



# Eastside Renters in Crisis



Issaquah  
Sammamish  
Interfaith  
Coalition



[eastsideforall.org/eastside-renters-in-crisis/](http://eastsideforall.org/eastside-renters-in-crisis/)



## Equity Lens



- **If we were to prioritize the people most in need, what actions would we take?**
- **Whose interests are being centered? Whose interests are driving decisions?**

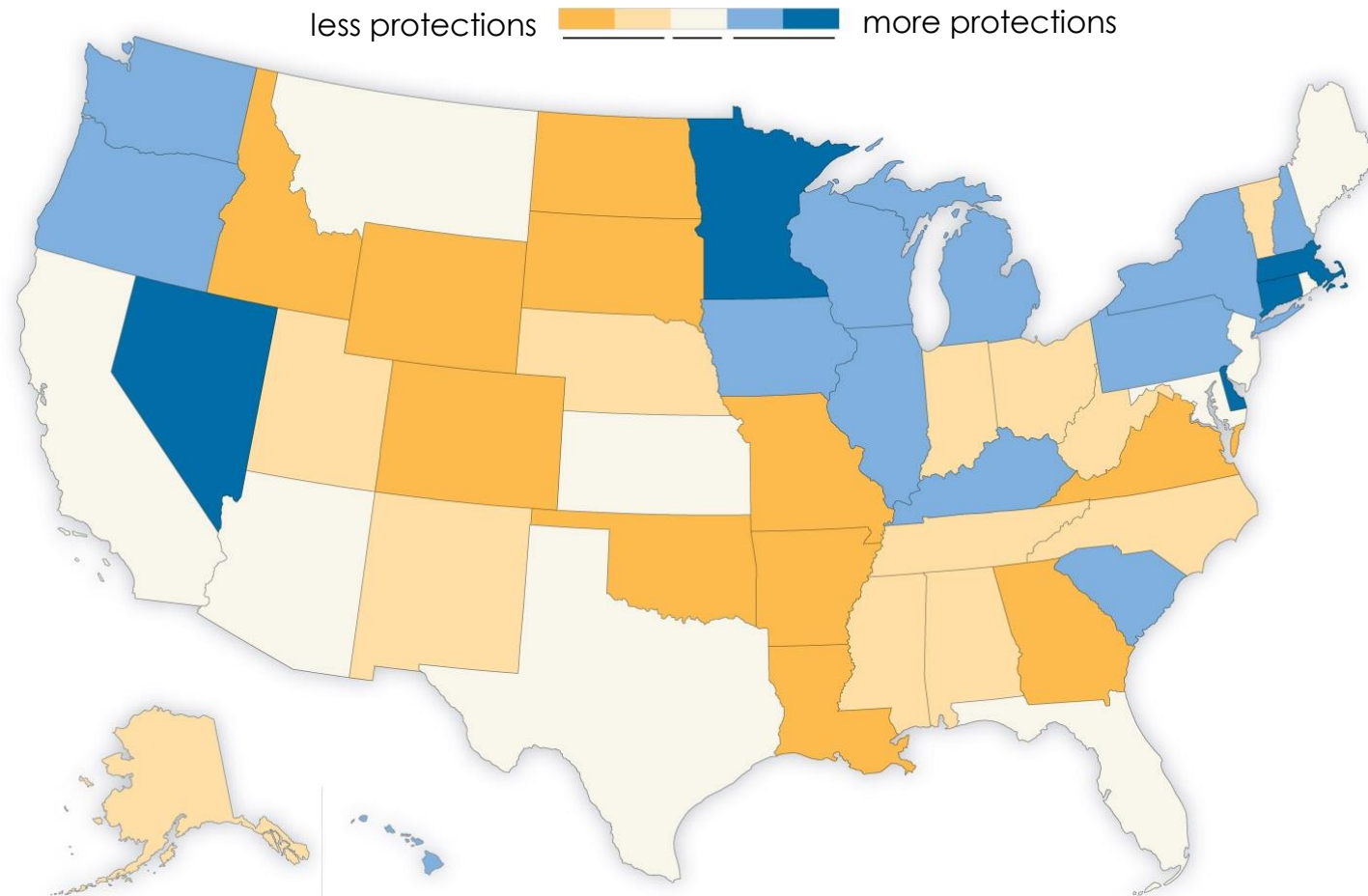
### **From Seattle's Racial Equity Toolkit:**

What does data and your conversations with stakeholders tell you about existing racial inequities that influence people's lives and should be taken into consideration?

How will the policy, initiative, program, or budget issue increase or decrease racial equity? What are potential unintended consequences?

# Which states are doing a better job protecting renters from being evicted during the coronavirus pandemic?

[WASHINGTON POST, APRIL 29, 2020](#)



See the [Eviction Lab's COVID-19 Housing Policy Scorecard](#)

★ Washington has enacted one or more high-impact policies. Details below.

