



## SEATTLE HUMAN SERVICES COALITION

4759 15<sup>th</sup> AV NE, #308  
Seattle, WA 98105  
Phone: (206)325-7105  
Fax: (206) 860-8825  
shsc@shscoalition.org  
www.shscoalition.org

### MEMBER COALITIONS

Advocacy & Organizing Coalition

Child Care Directors' Assoc of  
Greater Seattle

Community Health Council of  
Seattle-King County

Disability Services Committee

King County Children, Youth &  
Families Coalition

King County Coalition Against  
Domestic Violence

King County Senior Services  
Coalition

Meals Partnership Coalition

NonProfit Anti-Racism Coalition

Seattle Food Committee

Seattle King County Coalition  
on Homelessness

Seattle-King County  
Employment Council

Sexual Assault Services

## Seattle Human Services Coalition testimony to Seattle City Councilmembers

October 7, 2014

Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Patricia Hayden. I am the Senior Director of the YWCA and co-chair the Seattle Human Services Coalition. Tonight I'm here speaking on behalf of the members of SHSC.

The budget the Mayor brought forward is pointing in the right direction, and we appreciate that he even takes one step forward with some proposed investments.

However, all of us are here tonight telling you that when poverty is actually **increasing** in Seattle- with more children in our city without homes and many people earning **less** than they did in 2007 before the recession- **one step forward is not enough**. It is not enough to allow us to make progress as a community. It is not enough when, with a shift in priorities, we could do better. A greater investment is called for to truly see the change we know you want to see. SHSC's Budget Recommendations for a Just and Thriving Community are a road map to those investments and are built around a framework that will reduce racial disproportionality in outcomes across our city. SHSC members urge you to make a greater investment in the people of Seattle.

You've taken a bold step for economic justice by raising the minimum wage across our city. At the same time, this will also increase the cost of providing community health and human services to Seattle residents who need help. **Raising the minimum wage fails as a policy if some low-income workers' wages increase while other low income, very vulnerable people lose critical services**. We urge you to examine the consequences of your actions and plan for implementation of this law in a way that does not result in cuts in services. Build a solution to this dilemma into the 2015-16 budget and create a plan to address this impact in the years ahead.

We know by your actions that you want to make change. We also know that making change will require re-examining City resources. Hear this: **You can't make change with a business as usual budget**.

We thank you for your past leadership and **we look to you now for the action urgently needed by your communities**.

Thank you.