



February 24, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee,

Please accept this letter of support for the **Poverty Reduction Work Group's 10-year Plan for the Future to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state**. For the past two years, PRWG has worked diligently to develop a plan that, if implemented, will meaningfully and measurably reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state.

Reducing poverty and inequality is in direct alignment with the mission of Statewide Poverty Action Network. Poverty Action has worked closely with the PRWG since its inception in 2018, serving as a member of the group, as well as the convener and facilitator of the Steering Committee. It has been an honor to participate in this effort and we have been impressed at the extent to which the PRWG has incorporated input from people in poverty. At Poverty Action, we know that poverty is long-standing, intergenerational, and racialized. In other words, we know that it will take policy and structural change to solve it. We are thrilled that this plan acknowledges – and recommends solutions for – that reality.

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, both as Poverty Action and as the convener of the Steering Committee. In the meantime, we urge your 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 expertise of people most affected by poverty in the implementation of the plan;
- Highlighting the importance of addressing poverty and racism in your public engagements;
- Supporting and signing legislation that reinvests in our state's critical safety net programs;
- Embracing bold and innovative policy proposals that address poverty and inequality; and
- Funding the PRWG's short-term priorities in the next budget cycle.

We believe these actions will 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 your leadership in creating a Washington where every child, adult, and family can thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcy Bowers", written in a cursive style.

Marcy Bowers, Executive Director

Solid Ground's Tax ID# is 23-7421892.

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.