

Bi-monthly Advocate Call

Friday, March 26 1:00-2:15PM via Zoom

Time	Topic	Speaker	Notes
1:00	Welcome	Rachael Myers, Housing Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are 1 month out from the end of session! • Grant opportunity through Vaccine Equity Initiative – deadline April 7th, with quick turn around. Grants range in size from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for organizations working to get vaccines distributed in an equitable way: https://allinwa.org/vaccine-equity-initiative-funding-guidelines/ • Update since presentation from Tara Bostock at Dept of Health last month: Some who work in homeless and DV shelters are now eligible to receive their vaccine in the current Tier! If you need more information, reach out to rachaelm@wliha.org - highly recommend checking with your PCP for vaccine appointments.
1:05	Commerce update	Tedd Kelleher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several weeks ago Dept of Commerce amended existing rent assistance programs with additional funding, and created new contracts for federal treasury money (T-RAP). • Important part is state money is out there. Some communities have formally re-opened their applications, and others are processing rent payments through their application backlogs from when they closed. • There should be an update next week on which counties are accepting applications or how soon they will be open again. • Commerce is watching the state budget and will look forward to sharing more.
1:15	National HoUSed Update	Olivia Arena, National Low Income Housing Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New House Campaign – National Campaign launching Tuesday. • The house campaign focuses on advancing anti-racist policies that help achieve large scale sustained investments and reforms to ensure that renters with the lowest incomes have a place to call home. And we also want to be inclusive of those experiencing homelessness. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ensuring universal rental assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - goal is to make housing assistance available to all eligible households and three big priorities include significantly expanding and guaranteeing funding for housing choice vouchers, creating a rental tax credit to cover rental costs, exceeding that 30% of renters income, and making housing assistance mandatory congressional spending 2. expanding and preserving the supply of affordable rental homes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Housing Trust Fund. Trust Fund funded at least \$40 billion annually - \$70 billion in preserving and rehabilitating public housing - requiring inclusive zoning and land reforms to reverse residential segregation. 3. providing emergency rental assistance to households in crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating a national housing stabilization fund would provide emergency assistance to households experiencing an economic shock

			<p>4. strengthening and enforcing renter protections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prohibiting source of income discrimination, establishing and funding a national right to counsel <p>Reach out to Olivia with questions or interest in getting more involved: oarena@nlihc.org</p> <p>https://nlihc.org/housed</p> <p>We are thinking of these four strategies together as being a way to make a serious impact toward providing housing to anyone and everyone.</p>
1:25	Update on Executive Orders	Eric Dunn, National Housing Law Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Charge rule overturned – DHS reinterpreted the definition of public charge to create additional barriers to citizenship and create possibility for renewal. This also created barriers to accessing public housing and services, along with a chilling effect among those eligible for programs. AG Ken Paxton has filed a petition with the Supreme Court to intervene on this decision. It hasn't been ruled on. • Mixed status families rule implemented by HUD would have upending a longstanding rule that if a family has some members eligible for public housing and some not, they can live together under the same roof but receive pro-rated assistance. Rule would have impacted many people ineligible for assistance including undocumented people, as well as people for whom producing documentation proving eligibility would be a barrier (those without a birth certificate, those with disabilities). The rule was delayed due to public comment and covid, so it never went into effect before the Trump administration was over. So no expectation that this will go into effect. • Disparate impact rule/discriminatory effects rule - Obama administration laid out a good rule related to policies that have a negative impact on a protected class, even if on its face it doesn't seem discriminatory. This had long been the law under the Fair Housing Act, but there was a lot of murkiness around it and in 2013 the Obama rule clarified the law. The Trump administration's order made it virtually impossible to apply the disparate impact rule. Now, the Obama rule is back in effect, and the Biden administration has issued an additional order for HUD to review the rule to see if any additional improvements can be made to the 2013 rule. • Equal access rule – under Obama, this rule prevented discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in shelters. Trump administration put out a rule reversing this, allowing shelters to decide for themselves. The Biden administration has issued a rule requiring gender identity and sexual orientation to be included under existing sex discrimination protection.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair housing rule - Trump administration dismantled assessment tools that local governments use to understand housing barriers and patterns of segregation, making it impossible to an assessment of fair housing. They replaced it with something that they called Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice. The new rule was also promulgated through public comment, etc. Fair housing rule won't be ended. • CDC rule - Q: The NAHB sent out a message to their members saying that any landlord who is a member of their organization does not need to comply with the federal eviction moratorium, regardless of what state they are in. We have the state moratorium here, but curious if it is true that landlords are not subject to it merely by membership status in that organization? A: There have been 3 rulings that the CDC eviction moratorium is unconstitutional, including in OH and TN. Dept of Justice appealed and put out a public statement that the court only issued a "declaratory judgment" only impacting the parties in those cases. So DOJ still enforcing the moratorium everywhere in the country except the western district of Tennessee, where a decision is pending. The argument that organizations could claim to be party to a court decision by their membership is not true. • Rule preventing use of critical race theory in training any federal employees – this is gone.
1:35	Progressive Revenue Update	Emily Parzybok, Balance Our Tax Code Coalition	<p>Tracking a few different bills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 5096 to create a capital gains tax is alive and doing well. We don't expect to see it move forward this week - currently over in House Finance - developing strategy around revenue bills have to kind of cover a few hurdles they have to pass the legislature; they have to pass a legal challenge they have to pass potentially the ballot - really optimistic and pleased that it passed the Senate this year. • HB 1406, the "wealth bill" is in finance committee and may move this week. This has been paired with an anti-displacement measure. Hoping to see both heard in the Senate soon. A lot of work this year to pair progressive revenue with relief for those who have been paying too much for too long. • HB 1465 to create an estate tax is in finance committee but doesn't seem to be moving forward. • Call to Action: working families tax credit has seen incredible bipartisan support throughout session. It's written into the budget - feeling really good about it, in House Ways and Means – last hearing! <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qtVUFiORZA6svdAlqDsKj9Yy-zW_Vn4MIJrQZFojwFw/edit</p>

