United Way of Pierce County’s bold goal is to lift 15,000 households out of poverty by 2028.

**Strategic Success Factor**: *In partnership with key stakeholders, advance systems changes that address equity by educating communities about social issues and providing a format to shape policy on issues and approaches that dismantle and reduce poverty.*

This advocacy agenda is the product of consultation and collaboration with Local, state, and federal partners. We also received input and insights from community members, especially individuals with lived experiences in each area of focus.

**TIER I PRIORITIES – Areas and Issues we intend to actively engage with local and state legislators**

**BASIC NEEDS & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

**Housing and Shelter: Increase Access to Affordable Housing and Invest in Solutions to End Homelessness**

* Provide policy and resource incentives to boost the creation of more affordable housing by public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
	+ Real estate excise to pay for affordable housing.
* Ensure adequate permanent supported housing.
* Provide rental assistance funding to limit evictions.
* Decrease homeownership disparities.
* Incentivize alternative housing options to address youth homelessness.
* Ensure state-level backfill for document recording fee deficits impacting coordinated entry and homelessness support programs.

**South Sound 211 and Washington 211: Increase System Funding**

* Provide Funds to fully operate 211.
* Provide funds to increase service hours and capacity to complement 211 and 988.

**Food Equity: Eliminate Hunger and Increase Access to Nutrition Resources across Pierce County**

* Universal Free School Meals
	+ Support the re-introduction of policies to extend the free meals to ALL Washington students in K-12 regardless of ability to pay.

**STRONG FAMILIES**

**Economic Self-Sufficiency: Invest in Policies to Advance Economic Justice and Equity**

* Extend state-earned income credit to all eligible individuals 18 years and older.
* Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
	+ Support improvements to TANF:
		- Increase the dollar amount of the child support pass-through to 100%
		- Increase asset limits for families applying for TANF.
		- Expand TANF hardship Time Limit Extensions.
		- Reinstate post-TANF supports.
* **Guaranteed Basic Income**
	+ Support the continuing efforts to implement a Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot in Washington.
* **Increase Access, Affordability, and Quality of Child Care and Early Learning for Working Families**
	+ Provide state matching funds to enroll 300,000 children ages birth to five in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
	+ Support increases in early learning wages and strengthen language access to retain and recruit highly skilled and multilingual educators.

**TIER II PRIORITIES – Support for partners with organizational expertise**

The Tier II agenda provides a pathway for UWPC to support partner initiatives that align with our bold goal. Full partner agendas and opportunities for alignment will be available as appendices to this framework.

**2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA RESULTS**

**BASIC NEEDS AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

* **SHB 2012** Concerning eligibility for a property tax exemption for nonprofits providing affordable rental housing built with city and county funds - The property tax exemption for property owned or used by a nonprofit entity providing rental housing for qualifying households or used to provide space for the placement of a mobile home is expanded by allowing the following as qualifying funding sources:
	+ voter-approved levy lid lifts; and
	+ city or county funds that are designated for affordable housing.
* **SB 6173** Encouraging investments in affordable homeownership unit development - Local jurisdictions imposing an affordable and supportive housing sales and use tax may provide housing and services to persons whose income is at or below 80 percent of the median income of the county or city imposing the tax if it is supporting the development of affordable housing intended for owner occupancy.

**STRONG FAMILIES**

* **ESHB 1652** Child Support Pass Through **-** Beginning on July 1, 2024, the DSHS must pass through to a TANF family all current child support collected on behalf of the family each month.
* **SHB 1916** Funding for the early support for infants and toddlers program – The legislature clarified and expanded when an agency can receive funding for providing Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) services to a child birth to 3 with a diagnosed disability or developmental delay.
* **SHB 2007** Expanding time limit exemptions applicable to cash assistance programs - The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families time limit extension is expanded to include parents or legal guardians with a child under the age of two who lives in the same household and qualifies for an infant, toddler, or postpartum exemption from WorkFirst activities.

**BUDGET REQUEST**

* **WIN 211** - The 2024 legislature approved an additional $1 mil for the biennium to support increasing capacity for WIN 211, the Washington state 211 network.
* **Dolly Parton Imagination Library Washington** - The 2024 also approved an additional $1.2 mil the biennium towards the required 50% state match for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Washington