



January 23, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee:

Pacific Mountain Workforce Council (PacMtn WDC) supports the ***10-year Plan for the Future*** prepared by the Poverty Reduction Work Group. Reducing poverty and inequality in Washington State is an enormous and important task. If the Plan is implemented, we think it will meaningfully and measurably impact the lives of some of our most vulnerable state residents. We appreciate your support of poverty reduction efforts. We look forward to leveraging this work and hope you will continue to hold state agencies accountable for actions on these important recommendations.

Reducing poverty and inequity is critical to PacMtn's mission. The 5-counties served by PacMtn are significantly impacted by the ravages of poverty. Enabling access to prosperity for ALL is the essence of the public workforce system. Daily, we see the damage being poor does to individual lives and families of those we serve. This Plan offers data, sparks ideas, inspires hope and drives the accountability necessary to make real change. We were particularly impressed with the elevation of the voices of those impacted by poverty. These voices are routinely ignored, misunderstood and deemed inadequate to influence planning, policy and programs. This Plan features their experiences and tells their story. We need to listen.

The Work Group co-lead agencies are slated to conduct summer meetings and finalize the *10-year Plan for the Future*. That will be an important step. There are still communities and populations that need to be included in our understanding of the problems and solutions. To the extent we can PacMtn will support their efforts. In the meantime, we urge your continued support of the Plan and ask you take immediate steps to begin implementation 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;
- Highlighting best practices of agencies around the state combatting poverty;
- Continuing to champion the plight and the possibilities for those experiencing poverty;
- Recognizing necessary partnerships with community based organizations like ours who are close to those impacted and are able to bring about change;
- Funding short-term priorities and investing in immediate solutions.



We believe these actions lay a strong foundation for the full implementation of the plan over the next 10 years, and provide immediate, urgent relief for the 1.8 million Washingtonians currently struggling to make ends meet in communities throughout our state.

Thank you for supporting the Poverty Reduction Work Group and your commitment to making Washington a place where every child, adult, and family can thrive. This will make our communities and economy stronger.

If PacMtn Workforce Council can do anything further to support this effort, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacquelin Early".

Jacquelin Early
WDC Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl B. Fambles".

Cheryl B. Fambles
Chief Executive Officer