



1501 Pacific Avenue  
Suite 400  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 272-4263  
[www.uwpc.org](http://www.uwpc.org)  
Dial 2-1-1 for help

January 21, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee,

Please accept United Way of Pierce County 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. 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 critically important to the mission of United Way of Pierce County. For nearly 100 years, United Way of Pierce County has focused on mobilizing the caring power of community to address the most complex and critical needs in our community. In 2017, Our Board of Directors put a stake in the ground with a goal to lift 15,000 households out of poverty and into financial stability by 2028, one family at a time. The success of this 10-year plan sends a message to our communities within Washington State, that by removing barriers, eliminating inequities and providing access to opportunities and support, all families can thrive and break the cycle of poverty. United Way is committed to joining this fight.


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;
- Targeting income growth and wealth building actions among people with low incomes; 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 supporting the Poverty Reduction Work Group and your passion for making Washington state a place where every child, adults, and family can thrive. If we can do anything further to support this effort, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Dona Ponepinto  
President and CEO

***Great things happen when we LIVE UNITED***