A LOOK AT THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF WASHINGTONIANS WITH LOW INCOMES

Washington is home to great communities and a growing economy, but our state's economic prosperity is not reaching everyone. Issues like a skyrocketing cost of living, lack of affordable housing, and low-wage jobs mean many people are falling behind. And the continued legacy of racist policies – such as redlining, employment discrimination, and limited access to credit – means families of color are often hit the hardest.

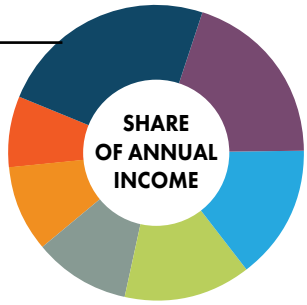
MANY HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS

Washington Poverty By The Numbers[1]

Deep Poverty [2]	Less than $10,210 for a family of three	368,952 people (5%)
Poverty [3]	Less than $20,420 for a family of three	802,159 people (11%)
Low Income [4]	Less than $40,840 for a family of three	1,858,736 people (26%)

Annual Cost of Living for a Single Parent with Two Kids [5]

Housing	$14,448
Childcare	$13,512
Transportation	$8,526
Food	$7,893
Taxes	$7,860
Medical	$6,874
Other	$5,091



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$64,203 Annual Salary Needed

MANY KIDS AREN'T GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A BRIGHT START

Economic Security Among Kids

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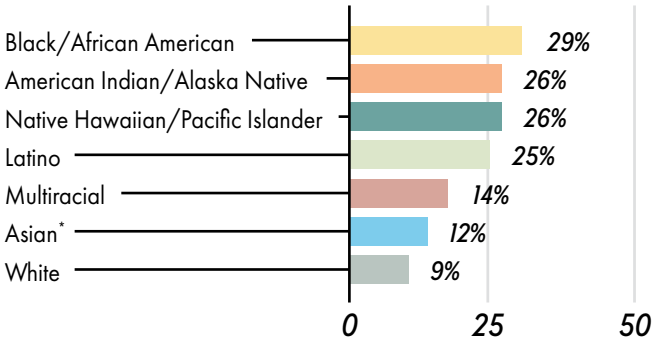
Half a million Washington children under 18 live in families that struggle to make ends meet [6]

Barriers to Opportunity Persist for Children and Young People of Color

People under 18 below the poverty level by race/ethnicity, 2017 [7]



WASHINGTON STATE BUDGET & POLICY CENTER

Sources: 1. B&PC analysis of 2017 ACS 1-year Table S1701. 2. U.S. DHHS poverty guidelines for 2017 for a family of three. Deep poverty is defined as 50 percent of the federal poverty level. 3. U.S. DHHS poverty guidelines for 2017 for a family of three. Poverty is defined as 100 percent of the federal poverty level. 4. U.S. DHHS poverty guidelines for 2017 for a family of three. Low Income is defined as 200 percent of the federal poverty level. 5. MIT Living Wage Calculator for single-parent household with two children, Washington state; http://livingwage.mit.edu/states/53 6. B&PC analysis of people under 18 with low incomes (200 percent of the federal poverty level) per 2017 ACS 1-year C17024. 7. B&PC analysis of 2017 ACS 1-7ear Tables B17020B-B17020I.

*The data source does not disaggregate Asian by ethnic groups. The Asian population is extremely diverse and there is significant variation in outcomes and experiences for different Asian subgroups. The broader Asian category often masks the different educational outcomes and multiple barriers facing Southeast Asian students, for example.