

Three programs to help build economic security for all in Washington State

Funding these vital pieces of legislation will help all workers and families pay rent, save, or put food on the table in the face of job loss, poverty, or other emergencies.

Unemployment Benefits for undocumented workers ([HB1095/SB5109](#), Prime sponsor: Walen, Saldaña) *Creating an unemployment benefit system to cover immigrant workers facing job loss. Find more details [here](#).*

Immigrant workers are key members of our community and economy, and many pay into the system that funds unemployment insurance, but they are excluded from accessing this critical support when faced with job loss. This legislation would fix this exclusion.

- This program would reach 5,000-6,000 Washington workers a year, based on estimates from ESD.
- Mirrors the current unemployment benefit system: benefits would last for six months, and the weekly benefit amount would be calculated based on the worker's earnings, averaging \$200-\$900.
- This program is funded through General Fund; undocumented workers pay on average \$400 million a year into the general fund already through taxes. **There is no tax on employers.**

Lead advocates: OneAmerica, Working WA, WAISN, ACRS, NWIRP, WA State Budget and Policy Center, WA Community Alliance, LCF, and many more.

Guaranteed Basic Income ([HB 1045](#), Prime sponsor: Berry) *Ensuring families with the lowest incomes can meet their basic needs with dignity and agency through a monthly cash payment. Find more details [here and here](#).*

This two year pilot program would help to break the cycle of poverty and give people an opportunity to succeed.

- This program would include 7,500 Washington residents during the pilot.
- The 24 monthly payments would be based on the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in their county and ranges from \$892 - \$2,199.

Lead advocates: Equity in Education Coalition, WA State Budget and Policy Center, Statewide Poverty Action Network, and more.

Eligibility includes being under 200% FPL and:

- experiencing homelessness
- being pregnant
- raising a young child
- being an immigrant, refugee, or asylee
- exiting foster care system
- exiting juvenile or criminal justice system
- exiting a relationship or living situation due to domestic violence
- living with a disability
- living with a behavioral health disorder

Working Families Tax Credit ([HB1075/SB5249](#), [HB1477](#) Prime Sponsor: Thai, Shewmake)

A cash boost for lower income workers that helps to balance our inequitable tax code. Find more details [here](#).

The Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) provides a cash rebate to lower income working people (including some immigrant workers, and others who file taxes with an ITIN). The expansion bill (HB 1075/SB5249) would fix an age based exclusion for younger and older childless workers.

- **HB 1075:** This expansion would benefit an additional 220,000 Washington workers who are currently excluded based on age, but otherwise meet the eligibility requirements.
- This is a yearly cash boost of \$300 for childless workers aged 18-24 and 65+ who make below \$22,610/year (married, filing jointly) or \$16,480 (single filers).
- **HB 1477** is a technical and administrative fix bill that extends the WFTC application period to three years, includes married people filing separately, and requires the Dept. of Revenue to provide a report to the legislature on the program at the start of each biennium

Lead advocates: Working Families Tax Credit Coalition, including WA State Budget and Policy Center, Statewide Poverty Action Network, ACRS, OneAmerica, MomsRising, SEIU 775, WA Community Alliance, and more.

\$200 - \$900

a week

for up to six months in case of job loss

5,000 - 6,000
immigrant workers a year



Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot

\$892 - \$2,199
a month
for two years

7,500
people with low incomes, facing big transitions



\$300 a year
in cash back on taxes paid

220,000
younger and older working people with lower incomes



Unemployment Benefits for Undocumented Workers

Working Families Tax Credit Expansion

