



WASHINGTON LOW INCOME
Housing Alliance



Washington Housing Alliance
ACTION FUND

BOARD OPPORTUNITY

The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and the Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund are seeking passionate, diverse, and experienced board members. We're especially looking for board members who bring fundraising or finance expertise, are people of color, and/or live outside Seattle.

The **Housing Alliance** is a 501(c)(3) that develops and advocates for public policy solutions to the crisis of affordable housing and homelessness in Washington. Our organizational members include housing and service providers across the state and we mobilize those organizations plus a broad base of individuals to advocate for solutions.

The **Housing Action Fund** is the political voice in Washington for expanding access to affordable homes and solutions to homelessness. We are a 501(c)(4) that works to improve public policy through lobbying, electoral work, and organizing residents of affordable homes. Electoral work includes candidate endorsements, mobilizing volunteers for campaigns, and candidate contributions through a connected PAC.

Combined, we have a small but mighty staff of ten, 140+ organizational members across Washington state, and an online action network of 7,500+ individuals. Our boards establish strategic priorities, provide governance, and ensure we have the financial resources to sustain and grow our influence.

PUBLIC POLICY

- We advocate at the state, federal, and local levels for expanded funding for affordable homes. This includes advocacy for the state Housing Trust Fund, the National Housing Trust Fund, local housing levies, and more.
- We advocate for tenant rights and protections to make the private housing market more accessible for low-income people.
- We advocate for funding for services that move people out of homelessness, provide safety for people experiencing homelessness, and for services that prevent people from becoming homeless.
- We advocate for policies that prevent people from losing their homes to foreclosure and protect the rights of manufactured homeowners.
- We work outside silos by participating in coalitions and follow the leadership of other groups to improve public policy that impacts the lives of people struggling to afford a home. This includes supporting Racial Equity Team priorities, participating in coalition to expand access to voting, supporting anti-hunger priorities, and more.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

- **Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day:** Every year, we organize 650+ people to gather in Olympia for one of the state's largest lobby days of the year.
- **Board Advocacy Project:** 5,000-10,000 community leaders serve on the boards of housing and homelessness organizations in Washington. Those board members could be a powerful force for change and we work with our organizational members to engage them in advocacy.
- **Resident Action Project:** We are building power for our movement by organizing and providing leadership development opportunities for low-income people and people who live in affordable homes.
- **Conference on Ending Homelessness:** We organize an annual conference to bring together homelessness service providers, housing providers, government officials, and advocates to expand their

knowledge and skill in the effort to end homelessness. Last year's conference included more than 800 people.

- **Candidate recruitment and support:** The Housing Action Fund endorses and supports candidates for public office who are champions for our priorities and we are developing a recruitment and training effort to identify and help potential champions win public office.
- **Advancing equity and racial justice:** We are committed to dismantling systemic, institutional and personal experiences of oppression in regards to both process (how we work), and product (what we work on) to help create conditions in which all people have opportunity to thrive.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We are the only organization in Washington that brings together the experience of housing and service providers, the of expertise of people who have personally experienced homelessness and housing instability, and the power of a broad base of individual advocates to fight for solutions. We are the go-to organization on housing and homelessness policy in Washington and have the ear of lawmakers and the media. Our policy expertise is backed by people speaking up in communities all across the state. With the creation of the Housing Action Fund, we utilize every tool in the advocacy toolbox.

WHAT WE'RE MOST PROUD OF RIGHT NOW

Just some of our progress in the 2018 legislative session:

- After ten years of advocacy, landlords can no longer discriminate against tenants who use rental or income assistance to help pay rent.
- The legislature invested \$107 million for the Housing Trust Fund, to create 3,500 new affordable homes.
- We passed the Washington Housing Opportunities Act, to help 11,500 more people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness every year.

WE NEED YOU IF:

- You are passionate about ensuring that everyone in Washington has the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home.
- You can spend 5-10 hours per month attending board meetings, participating in committee work, and being an ambassador for the Housing Alliance and Housing Alliance Action Fund in your community.
- You will joyfully make a personally meaningful financial gift to the organization, are motivated to help raise funds, and prepared to learn new skills to succeed in this role.
- You are committed to advancing equity and racial justice.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next year or two, we are seeking several new board members to serve on either or both the Housing Alliance and Housing Action Fund boards. There are other ways future board members or individuals who want to learn more about our work can get involved. Contact Rachael Myers, Executive Director, for more information: Rachael@wliha.org or 206-442-9455 ext. 202.



Capitol steps - Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day

