

**Eastside Human Services Forum
Final Outcome of 2009 Legislative Priorities**

Priority Area	Issue	Final Status	Comments	EHSF Actions
Infrastructure and System Support for Sustainable Health and Human Services	WIN 2-1-1	Funded at \$2 million (including Rep. Ericks' amendment for using \$1million in unused WA Telephone Assistance Program funds - WTAP)	WTAP helps eligible low income residents to afford a home phone and homeless people access a community voice mailbox. This funding will allow WIN 2-1-1 to continue operating at its current level, although service requests have risen 24% statewide.	Participated in email campaign to maintain funding for WIN 2-1-1.
	Give local governments the needed revenue tools to create funding sources for health and human services that are non-regressive, non-cyclical, and sustainable.	Several new revenue tools were not approved (e.g. utility taxes on unincorporated areas).	2SSB 5433, <i>Modifying Provisions of Local Option Taxes</i> did pass. This will allow up to 50% of the one-tenth of one percent sales tax for mental health and substance abuse to be used for core services for a five year period.	EHSF has been represented at County level meetings, actively involved in monitoring and responding to proposed King County human services budget cuts and tracking the sales tax funding plans (MIDD).
Support Efforts to Prevent and End Homelessness	Housing Trust Fund	Funded at \$110 million	The HTF was increased to \$200 million during the 2008 Legislative Session, so this represents a 50% cut in funding to create affordable housing units statewide.	Sent letters to Gov. Gregoire and East King County Legislators. Sent a second letter to House and Senate Representatives as cuts were being proposed.
	Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent Program (THOR)	Funded at \$10 million, an increase from the last biennium	THOR provides temporary housing for people transitioning from homelessness. Funds for THOR are tied to a recording fee (\$20) that counties can assess on real estate transactions. The fee expires	Sent letters to Gov. Gregoire and East King County Legislators.

			6/30/13. Some of the funds would go to the State, some to the county. A portion of the recording fees will also fund Independent Youth Housing, the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program, and the 90 day housing voucher program for ex-offenders.	
Affordable, High Quality Childcare & Parent/Caregiver Support	Home Visiting	Funding was reduced from \$3.5 million received in the last biennium to \$2 million for this biennium.	Funds are administered by the Council for Children and Families. They have not yet announced how they will make these cuts to programs they fund statewide.	All East King County Legislators received EHSF's Legislative Agenda, naming issues in this priority area. Early learning and support for
	Child Care Subsidy Rate Increase	No increases were funded.	No increases in the subsidy rate were included in the budget and there was no increase in the co-pay rate for families.	quality, affordable childcare have been EHSF priorities each year since the Forum's first
	Families, Friends, and Neighbors	Funding was reduced from \$1.6 million to \$400,000 for this biennium.	Funds are used for play and learn resources, parent education workshops, and parent informational materials.	Legislative Agenda in 2007.

Issues That Were Monitored

Issue	Status	Comments
Cover all Kids by 2010	Bill was passed early in the session using federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funding	Families who earn up to 300% of the FPL will be able to purchase state health insurance for their children by 1/1/10. EHSF sent thank you letters to the Gov. and Senators Cantwell and Murray for their support of Cover All Kids made possible by a federal funds increase of \$15 million/year.
Feeding Hungry Kids Act	Co-pays for lunch for low-income children in Kindergarten through 3 rd grade are waived; free breakfast is available for all grades and the summer meal programs will be funded.	A new report by <i>Feeding America</i> indicated that 18 percent of children under the age of five (73,960) in Washington are food insecure.

Washington New Americans Initiative	Washington New Americans was funded again in the amount of \$585K for the next biennium.	OneAmerica has applied for \$1.2 million in stimulus money for naturalization services. If awarded, OneAmerica will work with local partners like Chinese Information and Service Center to implement programs.
Adult Day Health	As of 7/1/09, funding for Adult Day Health (ADH) services will be limited to in-home clients and transportation funding was eliminated. Clients living in Adult Family Homes or Boarding Homes will no longer have ADH services paid for by the state.	Elder and Adult Day Services (EADS) has closed its Kirkland site due to the lack of state funding. Regarding transportation to ADH centers, there are concerns that these clients will not be able access the services if they must pay their own transportation costs.
General Assistance-Unemployable	The GAU program was retained with some cuts to healthcare benefits, but the monthly cash grant of \$339 will remain the same.	Homelessness advocates were concerned that without this program, many more single adults would find themselves homeless; currently many GAU recipients are homeless.