



United Way of
Thurston County

Education to Financial Stability

TASK FORCE

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The Education to Financial Stability Task Force, an initiative of United Way of Thurston County, in partnership with:



United Way of Thurston County fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. We mobilize the caring power of Thurston County to solve our most complicated social issues. One of the most critical problems currently facing Thurston County and Washington State is homelessness.

While we recognize that availability of affordable housing, and providing addiction and mental health services are critical, these alone cannot resolve homelessness. In order for any effort to succeed, we need to resolve the chronic economic condition that is feeding this pipeline to crisis, by elevating wages through growth of industry sectors that provide higher incomes and preparing the local workforce for success.

Did you know? In Thurston County, we employ 30,000 workers every year from neighboring counties to fill high-skilled, high paying trade jobs. Our graduates need increased access to trade schools, apprenticeship programs or other certification pathways to be able to fill the available jobs.

Did you know? In Thurston County, 11% of families live at or below the poverty level of \$11,880 for a single adult and \$24,300 for a family of four in 2016?

Did you know? In Thurston County, 25% of families live at or below the ALICE threshold? ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living in Thurston County.

Over 40 percent of U.S. households earn below the ALICE Threshold, which means that millions of families are forced to make difficult choices and risky trade-offs every day because they do not have enough income or assistance to afford basic necessities.

Nearly 50% of Washington's graduates are not enrolling in continuing education after receiving their diploma. This has tremendous economic consequences. All high school graduates need to be ready to enact a strong and well-thought-out high-school-and-beyond plan that connects their continuing education to their eventual work field.

Special Thanks to Our Cornerstone Partners





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The Education to Financial Stability Task Force was launched in August 2019 with the primary goal of delivering innovative 21st century education, to meet the needs of a 21st century economy.

Continuing education after high school graduation is critical to long term financial stability. A future focused view of continuing education includes 2- and 4-year college degrees, the military, trade schools or other credential-earning programs, or formal apprenticeships.

Engaging in post graduation education, and completing a degree or credential increases the potential for financial security and wage growth.

Significant economic opportunities exist in a diverse and growing number of fields, including skilled trades, manufacturing, technology, biotech, robotics, healthcare, entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture, and green economy jobs, to name a few.

The Task Force will develop and advance a legislative and policy agenda to advocate for systems change, eliminating barriers to diverse learning and teaching opportunities for students and educators. The Task Force will develop shared language, messaging, and advocacy strategies to be delivered throughout our communities regarding proposed system changes that can profoundly improve economic outcomes and long term self-sufficiency and financial stability for all.

Members of the task force bring subject matter expertise in K-12 and post-secondary education, career and technical education, economic and workforce development, business and entrepreneurship, skilled trades, legislation, criminal justice, and public policy.

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