



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES  
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

February 27, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

Catholic Community Services (CCS) is supportive of the **Poverty Reduction Work Group's 10-year Plan for the Future to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington State**. For the past year and a half, Josephine Tamayo Murray, Donna Christensen and I have represented CCS in working with the PRWG to develop a plan that, if implemented, will meaningfully and measurably reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state. We are grateful to you for your support of poverty reduction, and look forward to bringing the plan to action.

Reducing poverty and inequality is highly important to the mission of Catholic Community Services (CCS). We believe in joining with others to change the systems that oppress, discriminate or otherwise cause human suffering. The implementation of the PRWG's plan is critical to addressing the root causes of poverty that have prevented all people living to their fullest potential.

We understand that the PRWG co-lead agencies will be conducting a series of community engagement meetings and finalizing the *10-year Plan for the Future* this summer. We look forward to supporting their efforts. In the meantime, we urge your continued support of the strategic plan and taking immediate steps to begin implementing it by:

- Directing state agencies to write action plans to fulfill the strategies outlined in the plan;
- Elevating the influence and expertise of people most affected by poverty in the implementation of the plan;
- Moving forward with the strategies below and their respective recommendations:
  - + Strategy 2-Make equal space in decision-making for people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality,
  - + Strategy 5-Address the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness, violence, mental illness, and/or addiction, and
  - + Strategy 6-Build an integrated human service continuum of care that addresses the holistic needs of children, adults and families; and
- Funding the PRWG's short-term priorities in the next budget cycle.

Catholic Community Services (CCS) counts on your support of the plan's implementation. Thank you for supporting the Poverty Reduction Work Group and your passion for making Washington State a place where every child, adult, and family can thrive. If we can do anything further to support this effort, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Michael Reichert  
President