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# Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force

May 20, 2021

8:30 am – 11:30 am



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# Agenda

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Welcome and Introductions

Office of Equity – Introduction and Overview - Dr. Karen Johnson

Task Force Business

Review and confirm prior meeting minutes

[Taskforce membership](#) update

TANF/WorkFirst Updates

WorkFirst Spending Plan – Babs Roberts

Poverty Reduction Work

Update on strategic plan activities– Lindsay Morgan Tracy

Poverty Reduction Workgroup updates – Babs Roberts

Agency updates on ARPA – All

Economic Security for All update – Tim Probst

Public Comments



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# Office of Equity Dr. Karen Johnson



# The Office of Equity

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## *What's Next?! Briefing*

### *Legislative Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force (LEWPRO)*

*May 20, 2021*

Karen A. Johnson, PhD | she.her.hers  
Director, Office of Equity



# The Office of Equity

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*Why, What, How & What's Next?!*

Karen A. Johnson, PhD | she.her.hers  
Director, Office of Equity

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*equity & justice for all*



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## *Why – The Legislature finds that...*

- the population of Washington state has become increasingly diverse over the last several decades.
- as the demographics of our state change, historically and currently marginalized communities still do not have the same opportunities to meet parity as their nonmarginalized counterparts across nearly every measure including education, poverty, employment, health, and more.





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## *Why – The Legislature finds that...*

- Inequities based on race, ethnicity, gender, and other characteristics continue to be deep, pervasive, and persistent, and they come *at a great economic and social cost.*

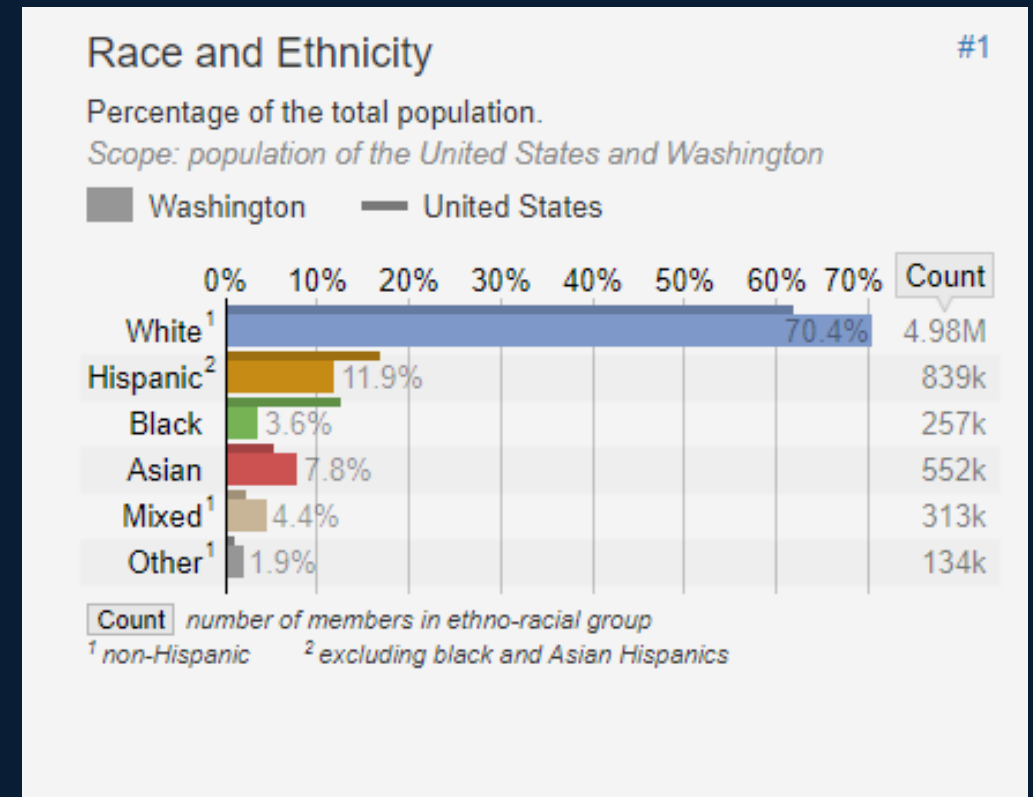


# Race and Ethnicity in Washington (State)

**7,656,200**

- The April 1, 2020, population estimate
- Increase of 109,790, or 1.45%, since 2019

Source: Google, Oct 27, 2020



Source: <https://statisticalatlas.com/state/Washington/Race-and-Ethnicity>



# Student Succeeds Act long-term goals

Table 1: shows the four-year graduation rates for the class of 2018.

