\$100 increase** in rent is associated with a **6%** increase in homelessness in metropolitan areas and a **32%** increase in homelessness in non-metro areas, such as suburban communities.
- Rents are out of reach: A minimum wage worker in Washington State has to work 75 hours a week in order to affordable a modest 1 bedroom apartment.



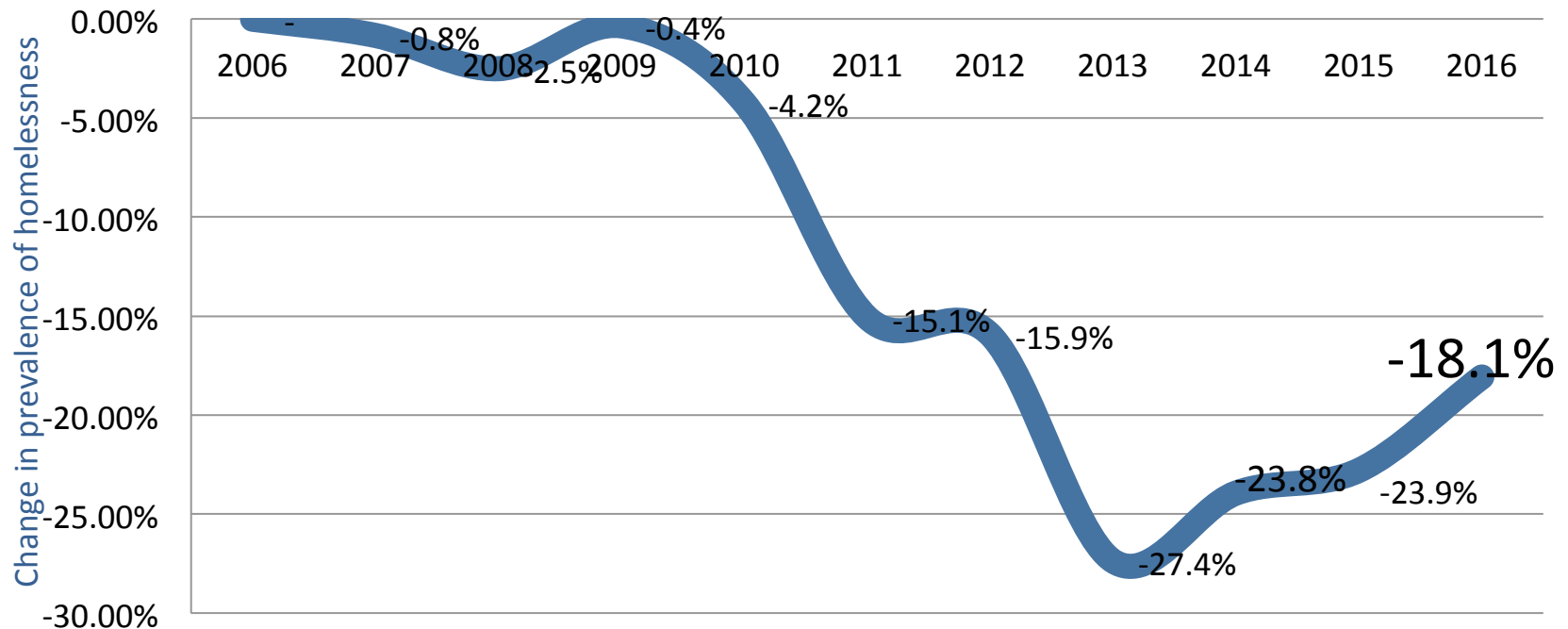
Answering Hard Questions about homelessness increasing

- There is not enough affordable housing.
- For every 100 households at or below 30%, there are only **29** affordable and available rental units statewide. Overall, our state has a deficit of **165,764** affordable and available units at or below 30% AMI.

