



BOARD OPPORTUNITY

We're seeking a few great new board members who are passionate about housing justice and ready to put their expertise to work in support of our mission. **The Housing Alliance Action Fund (our C4 entity) is especially seeking new members to join us for the critical 2020 election year.** (If you're interested in serving on the C3 board, let us know, but we may ask to follow up at a later time.) We're especially looking for board members who bring fundraising or finance expertise, are people of color or have other identities that are overrepresented among people facing housing instability, and/or who live outside King County.

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.

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.

Combined, we have a small but mighty staff of ten, 140+ organizational members across Washington, 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 and prevent people from losing their homes.
- 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.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

- **Legislative agenda development:** Each year we gather information about housing needs across the state and convene members to adopt a legislative agenda that will ensure more people have a safe, healthy, affordable place to live. We develop good ideas into sound public policy and advocate for that through the state legislative process.
- **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 host 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.
- **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.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We are the only organization in Washington that brings together the experience of housing and service providers, the 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

- In 2018, after ten years of advocacy, we won a campaign to make it illegal for landlords to discriminate against tenants who use rental or income assistance to help pay rent.
- In 2018-2019 our advocacy resulted the legislature investing more than \$280 million in the Housing Trust Fund to build homes affordable for low income households all over the state and in 2019 created a brand-new local fund source for cities and counties to use for affordable homes.
- In 2019 we made the eviction process fairer with the biggest overhaul of the landlord tenant act since its creation in the 1970s.
- Our Resident Action Project is growing and building power for people who have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity to change public policy.
- We are prioritizing equity and racial justice in everything we do: working for equitable public policy, ensuring our leadership includes people from communities most impacted by homelessness and housing instability, supporting candidates of color and who have other historically marginalized identities, supporting staff development with race based caucusing and training, and more.

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 are committed to advancing equity and racial justice.
- 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.

NEXT STEPS

If you are interested applying to join the board of the Washington Housing Alliance Action Fund or the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, please contact Rachael Myers, Executive Director, for more information: rachaelm@housingactionfund.org or 206-442-9455 ext. 202.