4-Yr Cohort Grad Rate	Actual C/O 2017	Actual C/O 2018	C/O 2018 Target	Statewide Indicators Target
<b>All Students</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>80.4</b>	Exceeds annual target
Black / African American	71.5	74.4	73.4	Exceeds annual target
Amer. Indian / Alaskan Native	60.3	60.4	63.3	Did not meet annual target
Asian	87.5	90.0	87.7	Exceeds annual target
Hispanic / Latino	72.7	75.2	74.4	Exceeds annual target
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	68.1	74.0	70.3	Exceeds annual target
White	81.9	82.9	82.7	Exceeds annual target
Two or More Races	79.7	80.7	80.8	Did not meet annual target
Students with a Disability	59.4	61.7	62.4	Did not meet annual target
Limited English	57.8	64.1	61.0	Exceeds annual target
Low-Income	70.0	72.1	72.0	Exceeds annual target

Source: State Board of Education Class of 2018 Graduation Rate report prepared for the March 2019 Board meeting



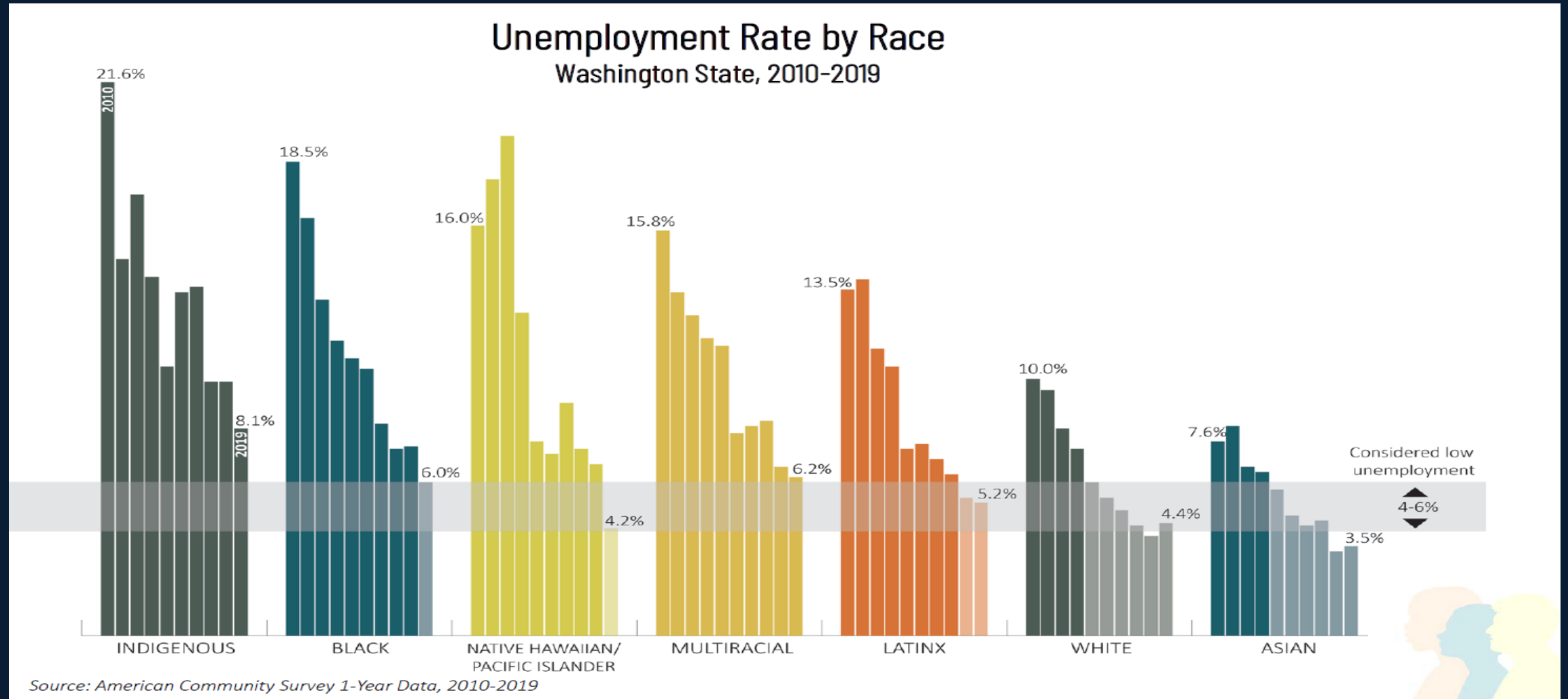
# Poverty Rate in Washington State

RACE & ETHNICITY				
African American	Asian American	Latino	Native American	White
16.3%	7.9%	16.0%	21.0%	8.2%

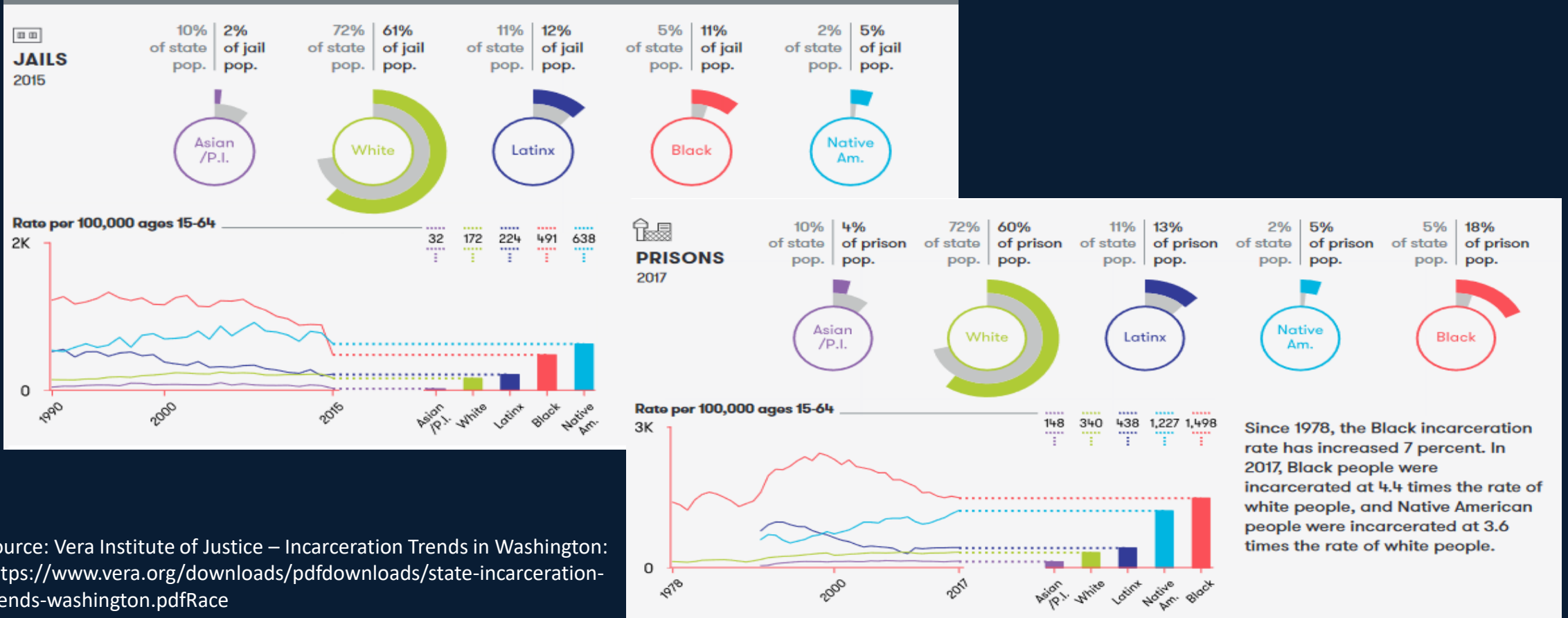
Center for American progress: <https://talkpoverty.org/state-year-report/washington-2020-report/>, Washington 2020



# Unemployment Rate by Race



# Race and Ethnicity in Jails and Prisons



Source: Vera Institute of Justice – Incarceration Trends in Washington: <https://www.vera.org/downloads/pdfdownloads/state-incarceration-trends-washington.pdf>



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## *Why*

- **VISION:** Everyone in WA has full access to the opportunities, power, and resources they need to flourish and achieve their full potential.
- **MISSION:** Promote access to equitable opportunities and resources that reduce disparities and improve outcomes statewide across state government.



