

Our principles to guide the state policy response to the economic crisis

- Lead with equity.
- Provide immediate, impactful and sustained relief.
- Make permanent fixes to underlying structural failures.
- Implement policy responses rooted in trust and dignity, not paternalism.
- Reject a scarcity mindset: there is enough wealth in our state to invest in our people.

[Read these principles in full](#)

The Washington State Budget & Policy Center is a research and policy organization that works to advance the well-being of all Washingtonians.



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2022 Legislative Agenda

The 2022 legislative session is an opportunity for Washington state lawmakers to continue to build toward an inclusive and robust economic recovery as the public health and economic crises persist. Last year, they responded to the powerful voices and advocacy of community leaders, coalitions, and everyday people by making a critical down payment to put Washington on a real path toward a more equitable recovery. Now, the Washington State Budget & Policy Center is calling on policymakers to maintain that progress by leveraging the remaining federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act and by taking meaningful action to build a foundation that sustains Washington's communities for generations to come.

This session, lawmakers must:

Pass a **budget bill that responds to the calls from advocates for ample funding for priorities** like schools, infrastructure, housing, food access, and health care. With more than \$1 billion in remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds, lawmakers can continue to invest in communities and prioritize resources for people with low incomes; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); and others who have been most impacted by the pandemic and economic crisis.

Promote government accountability by passing and implementing policies that ensure people are economically secure and treated with dignity. This includes ensuring the **Working Families Tax Credit** reaches eligible households equitably through a \$10 million investment in outreach and language access, and making policy fixes that will help ensure the successful implementation of the credit. Lawmakers should also **reform Legal Financial Obligations** so that government is not in the business of extracting wealth through harmful fines and fees that the criminal legal system levies upon people. **WA Cares**, the groundbreaking program that provides residents with resources to cover long-term care support, should be **protected and expanded**. And policymakers should support the economic security of all residents, regardless of immigration status, through an **unemployment insurance program for undocumented immigrants**.

Advance cash assistance policies that are rooted in trust for recipients by passing a **Guaranteed Basic Income** policy to reduce poverty, improve long-term well-being, and honor the dignity and self-determination of recipients. Additionally, create a **Baby Bond** savings program in Washington state to help level the playing field for children from families with lower incomes with a meaningful investment in their future economic security and wealth.

Continue to advance tax reform that promotes racial, gender, and economic justice in our tax code through new taxes on Washington's wealthiest residents and large, profitable corporations. This includes implementing a **wealth tax, an equitable payroll tax on the salaries of CEOs** and other highly paid corporate employees as well as **closing loopholes and raising tax rates on multimillion-dollar estates**. Tax revenue generated through these reforms should be used to invest equitably in Washington's communities and proactively address the inequalities rooted in our current tax code.