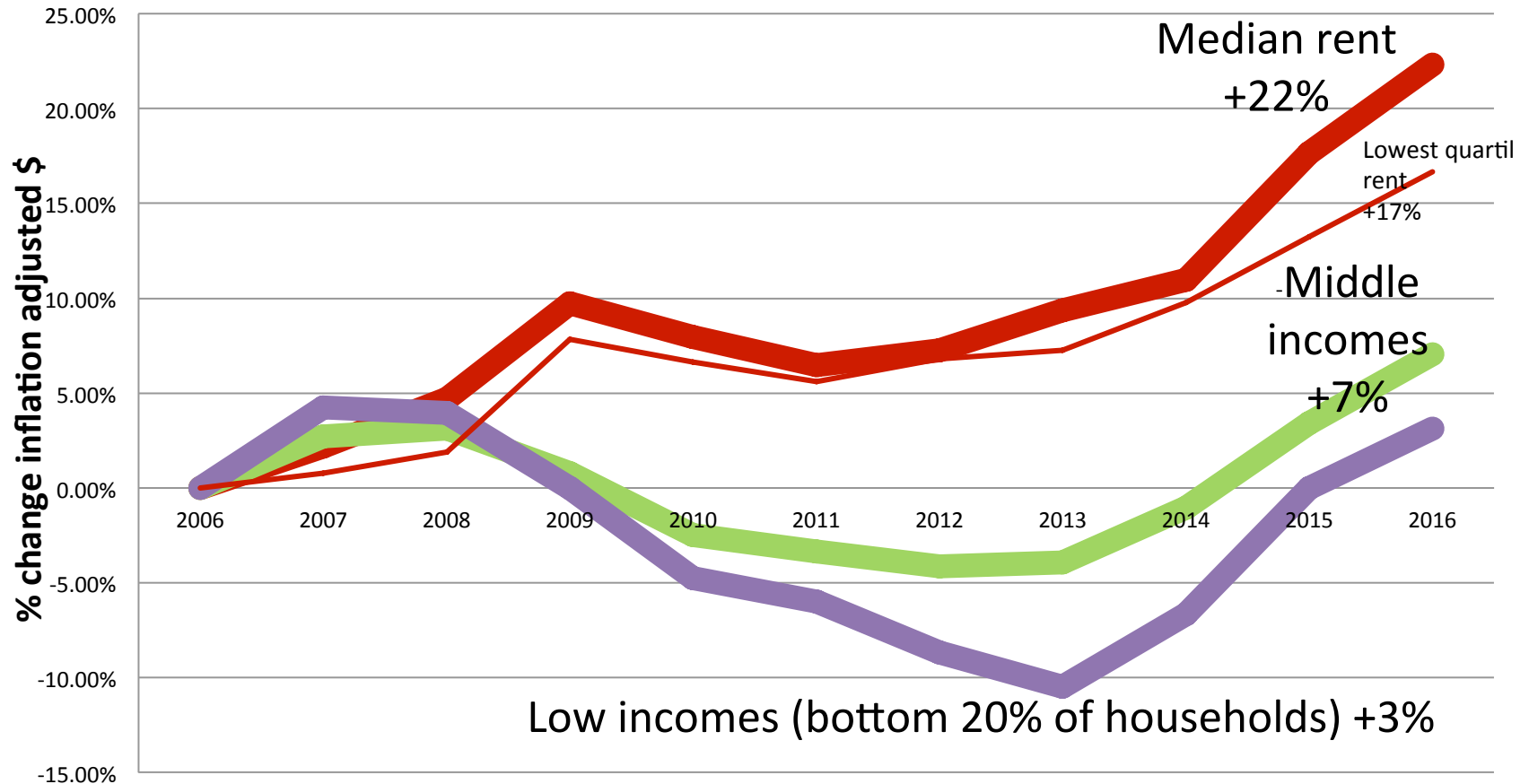


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State investments are working. We just aren't keeping up with the need.



Rents are growing faster than incomes.