### INITIATION OF EVICTION

- ✓ No notice to quit
- ✓ No filing if tenant has COVID-19 hardship
- ✓ No filing for nonpayment
- ✓ No filing, except emergencies
- ✗ CARES certification required

### SHORT-TERM SUPPORTS

- ✗ Moratorium extends past emergency declaration
- ✗ No utility disconnection
- ✗ Free utility reconnection
- ✗ Grace period to pay rent
- ✗ No report to credit bureau
- ✓ Foreclosure moratorium

### COURT PROCESS

- ✗ Hearings suspended
- ✗ Judgments of possession stayed
- ✗ Deadlines extended or tolled
- ✗ Eviction records sealed

### TENANCY PRESERVATION MEASURES

- ✓ No late fees ★
- ✓ No rent raises ★
- ✓ Housing stabilization ★
- ✗ Legal counsel for tenants

### ENFORCEMENT OF EVICTION ORDER

- ✓ No removal if tenant has COVID-19 hardship
- ✓ No removal of tenant for nonpayment
- ✓ No removal of tenant, except emergencies

LAST UPDATED 7/8/2020

See the [Eviction Lab's COVID-19 Housing Policy Scorecard](#)



# King County Updates



## UNINCORPORATED KING COUNTY

- Provides residential tenants with a defense to eviction if an unlawful detainer (eviction) action is based on the tenant's failure to pay rent (if the nonpayment was due to COVID-related circumstances).
- The defense to eviction will be available to residential tenants if the eviction was initiated because of unpaid rent that was due before or by March 1, 2021.
- Allows a residential or small commercial tenant who fails to pay rent due before or by 3/1/21 to pay the overdue rent on a reasonable repayment plan (if the nonpayment was due to COVID-related circumstances). Provides an additional defense to eviction if a landlord does not offer a reasonable repayment plan.



# Eastside City Updates

Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, Sammamish

# Beyond Rental Assistance

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Rental assistance has been a helpful stop gap for some, but without additional protections, emergency rental assistance funds are inadequate and insufficient beyond the short term.

*If renters are behind on two-months rent, that's roughly \$3,000 for each household. To assist undocumented King County residents below the federal poverty line alone for just two months would cost roughly \$117,000,000 – and this does not take into account the on-going rental assistance need or the need among other residents.*

*(Source: WA CAN - Community Action Network)*



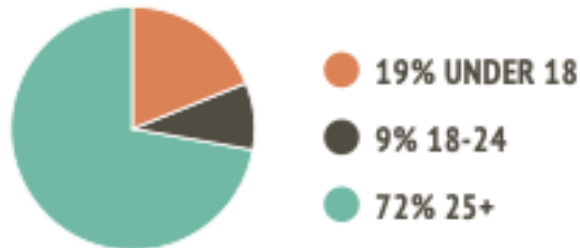
# Inequity Gaps

## PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

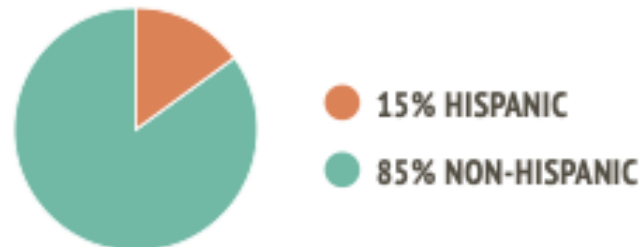
TOTAL: 11,751

King County Point-in-Time Count, 2020

### AGE

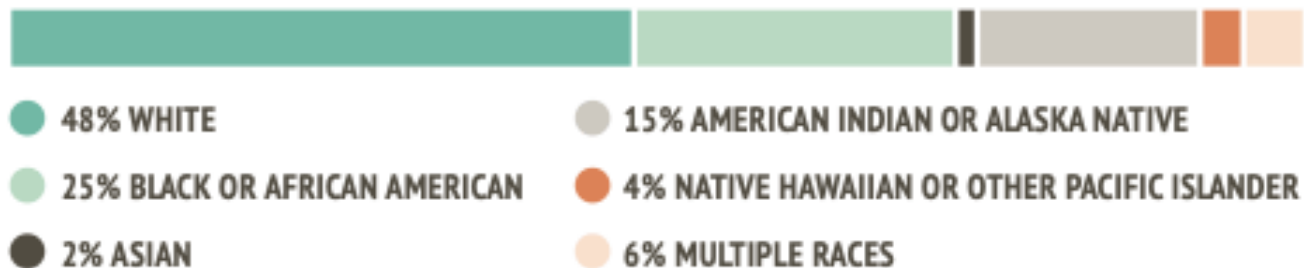


### ETHNICITY



Of the homeless families with children identified in the count, almost 50% were Black.

### RACE



# Urgent Needs Call for Equity-Centered Approaches and Bold Action

Presenter: [Isaac Organista](#), WA CAN (Community Action Network)





# Breakout Groups

- Share experiences/needs, ask questions
- Facilitators will prioritize those who want to speak in this order:
  1. Community members worried about their own housing situation.
  2. Other community members
  3. Nonprofit providers, educators, faith community members, advocates
  4. Elected officials and government staff
- Be mindful about individual behavior and power dynamics that can exclude or marginalize, regardless of our intentions.
- After: share what was learned, but keep private information confidential.



**Thank you!** Please visit the [Eastside Renters in Crisis web page](#) for events, information, resources, and advocacy updates on protections for renters.

Find out more about [Eastside For All](#) and its efforts to advance racial, economic, and social justice in East King County.

- [Sign up](#) to receive general announcements
- [Let us know your specific interests](#) and we'll connect you with the people and issues you care most about.

