

DID YOU KNOW?



BASIC NEEDS

- More than half of Whatcom County renters are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing (Whatcom County 2024 Update on Homelessness).
- Whatcom County schools counted 972, or 4% of all students, who met the definition of being homeless (Whatcom County 2024 Update on Homelessness).
- 1 in 4 household members reported experiencing hunger due to a lack of food. (PeaceHealth Community Health Needs Assessment 2022-2025).

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

- 38% of Whatcom County households struggle to make ends meet. The median household income in Whatcom County is \$79,220 yet the survival budget for a family of 4 in Whatcom County is \$98,736 (United Way ALICE Report, 2024).
- 47% of Whatcom County residents with disabilities live in households that struggle to make ends meet and fall below the ALICE threshold (ALICE in Focus: People with Disabilities 2022).
- Two wage earners, working full-time at minimum wage in Washington state earn a combined income of less than \$68,000.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

- The cost of childcare in Whatcom County exceeds every other household expense, including housing, transportation, food, and health care (ALICE Report, 2024).
- Investing in our kids and early learning programs can improve school readiness and achievement. In fact, early childhood education has a ROI of 13% (The Heckman Equation)!
- Between 2016 and 2023 there was a 7% increase in the percentage of high school sophomores who felt anxious, nervous, or on-edge (Kids Count Data Book 2023).

