



Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Sheet

1. Why should I attend the 2014 Advocacy Day?

Advocacy Day is an opportunity to show our elected officials the strength of this statewide movement. It demonstrates the collective power of our community and brings a unified message of support to Olympia for affordable housing and ending homelessness. Last year, your advocacy helped us make progress on our policy and funding goals, including an impactful investment in the Housing Trust Fund; a new law making it easier for survivors of domestic violence to find a new home; preserving the Housing and Essential Needs/Disability Lifeline programs; and much more. This session brings another budget deficit and a tough political environment, so we must again stand strong for our priorities. We'll need to join together and make a united call for a new investment in the Housing Trust Fund and to continue our push for new revenue protecting our state's safety net.

2. When and where is Advocacy Day 2014?

January 28, 2014, 8am - 4pm (check-in starting at 8am)
United Churches – 110 Eleventh Avenue SE, Olympia 98501

3. Where do I park?

United Churches offers limited parking and some street parking is available. We highly recommend that you carpool. For specifics on where to park once in Olympia and information on the city shuttle services please go to:

www.des.wa.gov/services/facilities/CapitolCampus/Pages/Parking.aspx. We have created an online account where you can see who is offering a ride to Olympia from around the state. You can follow this link to organize your Advocacy Day carpool:

www.carpoolworld.com/carpool_.html?event_number=6452.

4. What will I do during Advocacy Day 2014?

- Check in at United Churches and grab some breakfast.
- Get energized with a morning call to action that will include our legislative agenda and messaging for the key issues.
- Participate in a variety of advocacy workshops that will prepare you to talk with your legislator.
- Pick up a box lunch and meet with advocates from your district.
- Attend a rally on the steps of the Capitol Building with a guest speaker.
- Meet with your lawmaker to tell them your housing story and to advocate for the great need for more affordable housing and an end to homelessness.

5. Do I need to register beforehand?

We highly recommend that you register before the event. Only participants who pre-register by Tuesday, January 21, 2014 will be guaranteed a boxed lunch. Register by Tuesday, January 14 to ensure an appointment with legislators and/or legislative staff. You can register online here: tinyurl.com/HHADreg.

6. Do I register with my home or work address?

Please register with your home address to ensure you are matched with the correct legislative district and the correct legislator.

7. How much does it cost?

The cost of attendance is \$25. The Housing Alliance offers a partial scholarship, making your cost \$10 or full scholarships, making the day free for those who cannot afford to pay registration fees. You can also choose to register for \$25 and sponsor someone who cannot afford to attend by donating additional funds.

8. What if I want to bring others?

To register more than one person, please use the group registration form available on the Advocacy Day page at our website. Please submit group registration forms to Margie Quinn at the Housing Alliance (margie@wliha.org). Groups must have one group leader who will gather all members' names, phone numbers, emails, home addresses, and registration fees. Group leaders will check in the entire group on the day of the event in the group registration line. Groups may be split for legislative meetings based on where each member lives and which legislative district they reside.

9. What if I want to bring my kids?

Free childcare for a limited number of children is available during the morning program (8:30-11:30am). Slots are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage parents with kids to register right away. Children will need to be with their parents during the rally and any afternoon meetings with legislators. Lunch is available for children for \$5. Please request children's lunches on your registration form.

10. Can you offer any help to individuals trying to get to Olympia?

Yes. While we do not offer direct financial assistance to individuals for transportation, there are several options available. We have set up a website that allows you to find people in your area to carpool with. Please go to: www.carpoolworld.com/carpool.html?event_number=6452. We also give assistance to organizations that help transport individuals living in affordable housing and experiencing homelessness and can help connect individuals to local nonprofits with transportation. Please check the Advocacy Day page at wliha.org/HHAD, or contact Alouise at the Housing Alliance (alouise@wliha.org) for more information.

11. What is the transportation assistance fund?

For many organizations across the state, the cost of transporting advocates is a major barrier to participating in Advocacy Day. This is why we offer the Transportation Assistance Fund. However, this resource is limited.

The Housing Alliance will prioritize funding to organizations that:

- Organize individuals living in affordable housing and/or individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Work in partnership with other community organizations to ensure the best possible use of transportation assistance funding.
- Help ensure we have representation from every corner of the state.
- Have an active membership with The Housing Alliance and/or actively participate in Housing Alliance advocacy efforts.

All applications are due by Friday, December 13, 2013. We'll announce recipients of this year's transportation assistance funds by late December. If you have any questions, please email Alouise at the Housing Alliance (alouise@wliha.org).

12. Is everyone guaranteed a meeting with an elected official?

If you register by Tuesday, January 14, you are guaranteed the opportunity to attend a meeting with either an elected official or the elected official's staff. Meeting with legislative staff is just as influential as meeting with the legislator. Their staff can have great influence over the legislator's decision-making process and they often provide them with important research and information.

13. Is there anything I can do beforehand to learn more about advocacy and talking to my legislator?

Yes! The Housing Alliance is offering several pre-Advocacy Day webinars that you can register for. The webinars can be done from the convenience of your home or office. They are 1-hour long and cover the following topics: how the legislative process works, what Advocacy Day 2014 will look like, the Housing Alliance legislative agenda, best practices on using social media for advocacy, and how to talk to your legislator.

14. What if I need language translation assistance?

The Housing Alliance plans to have a Spanish-language interpreter available and interpretation equipment available throughout the day. We will also have key supporting documents translated into Spanish. If you have a language need other than Spanish, please contact Alouise Urness at the Housing Alliance to discuss what resources are available (alouise@wliha.org).

15. **What if I have a mobility restriction or other disability, will I be able to participate in Advocacy Day 2014?**

Both United Churches and the Capitol Building are accessible to those with limited mobility and a free shuttle offers transportation between United Churches and the Capitol Building. For more detailed information and/or requests regarding mobility issues please contact Alouise at the Housing Alliance. Please note there will also be volunteers at Advocacy Day who can help answer questions and guide individuals to resources needed. This website also reviews accommodations accessible to persons with disabilities and a map of all capitol campus entrances that are accessible:

leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/ADAInfo.aspx.

Helpful tips for the day concerning accessible entrances and accommodations:

- The morning program will be at United Churches which has a wheelchair-accessible entrance on the back side of the building and accessible bathrooms.
- A wheelchair-accessible shuttle bus runs regularly between United Churches and the Capitol Building to ensure access to both the legislative meetings and the rally on the north steps.
- The rally on the north steps can be accessed by entering the Capitol Building on the ground floor via the wheelchair-accessible entrance and then joining the rally at the top of the stairs.
- The Capitol Building is equipped with elevators to ensure access to all floors.
- Volunteers will be around to help guide individuals to accessible entrances and best routes to getting around the church, to the Capitol Building, and to the rally on the steps. If you have any questions throughout the day please find anyone with a nametag identifying them as an “Advocacy Steward.” They can help guide you to the right place.

16. **Do you need any volunteers for the day?**

Yes, the Housing Alliance could not pull off Advocacy Day without many dedicated volunteers. You can be involved in a number of ways, including: helping with registration, helping with set-up and cleanup, helping with guiding advocates around the capitol campus, and acting as a legislative district lead. For more information on how to volunteer, please contact Margie Quinn (margie@wliha.org) at the Housing Alliance.

17. **Will Advocacy Day have a social media component?**

On Twitter and Facebook, we will be using the hashtag **#HHAD2014** to release the latest information in the lead-up to Advocacy Day. We will also be using that hashtag to post photos, quotes, and news on the day of. For more information about social media and advocacy, check out: wliha.org/resources/media-advocacy#social.