# As families across Washington State find homes out of reach, hundreds gather in Olympia for more affordable homes and an end to homelessness



## Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Day

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 8am-4pm

## **Convening & Workshops**

8am-12:30pm The United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Ave SE Olympia, WA 98501

#### **Advocacy Day Rally**

12-12:30pm North steps of the Legislative Building

### Meeting with Legislators

11:30am-3:30pm Capitol Campus

Learn more about our **State Legislative Agenda**items at:
wliha.org/advocacy/state.

Our **Advocacy Day Schedule** is here: wliha.org/HHAD#agenda

Learn more about **Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Day** at: wliha.org/HHAD.

Learn more about the **Housing** Alliance at: wliha.org.

January 27, 2014

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Widening inaccessibility to affordable homes and an increase in homeless young people across the state means these issues have become a huge priority for communities across the state.

Last year, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction found more than 27,000 homeless young students across Washington with the largest jumps in young people who are "doubled-up", which means couch-surfing or staying at the home of relatives or neighbors.

In addition, the <u>National Low Income Housing Coalition</u> found that **for every 100** extremely low-income families in the state earning less than \$23,400 a year for a family of three, only 47 affordable apartments are available.

These two facts taken together means the legislature must act to help create affordable homes and fund successful programs that transition people off of the streets into safe, healthy, affordable homes.

This is also why this year's theme is "...It All Starts at Home..." Advocates are increasingly making the connections between having a home and positive education and even healthcare outcomes.

Coordinated by the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, we have a full day planned for our advocates, including legislator meetings throughout the day, advocacy workshops, and a rally on the north steps of the Capitol Building. The Advocacy Day rally features Senator David Frockt (46<sup>th</sup> LD) and Representative June Robinson (38<sup>th</sup> LD).

Our State Legislative Agenda includes:

- Pass Part 3 of the Fair Tenant Screening Act (HB 2537/SB 6291)
  Ensuring people undergoing a housing search don't have to repeatedly pay for costly and unnecessary duplicate tenant screening reports.
- Eliminate Document Recording Fee Sunsets (HB 2368/SB 6313)

  Preserve real estate document recording fees, which account for over 60% of funding for successful homeless programs, especially in rural counties.
- Bring the total **Housing Trust Fund** investment to as close to 4% of the total Capital Budget as possible.

Housing Alliance Executive Director Rachael Myers believes that our legislators can make a huge difference this short session, "Our state has made progress on ending homelessness - since 2006, we've reduced it by 29% statewide. But on any given night there are still more than 17,000 people who are homelessness, and many thousands more who can barely afford to keep a roof over their heads. Even in this short session, the legislature has an opportunity to make sure we're moving forward, not abandoning efforts that are working." ###