

Transforming Lives

DSHS co-leading Governor Inslee's Poverty Reduction Work Group

In a bold step to reduce poverty in a way that eliminates disparities and allows all Washingtonians opportunities to realize their full potential, the Department of Social and Health Services—together with the Employment Security Department and the Department of Commerce—has been tasked with co-leading the Governor's [Poverty Reduction Work Group](#) (PRWG).

In his directive establishing the work group, the Governor stated "We want Washington to be a state where everyone has the opportunity to share in the prosperity enjoyed by so many."

The work group is developing plans with a diverse group of multiple agencies and stakeholders to measurably and significantly reduce the number of people living in poverty.

As part of its work, the PRWG will deliver to the Governor:

- A comprehensive 10-year poverty reduction strategy. With a focus on identifying and implementing cross-agency, systemic public policy strategies to move people out of poverty for the Executive and Legislative branch consideration.
- Implementation Report – Subsequently the workgroup must submit a report on progress toward achieving the goals of the above comprehensive 10-year poverty reduction strategy and to make further recommendations on actions needed to achieve those goals.

The [Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force \(aka, Poverty Reduction Task Force\)](#), which was established by [HB 1482](#) during the 2018 Legislative Session, is also focused on reducing poverty

The purpose of this task force is to serve as a platform for legislative and executive branches to oversee the operation of the WorkFirst and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs, and determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program.

The task force is also the lead with developing and monitoring strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty. The task force serves as an advisory capacity to recommend policy actions to the governor and the legislature to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty.

[Learn more about the Governor's Poverty Reduction Work Group.](#)

[Learn more about the Poverty Reduction Task Force.](#)