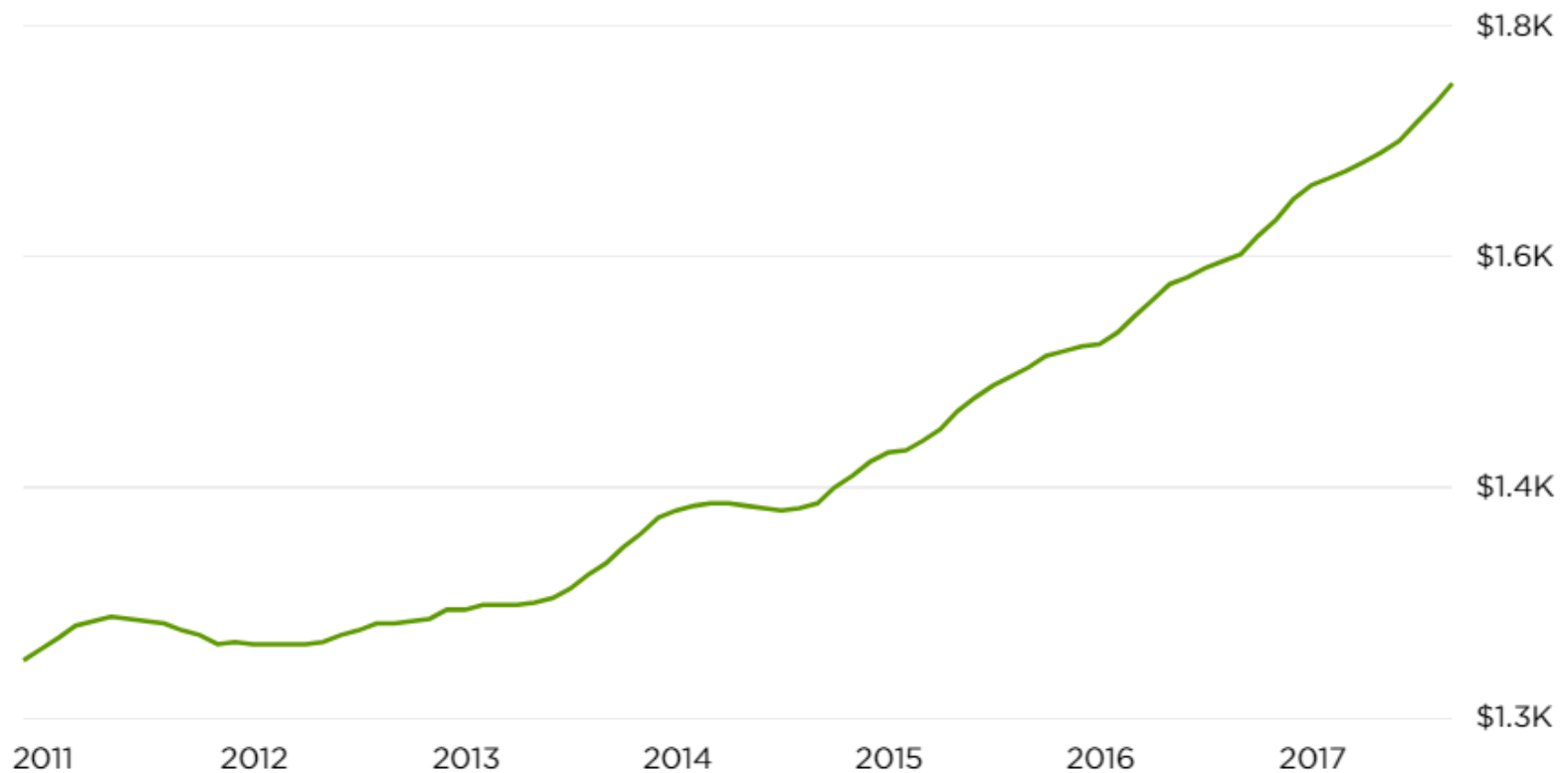
Data sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey one-year estimates; inflation adjusted using the Bureau of Labor Statistics



Department of Commerce

Rents are growing – Washington State

Aug 2017 — Washington \$1,801/mo



Source: <http://www.zillow.com/home-values/>



Department of Commerce



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Any questions?

What to ask your lawmaker for!

- At least \$200 million for the State Housing Trust Fund
- Funded from the State Capital Budget
- Next year is the start of a new biennium, so there is a whole new budget that will be written and voted on.
- Is the lawmaker on House Capital Budget or Senate Ways and Means? If so, they are particularly important decision makers!