1:40	Communities of Concern Commission	Kenny Pittman, Catholic Community Services of Western WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josephine testifying today on the operating budget. • CCC is statewide with members around the state - recently added a member in Kitsap County. • Requested \$5M in the operating budget and \$6M in the capital budget. Was not included in the operating budget, but there was \$500k in the capital budget with a comment that there's intent to to fund up to \$2.5M with a list of projects.
1:45	Implementing Local Housing Options	Beth Doglio, Housing Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting at a later date.
1:50	State legislative update	Michele Thomas, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Housing Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once again we are at a critical juncture in the legislative session with cutoffs coming, and budgets just released this week. • Sine die (last day of session) is April 24. • After this week there will continue to be fiscal committee meetings (Senate Ways & Means, House Capital Budget, House Finance, House Transportation, and House Appropriations). • All our bills are alive and have made it through policy committee. Now they need to pass through fiscal committee unless they are not designated NTIB (necessary to implement budget). • Rep Ormsby's bill creates prevention rental asst fund through a new \$100 document recording fee. This bill made it out of committee with bipartisan support. • Two other bills subject to the deadline next Friday: SB 5160 and HB 1220. • SB 5160, Senator Kuderer's eviction reform bill, provides right to counsel for low-income tenants facing eviction. Needs to make it through Appropriations and then off the House floor. This was fully funded in the Operating Budget! • HB 1220 by Rep Peterson would prevent cities from discriminating against emergency housing and shelter (like what's happening at the Red Lion in Renton). The bill also requires improved planning through Growth Management Act (created to curtail urban sprawl and preserve green space and farm land) - prevent gentrification of communities, planning for enough affordable housing and create policies that prevent cities from discriminating against affordable housing. Sent out action last week – please support! We need advocates across the state to show their support as this is fairly controversial. • HB 1236 – Pulled today and is positioned for a vote on the senate floor – stay tuned for more and keep your eye out for our action alert on Monday! • We can use help with vote counting, please let us know if you're available to support in finding out what way their representatives are going to vote! • Update on Budgets – have yet to see House Operating Budget • Coming out are the Senate budget proposals and the House budget proposals – please push over the coming weeks for changes we want to see. The budgets are better than were

			<p>anticipated, but still have a long way to go. Haven't seen cuts in programming, but have not seen everything funded that we want. With over 10,000 people in WA unsheltered, we need to take this seriously, it's a critical emergency!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Operating Budget fully funded the HEN program - this signals acceptance that this is the new baseline funding and what we should expect going forward. Given leadership of Rep Macri and Rep Ormsby in developing state budgets, we're hoping to continue seeing this. • Missing from the budget: Anchor Communities Initiative and Communities of Concern Initiative. • The Senate has fully funded the Foundational Community Supports program through the Health Care Authority. <p>Operating Budget Crosswalk (will be updated) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oJ7nS2iUQH1-W5noMe85l1AEFsfXc90x_U5t3jk5fgU/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p>Capital Budget Crosswalk https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1svlkvHxd037PGlqwp4VQGX_M3usT7vDEJvCZiZRDQ5o/edit#gid=0</p>
2:15	Adjourn	Rachael	