



## Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County 2010 Legislative Agenda

*The Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County's mission is to provide strategic leadership in crafting policy and program solutions to affordable housing challenges in Snohomish County. We believe that the following policy and budget proposals will have a significant impact on the amount of housing that is affordable for families in Snohomish County.*

### **Support Existing Resources for Affordable Housing:**

- Maintain Funding for the Washington State Housing Trust Fund at \$200 million.

*The Housing Trust Fund is a critical tool that builds homes for working families and extremely low-income people, while providing the economic stimulus our state needs during these difficult economic times.*

### **End Homelessness for Homeless Families with Children:**

- Authorize an allocation of \$6 million for the Washington Families Fund.

*The Washington Families Fund supports affordable housing paired with supportive services including job training, parenting classes, and financial planning that help connect families to the opportunities they need to stabilize their lives and become self sufficient.*

### **Plan for the Housing Needs of Individuals Exiting State Systems of Care:**

- Promote systems coordination and cost savings by identifying strategies to stop discharging people into homelessness from Washington State Corrections, mental health, foster care, and juvenile justice systems.

*Preventing homelessness is the most effective way to end homelessness. Laying the foundation for effective discharge practices from state institutions will significantly reduce the burden on law enforcement, criminal justice systems, emergency services and the homeless system.*

### **Preserve Manufactured Housing Communities:**

- Provide homeowners two years notice of intent to close manufactured housing communities.

*Manufactured homes offer many seniors and young families affordable homeownership in Snohomish County. In order to give manufactured homeowners the necessary time to plan for their futures and move their homes, owners need two years notice of the landlord's intent to sell.*

### **Create a Fair Tenant Screening Act to Eliminate Barriers to Housing:**

- Allow tenants to pay once for a portable screening report, be able to use it again within a 60 day period, and remove misleading information from their records.

*Washington should establish a framework for tenant screening reports in order to significantly reduce the costs of moving.*