

The 16th district is represented by Senator Maureen Walsh, Representative Bill Jenkin, and Representative Terry Nealey, and is located in South East Washington. Data below is for Walla Walla County and the Walla Walla School District.



KAI'S STORY

Before the Great Recession, Kai was living a good life. He worked full-time for a tech company, he had custody of his son, his daughter had just been born, and though they were renting, they lived in a 3 bedroom home in the country. But when the economy turned it turned hard, and Kai lost his job, his home, and his options.

Kai and his family decided to move to pursue new opportunities, but shortly after arriving in Washington, Kai's health failed and he nearly lost his life. He didn't know he had developed adult type 2 diabetes and due to his illness, he lost some of his eyesight. The decline of his health left him unemployed and without the ability pay rent, and then Kai and his family lost their home, again.

After a short stay in a family shelter, Kai and his family were referred to the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program at the Community Action Center. With the TBRA Program Kai was able to apply for and receive a Housing Choice (Section 8) voucher to help pay the rent. As a result of that income support, the family now lives in a safe, healthy, affordable home. The stability allows Kai to focus on being a parent, and on gaining new skills for future employment.

Kai says that because of his newfound stability, "My eldest daughter and her family have found us and my family is growing. I now stand at the edge of the rock bottom that I've been in, and I have hope again for myself and my family."



597
Housing Trust Fund supported homes



166
people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 62 unsheltered




285
homeless school children



\$12.71 PER HOUR
income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$17.02 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



2,065
families who are severely cost burdened and need access to affordable homes



\$178,700
median home price