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## *What*

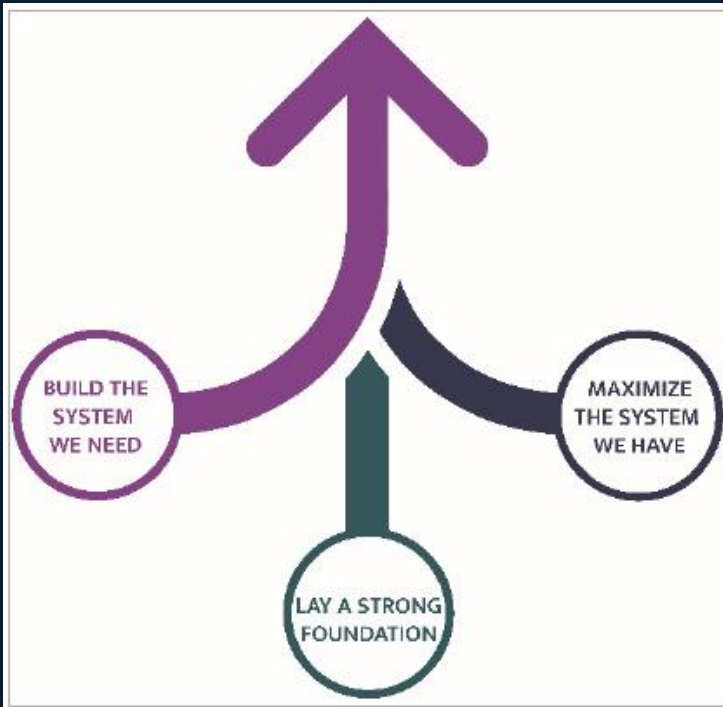
- Develop the state's five-year equity plan
- Help the state develop language-access requirements
- Remove barriers to accessing state services
- Decrease inequities across state government
- Help agencies develop their own Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) plans
- Promote systemic and cultural changes by introducing best practices & change management to agencies
- Design online performance dashboard that measures agencies' progress toward equity goals





# The Office of Equity

## How



**Lay a strong foundation.** Center equity in all of our operations, programs, and interactions.

**Maximize the system we have.** Through stronger policy, integration, and collaboration across systems, sectors, and jurisdictions to make the most of the system we have.

**Build the system we need.** Begin to dismantle racism by addressing root causes through bold systemic and cultural change.

Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future: 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington, p. 50



# STATE OFFICE OF EQUITY: TIMELINE & MILESTONES

## State agencies

## OFFICE OF EQUITY

## State Legislature



# Questions



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# Task Force Business



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# WorkFirst Spending Plan

## Babs Roberts



## WorkFirst 2021-23 Spending Plan

Several new WorkFirst policies have a fiscal impact to the 2021-23 Biennium spending plan. These include the following:

- The legislature included in the budget bill a **15% TANF grant increase**.
- The legislature also included in the budget bill the **TANF time limit extension (TLE)** beyond the standard WorkFirst time limit of 60 months (for households described in RCW 74.08A.010(5) in SFY22).
- The legislature also passed 2SSB 5214, which updates **TANF time limit extension policy** to grant TANF clients a month-per-month TLE for each month when they are on TANF and there is also unemployment over 7% in Washington.

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# Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan

## Lindsay Morgan Tracy



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# Poverty Reduction Workgroup Updates

## Babs Roberts





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# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Agency Updates



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# Economic Security for All

## Tim Probst





# The Future of EcSA

EcSA provides low-income Washingtonians with comprehensive services to support long-term self-sufficiency.

EcSA intends to serve more than 1 700 people by 2024 by:

- Moving families out of poverty and into well-paying careers.
- Increasing equity of opportunity for people of color, people in rural communities, and other underserved groups.
- Amplifying the collective impact of existing programs and resources such as nutrition assistance, housing, childcare, and education.
- Tracking outcomes for accountability and future expansion of successful practices.



**EcSA**  
Economic Security for All

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# Public Comment

