



Wrapping Up The 2008 State Legislative Session: A Watershed Year for Housing & Homelessness

In what will likely be remembered as a year of exponential growth, both in resources and recognition, the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance emerged from the 2008 legislative session with a remarkable collection of successes, and a clear roadmap for future advocacy.

The Alliance's Lead Agenda

Priority	Final Status
<p>\$100 Million For the Housing Trust Fund: The Alliance sought \$100 million in new resources in order to make real progress on the development backlog and set a new bar for housing funding.</p>	<p>\$70 million in new funding! We go into the 2009 session with the Housing Trust Fund at \$200 million. How the funding Breaks down: -\$50 million for the Housing Trust Fund (set asides: \$10 million for flood prone areas, \$2 million for on-farm housing, \$250,000 for the City of Burien, \$100,000 for cost-reduction studies) -\$10 million for the Rapid Response Land Acquisition Program -\$10 million for the Nonprofit Equity fund.</p>
<p>Invest in the Washington Families Fund</p>	<p>\$6 million for the Washington Families Fund!</p>
<p>Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Low Income Housing Construction</p>	<p>Though a broad coalition, from local government to builders and Realtors, came together around the bill, we were not able to advance beyond the House Finance Committee.</p>
<p>Prioritize Housing Affordability In State Infrastructure Funding</p>	<p>The broad coalition working to support this bill nearly achieved success, but faltered in final negotiations.</p>
<p>Provide Incentives To Preserve Manufactured Housing (HB 1621)</p>	<p>Success! A victory that will hopefully slow the loss of manufactured housing communities.</p>
<p>End Source of Income Discrimination (HB 1956)</p>	<p>Though the bill advanced further than it ever has, it finally died in the Senate.</p>
<p>Ensure Fair Zoning for Affordable Housing Development (HB 2279)</p>	<p>Success! A new victory for affordable housing developers.</p>
<p>Homeownership Counseling Funding</p>	<p>Success! The legislature provided a variety of new resources to counsel homeowners and to help them prevent foreclosure.</p>