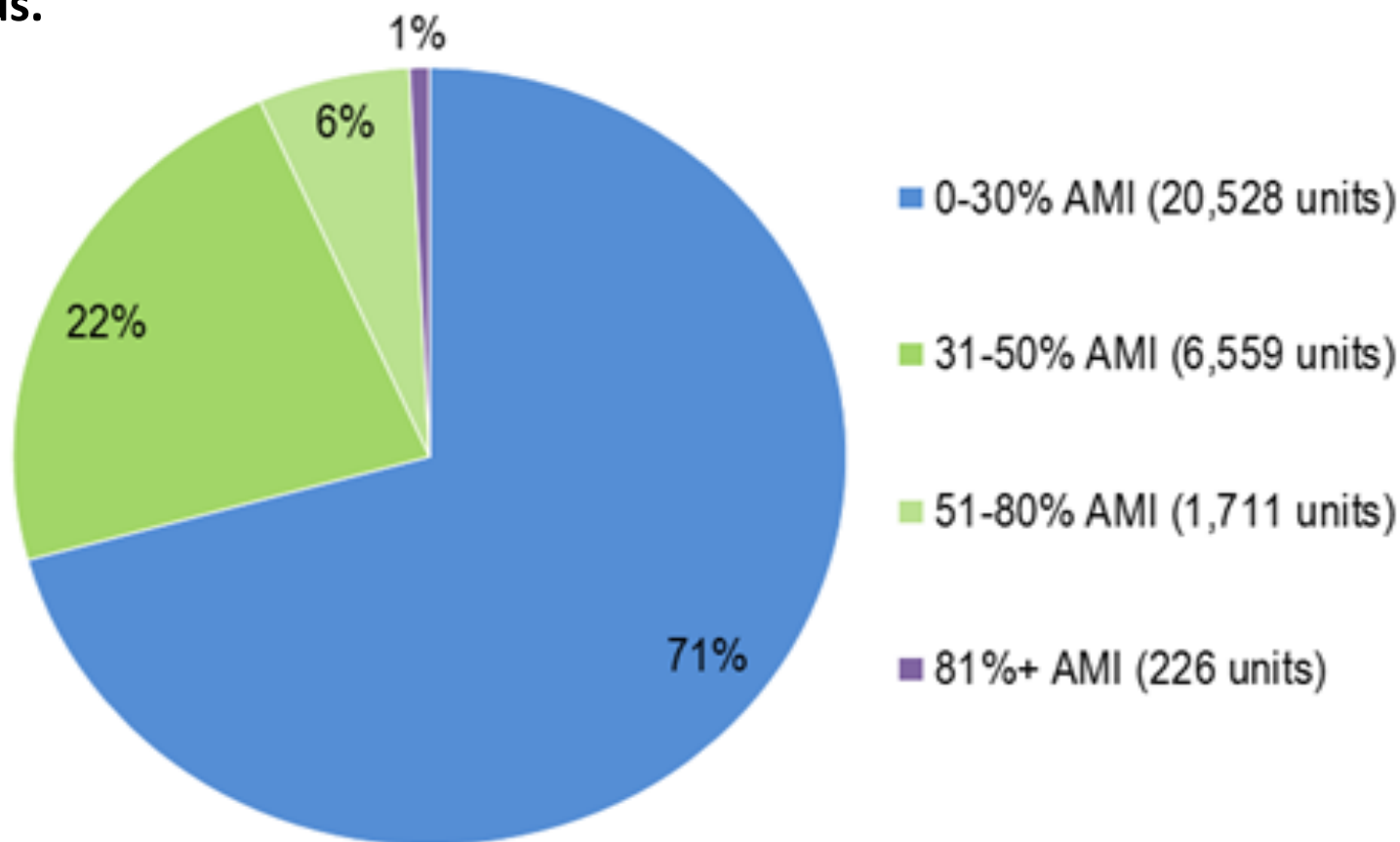


Legislative Ask: Pass a Capital Budget with at least \$200 million for affordable housing, and increase biennial funding with a supplemental Capital Budget.

The Housing Trust Fund is critical in solving our community's affordable housing struggles. It builds safe, healthy, and affordable homes for seniors, veterans, youth, people with disabilities and mental illness, families, and other struggling households.

