

ARCH Eastside Housing Trust Fund Talking Points: 2019-20 Budget Hearings

The Problem

- As rents and home prices rise, more and more people are being priced out of their east side communities, including food service workers in our local restaurants, administrative and janitorial staff in our schools and hospitals, and young people who return from college in hopes of making a life in their hometowns, only to find that they can't afford to do so unless they move back into their parents' homes.
- With the increase in the cost of housing, we have seen increases in homelessness in our communities. During the 2018 One Night Count, 393 people were found sleeping outside on the east side, while over 30,000 East King County residents pay more than 50% of their incomes on housing, putting them just one crisis away from losing their homes. The five school districts that serve ARCH member cities reported a collective total of 828 homeless students during the 2014-15 school year.
- In 1998, when the ARCH parity goals were created, the goal of the Eastside Housing Trust Fund was to produce \$1-2 million each year for affordable housing. At that time, the average rent in East King County was \$849. Today, that average is \$2,087 for the east side as a whole.

Our Values

- It should be possible for working people to afford housing and still have enough money for the basics like groceries and gas and child care.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home.
- Children deserve a chance to succeed in school and in life, which all begins with their family being able to afford a decent place to live.
- It's better for society, the environment, and families if people can afford to live close to where they work.

The Solution

- In light of the enormous level of need in our community and the dramatically changed economic context of our region, we have requested that the ARCH members increase their contributions. We ask that you choose to set higher standards for your city's contribution.

- We know that many cities are pursuing legislative strategies that would give them additional local funding authority. We applaud this work and hope to partner with you on it, but the need is immense and people experiencing homelessness and unstably housed members of your community cannot wait. Please take the opportunity before you now to demonstrate your commitment to addressing our region's housing crisis by doing your part to increase the ARCH member cities' collective contribution.