

Washington State Community Action Partnership (WSCAP)

is a nonprofit organization created to provide a unified voice for Community Action Agencies in advocacy, policy, programmatic, and legislative issues affecting families and communities in the state of Washington. WSCAP also provides training and technical assistance to each of our 30 agencies, ensuring high quality professional services for those seeking our assistance.

Community Action is Washington's safety net. Community Action Agencies play a key role in helping people get back to work and building a strong foundation for Washington's future by creating and preserving jobs. In addition, Community Action Agencies invest in people to develop their competencies, support their education, and help them find work.

Using flexible [Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\)](#) funding, Community Action Agencies focus on creating local solutions to local needs. Community Action Agencies are major employers, together spending more than \$200 million each year in Washington cities and counties. About 90% of all funds are used for direct services to help families in need.

Hundreds of thousands of people facing challenges and barriers to prosperity have received help, obtained jobs, established safe homes, received education and are providing for their families because of the support offered by Community Action Agencies. Community Action is designed to respond to local needs that differ from community to community.

Washington's Poverty Fighting Network: 30 Community Action Agencies equipping low-income individuals and families in all 39 counties to exit poverty.

Washington State Community Action Partnership

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For emails see the 2025 Legislative Priorities page



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Helping People, Changing Lives

Washington's Poverty Fighting Network: 30 Community Action Agencies in all 39 Counties Equipping Low-Income Individuals and Families to Exit Poverty

2025 Legislative Priorities

Washington State Community Action Partnership is asking for \$15.45M to help supplement federal CSBG funding (Community Services Block Grant), which provides flexible funding for the state's 30 Community Action Agencies to respond to pressing (and quickly changing) community needs, including **ensuring stability for Washington's underserved families living in poverty, with over 600,000 served by Community Action Agencies in 2023**, and equipping low-income rural Washingtonians to access food, housing, and job-readiness skills.

WHAT IS CSBG?

CSBG is the catalyst funding for Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to deliver economic relief services and to sustain a locally powered and accountable infrastructure for social and economic justice in all 39 counties. By engaging low-income, diverse and rural communities facing extreme systemic barriers to basic needs like housing, food security, and employment opportunities, CSBG leverages up to \$56 to Washington for every dollar invested and ensures people with lived experience have a seat at the table in how these funds serve their community.

With CSBG proviso funding, **we can double down on the equity and community-driven approach our agencies have already taken** to enhance culturally responsive and multilingual resource navigation, build capacity with other emerging by-and-for organizations in the fight to end poverty, and invest in our frontline staff who make this work possible. Through this flexible funding stream, our network can:

- ♥ Continue expanding on the work being done to promote equity and social justice
- ♥ Expand programs focusing on supporting children, adolescents, and families that have experienced trauma and connect them with culturally appropriate health services, trauma informed case management, and follow-up assistance
- ♥ Increase outreach and foodbank delivery services to our most remote, rural, and underserved parts of the state
- ♥ Establish family centered coaching in addition to continuing to build financial education programs for customers such as employment and asset building through a two generational approach.

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Housing

Increase Housing Stability and Create Equitable Community Pathways Out of Poverty Through Sustainability of Services

- ✦ Support continued investment in new construction and preservation of all types of affordable homes
- ✦ Ensure equitable, affordable housing in all upzone areas by increasing density and height allowances
- ✦ Address extreme increases in commercial liability insurance rates affecting housing providers
- ✦ Pass rent stabilization as a crucial measure in preventing homelessness
- ✦ Secure a permanent fund source for affordable housing
- ✦ Address Document Recording Fee (DRF) and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) shortfalls
- ✦ Emphasize and highlight the need for affordable rural housing
- ✦ End the Housing & Essential Needs (HEN) benefits cliff
- ✦ Support and advocate for increased investments in homelessness prevention across the state

Food

Help Eliminate Food Insecurity

- ✦ Extend funding for food banks and community-based emergency reserve food programs, including capacity building
- ✦ Support WSDA's EFAP emergency funding capacity for local coalitions, which provides flexible funding in food assistance and capacity building infrastructure
- ✦ Emphasize and highlight food deserts and food insecurity across Washington State
- ✦ Secure proper funding for farm to school grants through Dept. of Agriculture and OSPI
- ✦ Support and expand access for Free School Meals for ALL Washington students - all incomes, all grade levels, urban and rural
- ✦ Advocate for maintaining funding of \$6M for Fresh Bucks (farmers market) through Dept. of Health
- ✦ Support funding for current caseload for Senior Nutrition Program programs at \$38M

Energy

Move Toward an Equitable, Cleaner and Greener Environment

- ✦ Ensure Justice 40 Communities' access to continued Climate resiliency funding
- ✦ Support community-based groups working to promote fuel switching within rural communities
- ✦ Promote equitable transition inclusive of low-income, diverse and rural communities by advocating for electric grid reliability and sound infrastructure investments, particularly in rural communities
- ✦ Advocate for grant funding for the Solar For All federal grant program
- ✦ Support potential legislation for Navigator Bill
- ✦ Support Dept. of Commerce request for restored and expanded energy (LIHEAP) and water (LIHWAP) funding to pandemic relief levels - \$52.75M

Wage equity

Focus on legislation which will bridge long-term funding gaps

- ✦ Right-size existing government-to-Non-Profit Organization (NPO) contracts
- ✦ Support statewide wage equity legislation community-based providers
- ✦ Non-profit government contracting
 - ✦ Strengthen support for a resolution to right-size nonprofit government contracts
 - ✦ Promote 30/60/90-day pre-payment requirement of government contract terms, or encourage legislature to category non-profits as small business

Pathways to stability

- ✦ Support the funding and creation of a statewide, small GBI pilot project
- ✦ Address restoring full TANF Time Limit Extensions at \$40M
- ✦ Promote tying TANF cash grant to 16% of the Needs Standard to provide yearly increase aligned with cost of living
- ✦ Strengthen and promote education around poverty reduction using updated language and narratives

Weatherization + Health

- ✦ Advocate for sustainable stable funding through statutory legislation
- ✦ Support and advocate for a 10-year scale up plan to enhance and secure Weatherization sustainability including workforce development
- ✦ Address ongoing Weatherization specific contractor and energy auditor shortages, particularly in rural communities
- ✦ Promote Weatherization Plus Health education among lawmakers
- ✦ Support creation and funding for two-year small pilot study for CAA in-house Weatherization work crews

Support Early Learning, Youth Development and Support for Families

- ✦ Improve childcare affordability and sustainability and strengthen the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)
- ✦ Support passage of the "Baby Bonds" bill, ensuring a just future for ALL students
- ✦ Continued support in pursuing full pass-through in childcare benefits
- ✦ Advocate for stronger Youth Development funding
- ✦ Strengthen youth development strategy table advocacy agenda
- ✦ More investment in youth advocacy community including support of \$5M for Direct Cash Transfer and \$15M for ending Foster Care SSI payment seizure