

Washington
Work and Family
Coalition:

Family Economic Security Agenda

Working people and families are struggling across our state. Despite low unemployment, lucrative industries, and great wealth, it's getting harder for the majority of Washingtonians to get by and plan for a strong future, while the legacies of racial and gender injustice continue to stifle dreams for too many.

Washington led the country with paid sick and safe leave, a strong minimum wage, and paid family and medical leave. But this is not enough to undo the widening gap between the super-rich and everyone else. As our state sets the course for the next generation, we can create a new deal for working families, one that values the dignity of work and workers. We can come together to repair the building blocks of a vibrant middle class, stop poverty spirals in their tracks, and blow open the doors to opportunity.

A strong foundation protects the vulnerable, builds a secure and inclusive middle class, and allows opportunity to flourish.

Childcare
you can
count on

A path to
universal
healthcare

Affordable
housing
for all

A
balanced
tax code

A fair
deal at
work

Access
to
opportunity

CHILDCARE YOU CAN COUNT ON

Children thrive with the right foundation, yet parents struggle to find affordable care while teachers – disproportionately women of color – make poverty wages. **Increased investments in workforce compensation** to reach pay parity with K-3 teachers, plus **higher subsidy rates and expanded access to subsidized care** will provide kids, families, and businesses the system all our communities need.

A PATH TO UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

Everyone deserves access to quality healthcare without risking poverty. **A state-sponsored health plan on our exchange** will lower out-of-pocket costs, leverage federal funds, and start on the path toward universal coverage. **Addressing drug price transparency, medical debt, and surprise billing will further lower costs.** Establishing a **Long Term Care Trust** similar to Paid Family and Medical Leave will allow workers to invest in long term care benefits.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL

Rents and home prices have risen above what most families can afford, leaving them vulnerable to eviction and homelessness. We can provide more affordable homes now and plan for the next generation by **reforming the Real Estate Excise Tax** to be more progressive and bring in dedicated revenue for **affordable homes; enacting eviction reforms; and increasing rental assistance for low-income people with disabilities.**

A BALANCED TAX CODE

With the lowest income families paying 17% of their incomes on state and local taxes while the wealthiest pay 3%, we can't make the investments our state needs. Closing the loophole on **capital gains** will ensure that the wealthiest support our thriving communities. Funding the **Working Families Tax Credit** will put resources into the hands of working people who need it most to cover basic household needs.

A FAIR DEAL AT WORK

We build a sustainable economy with workplace standards that promote fair wages and benefits, gender and racial equity, healthy workers and families, and family economic security, including: **ensuring workers in large retail and food service companies have secure scheduling, protecting salary history during the hiring process, removing unnecessary barriers low-wage workers with caregiving responsibilities face accessing unemployment insurance, and protecting workers in the gig economy.**

ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY

Race, gender, and class should not prevent access to jobs and opportunity. The **New Hope Act** will provide formerly incarcerated people a chance to start over and reintegrate into their communities by expanding the types of convictions that are eligible to be vacated. The **Keep Washington Working Act** will provide new protections for immigrant workers, from agriculture to high tech to small business starts, and help all communities thrive. **Undo harmful recession-era policies to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** to ensure families with children living in deep poverty have access to critical resources and support.