

Celebrating **15 years** of advancing **economic justice**

At the Washington State Budget & Policy Center, we envision a state where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and where a person's race, ethnicity, immigration status, or gender identity doesn't determine their health or economic security. And we're committed to ensuring our state budget and tax code are vital tools in realizing this vision.

In our fifteenth year, we are proud to celebrate the ways our organization contributes to a more just state. **In fact, two of our long-term priorities were enacted this year: the Working Families Tax Credit and a capital gains wealth tax!** These policies will not only help fix our inequitable tax code, but they will also improve people's well-being and economic security – through direct cash to people who need it and critical investments in child care and early learning.

We helped accomplish this – along with the highlights on the next page – through a commitment to listening, building relationships, and collaborating with our partners in our shared efforts to advance bold policy solutions.

As we do this work, we know that a brighter economic future for all is only possible through widespread transformative change. For us, this means a commitment to anti-racism in the policies we advance and in how we work as an organization. We're clear that fulfilling our vision requires us to transform ourselves internally and to work to transform systems, institutions, and policies externally to repair the harms of historical and persistent racism.

We're so excited about where we're heading. As we look to the future, we will think big, partner thoughtfully, and listen carefully. And we will continue working tirelessly to ensure the state budget and tax code advance economic justice.

“The Budget & Policy Center is committed to advancing progressive policies concerning the well-being of Washingtonians. As an organization, they strive to engage, mobilize, and support impacted communities in a manner that is inclusive.”

Rep. My-Linh Thai

“I'm proud to be a board member of the Budget & Policy Center because of its commitment to improving the economic conditions of people who are furthest from opportunity.

Michael Brown,

Civic Commons at the Seattle Foundation

Below: Executive Director Misha Werschkul (second from right) joins lawmakers and advocates at the governor's bill-signing for progressive tax reforms in 2021



Policy highlights through the years

The Budget & Policy Center has long been proposing bold policies, publishing powerful research and analysis, getting our work in the media, testifying in Olympia, participating in and leading coalitions, and engaging in advocacy in our quest for shared prosperity. Below is some of what we've helped accomplish in collaboration with partner organizations, advocates, and community leaders:

2010

Voters defeat Initiative 1033, thus protecting public sector jobs and community investments.

2013

A Medicaid expansion for adults with low incomes supports public health.

2015

The Early Start Act passes, bringing high-quality early learning to more children.

2016

Voters pass an initiative to raise the state minimum wage to \$13.50 and provide sick and safe leave – so workers can make a better living and protect their well-being.

2017

The governor vetoes a tax break for big manufacturers that would have siphoned money out of communities.

2020

The Washington Worker Relief Fund, which gives emergency payments to people who are undocumented, is created in the push for an equitable COVID recovery.

2021

The Working Families Tax Credit and the capital gains wealth tax are enacted– and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families receives a funding boost – in a move to strengthen the tax code and jumpstart the economic recovery.

A conduit for policy leaders

Since 2010, nine Betty Jane Narver Policy fellows have made their mark on our organization! This fellowship program, named after a University of Washington professor who mentored a generation of civic leaders, aims to expand the diversity of voices and perspectives in state policy. Our fellows have gone on to be leaders in Washington state and around the U.S. In fact, two Narver fellow alumni are currently on our policy team, helping advance critical state policies. Read more about our alumni [here](#).



Hana Jang

Margaret Babayan

Evan Walker

Strength in partnerships

Our impact is further bolstered by our formal collaborations with these national partners:

- **State Priorities Partnership:** A network of state research and policy organizations coordinated by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- **KIDS COUNT:** A data, research, and advocacy project focused on kids' well-being, made possible by the Annie E. Casey Foundation
- **Economic Analysis and Research Network:** A network of state and regional economic policy and advocacy organizations, coordinated by the Economic Policy Institute

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



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