

DEMAND IMMEDIATE, IMPACTFUL, AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC INTERVENTION IN WASHINGTON

Our state and region are facing two related threats. One is a public health crisis, the other is a catastrophic economic crisis.

Even as Washington State leaders have taken swift action in fighting coronavirus, a devastating economic crash is underway. Our local and state leaders are working hard to address the impacts of this crisis. Everyone—from community organizations to faith leaders, businesses and unions—is pitching in. Still, we are in danger of being caught in a vicious cycle of falling wages, falling demand, and failing businesses that lasts for months—even years.

We call on our elected leaders at the federal, state, and local levels to act with short- and long-term plans that are:

→ IMMEDIATE

We need to take urgent action to address the economic impacts that businesses, workers, and families are already facing. But the economic effects of coronavirus will outlive the pandemic - while swift steps are necessary, they should also build a foundation for an enduring recovery.

→ IMPACTFUL

Solutions must be scaled to the size of the problem. Chipping away at the edges with small grants and half-measures will not be sufficient. We need to be ambitious, be bold, and craft a response for the largest possible impact.

→ INCLUSIVE

We need solutions that include everyone. Years of trickle-down economic policies have left thousands of workers and communities in the margins - contract workers, non-brick-and-mortar small businesses, and those who have been historically marginalized.

Simply put, we need to get money in the pockets of workers, families, and small businesses immediately, and no solutions should be off the table.

The [most recent projections](#) from the Economic Policy Institute warn that we could lose almost 320,000 jobs in Washington by summer—106,000 jobs a month. In the Puget Sound region alone, a [report from the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce](#) found 40 percent of workers are facing immediate job risk because of the pandemic, including lost hours and temporary layoffs. This doesn't even include non-traditional sectors like gig workers—who the report found have “little to no chance for support.” If we want to escape this destructive economic spiral, we need to act today to protect our people, our community organizations, our labor organizations, and our businesses.

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Washington's future is at stake. Sign onto our letter today demanding immediate, impactful, and inclusive action to protect the health of our economy, protect the rights of workers, and support our families.

Bellwether Housing

Byrd Barr Place

Civic Ventures

Economic Opportunity Institute

KEXP

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

MLK Labor Council

OneAmerica

Seattle/King County Coalition on

Homelessness

SEIU 775

Sound Alliance

Transit Riders Union

UFCW 21

Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

Washington State Budget & Policy Center

Washington Education Association

Washington State Council of Fire Fighters

Win/Win Network

Working Washington

YouthCare

Youth Development Executives of King
County