

DRAFT – LEWPRO Bylaws

These bylaws apply to the Legislative Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight (LEWPRO) Task Force as established through E3SHB 1482. These bylaws are intended to support the LEWPRO in carrying out its purpose as established in legislation.

Article 1 – NAME

The name of this body is established in legislation as the Legislative Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force.

Article 2 – PURPOSE

Because the legislature has found that intergenerational poverty can affect the lives of many future children and generations without the development of specific strategies to stop this cycle. Further, they find that it is necessary to bring together state agencies and other stakeholders for the purposes of policy and program development to address intergenerational poverty and to develop specific strategies to provide families the support they need to overcome a history of poverty.

Article 3 – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1. Voting Members:

- i. Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate as appointed by the president of the senate.
- ii. Two members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives as appointed by the Speak of the House of Representatives.
- iii. Eight members appointed by the Governor from the following agencies:
 - a. Department of Social and Health Services
 - b. Department of Children, Youth and Families;
 - c. Department of Commerce
 - d. Employment Security Department
 - e. Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - f. Department of Health
 - g. Department of Corrections
 - h. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Section 2. Non-voting members: the co-chairs of the Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Group shall serve as non-voting members along with, as appointed by the governor, one member from each of the following:

- iv. Commission of African-American affairs
- v. State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

- vi. State Commission on Asian Pacific American affairs
- vii. Governor's office of Indian Affairs
- viii. Governor's office of financial management

Section 3. Voting. Votes shall be called by the co-chairs and each voting member shall have one vote. Only voting members may vote. A quorum will be achieved by a simple majority of members. Members must be present to vote.

Section 4. Attendance. Membership for each entity is defined by the entity. If the individual for that entity is not able to participate in an ongoing manner or in a particular meeting, then the expectation is they or their organization will designate an alternate. Consistent attendance is critical for the LEWPRO to be able to have productive conversations. Alternates are expected to have been briefed adequately so that they can represent their organization at meetings.

Section 5. Staff Support. Per legislation, staff support for the task force, including administration of task force meetings, must be provided by state agency members of the task force. Additional staff support for legislative members of the task force must be provided by Senate Committee Services and the House of Representatives' Office of Program Research.

Article 4. Duties

LEWPRO shall oversee the partner agencies' operation of the WorkFirst program and Temporary Assistance of Needy Families Program (TANF) to ensure that the programs are achieving desired outcomes for their clients. This includes:

- i. Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program, including measures related to equitably serving the needs of historically underrepresented populations, such as English language learners, immigrants, refugees, and other diverse communities
- ii. Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and the state agencies responsible for their progress toward self-sufficiency
- iii. Collaborate with the Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Group to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty
- iv. Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction from service providers, community based organizations, legislators, state agencies, stakeholders, the business community and subject matter experts
- v. Collaborate with partner agencies and advisory group to analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational poverty in the state, with a primary focus on data and information regarding children who are at risk of continuing the cycle of poverty and welfare dependency unless outside intervention occurs.

- vi. Recommend policy actions to the Governor and the legislature to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty and promote and encourage self-sufficiency.

Additionally the LEWPRO shall direct DSHS to develop a five year plan to reduce intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency. LEWPRO shall provide oversight and approval to the plan. LEWPRO will review the 5 year plan by December 1, 2024 and direct the DSHS to update the plan as determined necessary by the LEWPRO.

Article 5. INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY ADVISORY GROUP

The Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Group is created to advise the LEWPRO in its work and are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services. Membership is defined in the legislation. The LEWPRO membership voted and accepted that the existing Governor's Poverty Reduction Work Group met the requirements and would act as the Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Group (IPAG). The IPAG shall:

- i. Meet quarterly, at the request of the LEWPRO, or as requested by the IPAG co-chairs.
- ii. Make recommendations to the LEWPRO on how they and the state can effectively address the needs of children affected by intergenerational poverty and achieve the purposes and duties of the LEWPRO.
- iii. Ensure that the IPAG recommendations are supported by verifiable data.
- iv. Gather input from diverse communities about the impact of intergenerational poverty on outcomes such as education, health care, employment, involvement in the child welfare system and other related areas.