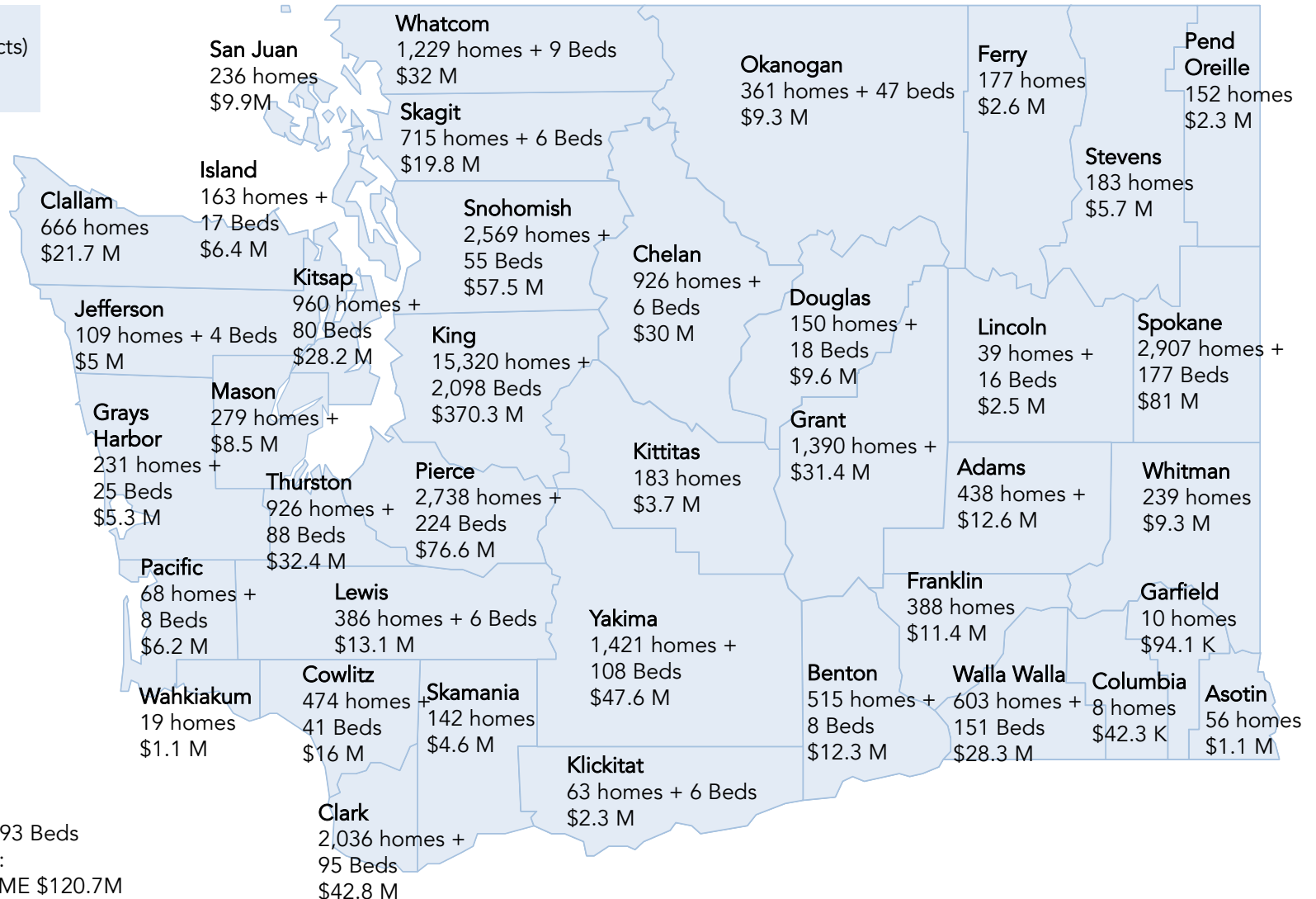
The Housing Trust Fund is the most important investment that Washington makes to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home.

The overwhelming bulk of Housing Trust Fund dollars support homes for those with the lowest incomes, with over 70% for extremely low income households.



Housing Trust Fund Investments in Affordable Housing 1989 – 2015

Multiple Counties
(scattered-site projects)
358 homes
\$6.7 M



“Beds” refer to shelters, group-home, seasonal farmworker, barrack-style beds. Not all counties include beds.
“homes” refer to all types of rental homes such as studios, 1-bedroom, 2-bedrooms, etc.



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**Please contact the Housing Alliance
with any questions:**

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