

EVOLVING GOVERNOR INSLEE'S POVERTY REDUCTION WORKGROUP WITH JOINT TASKFORCE CREATED UNDER HB 1482

Major Considerations

October 2018

Background

Governor Inslee created an Interagency Poverty Reduction Workgroup (PRWG) via Directive on November 6, 2018. During the 2018 legislative session, HB 1482 passed and repurposed the existing Joint Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Taskforce (Joint Taskforce) to broaden its scope to include poverty reduction and a focus on intergenerational poverty. Governor Inslee signed HB 1482 into law on March 21, 2018.

The intent of PRWG and HB 1482 are similar enough that stakeholders consider them duplicative efforts. In addition, PRWG is up and running, already holding seven meetings. Stakeholders have a strong desire to merge the two groups.

Goal

To have a diverse, representative statewide task force with accountability for reducing poverty and improving intergenerational opportunity and well-being for all Washingtonians.

Considerations for Evolving PRWG into Joint Taskforce

- 1. Expand membership of Joint Taskforce to include current PRWG members, including:**
 - Agencies not listed in 1482 (HCA, WTCT, SAC)
 - Representation of tribal nations and urban Indians
 - Representation from community-based organizations serving those most affected by poverty, with demographic and geographic diversity
 - Employers
 - Labor
 - Philanthropy
- 2. PRWG Steering Committee replaces Advisory Committee in HB 1482.** Recognizing that people experiencing poverty are the foremost experts on their lives, PRWG members have prioritized elevating the expertise and influence of those most affected by poverty in the development of a strategic plan. Toward that end, the group is creating a Steering Committee, whose role will be to provide input on the development of the strategic plan, offer feedback throughout the process, and ensure the final plan includes a racial equity analysis and frame. With support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Department of Social & Health Services has passed through resources to Statewide Poverty Action Network to recruit, train, and support a Steering Committee that will:
 - Consist of 18 members, with a recruitment priority of people impacted by poverty;
 - Include a solid majority (at least 60 percent or 11 members) of individuals/families impacted by poverty, including broad representation of urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas; and

- Have a minimum of 50 percent (at least 9) should be people of color.
- 3. Continue to work with equity consultants currently being recruited.** Reducing poverty is especially critical for those most affected and furthest away from opportunity. The experience of poverty is felt disproportionately by people of color, indigenous people, women, children, immigrants, and rural Washingtonians. While this structural inequality has persisted throughout the history of the United States, little attention has been dedicated to addressing systemic causes of inequality and seeking input from people experiencing poverty as experts in their own lives. These deficits in knowledge, expertise, and resources undermine the ability of policies and programs to improve the intergenerational well-being of Washingtonians. With generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Department of Social & Health Services is conducting a competitive recruitment for consultants to help PRWG members build the shared knowledge, understanding, and tools they need to advance policies and programs for poverty reduction that will achieve equity and have a higher likelihood of success than the status quo.
 - 4. Expand voting to all members of the group.**
 - 5. Provide reimbursement for entities/organizations with minimal resources for participation.**