Economic Opportunity Institute

Building an economy that works – for everyone.

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

2014 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT*

Aubrey Davis Endowment Fund
$74,053 (ending balance)

Revenue
$1,017,869

Expenses
$1,010,036

*Preliminary figures, subject to CPA review; represented on an accrual basis for fiscal year 1/1/14 to 12/31/14.
The Economic Opportunity Institute is building an economy that works for everyone by advancing public policies that promote educational opportunity, good jobs, healthy families and workplaces, and a dignified retirement.

WORK AND FAMILY AGENDA CATCHES FIRE

Spearheaded by EOI, the Washington Work and Family Coalition hit a significant milestone when the state House passed Paid Sick and Safe Leave legislation for the first time in 2014.

With the Healthy Tacoma Coalition, EOI helped ramp up citizen pressure for action on paid sick days, breaking a longtime political logjam on the Tacoma City Council late in 2014. The law, passed in January 2015, will assure 40,000 workers access to paid sick leave.

We brought together legislators, businesses and advocates to develop groundbreaking legislation promoting gender wage equity, introduced with bipartisan support in the 2015 legislative session.

EOI organized 6 forums to promote dialogue and public education about women’s economic security issues, in Kirkland, Tacoma, Bellingham, Spokane, Vancouver, and Seattle. 33 organizations cosponsored and more than 200 participants attended, including 17 elected policymakers.

In Their Own Words: Why We Need Public Policy Change

Sue has been a bartender and a server; she’s cooked food, washed dishes, and delivered coffee. She’s seen the food industry change, and it hasn’t been positive; finding a job that pays a living wage has become more and more difficult. “Most of it’s chain food now; it’s very hard to get ahead, to become a district manager or operations manager, for example. Even if they hire from within, you’re stuck more often than not. You may get your quarter raise, but you’re not advancing into anything.” Sue grew up in a middle class family, but “working the same job today doesn’t pay like it used to.”

Ashley knows firsthand how important it is to have a job with benefits. She was employed at the time her son was born, but because her workplace didn’t offer paid maternity leave, she had to quit in order to be with him. “I was working, but I just wanted to take some time off because it was my first son. And I wanted to spend some time with my son.” Having watched her mom struggle to keep a job because she needed to take time off work to see her doctor, she knows paid sick days are critical. “When you’re working, they don’t want to hear the excuse of your health to take some time off. They’ll just lay you off. They don’t care about your health or disability.”
PAY IT FORWARD SPREADS

EOI’s proposal to improve access to higher education continued to gain traction. Oregon’s Higher Education Coordinating Commission adopted a Pay It Forward (PIF) pilot plan and recommended it to the Oregon Legislature; 5 other states passed PIF legislation, and the total number of states considering PIF is now 27. EOI Policy Associate Kelli Smith brought home multiple awards for PIF from the Social Venture Partners Fast Pitch competition.

RETIREMENT POLICY ADVANCES

EOI worked with state Senator Mark Mullet and Representative Larry Springer, along with AARP Washington and Small Business Majority, on Save Toward A Retirement Today (START) legislation. This paved the way for successful Small Business Retirement Marketplace legislation in 2015.

EOI also sponsored Social Security forums in Seattle and Bellingham with Social Security Works – Washington, featuring special guests Terry O’Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, and Congressman Adam Smith (D-WA9).

ECONOMIC MOBILITY MATTERS

At a convening of the Gates Foundation’s Building Community Philanthropy Initiative, Senior Policy Associate Tatsuko Go Hollo presented findings from her report Chutes and Ladders: How Economic Mobility Is Changing In An Inequality Society. Phase II of the project will analyze the factors influencing family economic stability for people of color in Washington.

Stories collected for EOI's 2014 Economic Mobility Project

Jessie grew up hearing stories of the discrimination his African-American grandparents faced and how they had to leave their home in the South to escape persecution. Knowing his family’s legacy inspired him to attend college and make lasting change for his community -- but school debt stands in the way. “I think I owe like $60,000 right now for a public school education. I’m starting to feel like I’m back in the low-income [class], because I can’t financially take care of all my responsibilities with the amount of money I make.” Jessie wants to save, but admits it’s hard with his current job. “When you make less than $20,000 a year, it’s really hard to get by.”

Chris has been a general contractor in Olympia for the past 13 years. Throughout his career, Chris has had occasional benefits. But no job has ever offered him a pension or retirement savings plan, making it hard for him to save. He’s tried to save on his own, but with limited success. “I never had any pension, so I got started late -- about 2008 -- with a Roth IRA; that was the year that the market crashed, so I pulled my money out even though I didn’t have that much there.” Even after a full lifetime of employment, Chris doesn’t see retirement as a possibility: “I don’t think retirement is a realistic option for me -- in terms of full retirement -- because I don’t have a pension.”
WITH THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Foundations
- Arca Foundation
- Aurora Lilac Fund
- Berger-Marks Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Family Values @ Work: A Multi-State Consortium
- Greer-Sollen Fund
- Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation
- Mary P. Dolciani Halloran Foundation
- Morris Family Foundation
- Panta Rhea Foundation
- RiverStyx Foundation
- Shared Prosperity Fund
- Slalom Consulting
- Social Venture Partners
- Tableau Foundation
- The Seattle Foundation
- Women’s Funding Alliance
- Zuckerman Family Fund

Organizations
- AARP
- Adobe Matching Gifts Program
- AFGE Local 3937
- AFSCME
- AFSCME Council 2
- AFT Washington, AFL-CIO
- Family Values @ Work
- Google Matching Funds
- Group Health Cooperative
- IAM District 160
- IAM District 751
- IUOE Local 609
- Lindquist Law, PLLC
- LinkedIn Matching Gifts Program
- M.L. King County Labor Council
- Microsoft
- Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
- Mountain Graphics
- Moxy Media
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- OPEIU Local 8
- Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Plum Bistro
- Professional & Technical Employees Local 17
- Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
- Rainier Rotary Foundation
- Schweberin Campbell Barnard & Iglitzin LLP
- Seattle Education Association
- Seattle Fire Fighters Union, Local 27
- SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
- SEIU Healthcare 775NW
- SEIU Local 925
- SEIU United Service Workers West
- SEIU Washington State Council
- Social Security Works
- SPEEA IFPTE Local 2001
- Tacoma Education Association
- Teamsters Joint Council No. 28
- Teamsters Local 117
- The Boeing Company
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Foundation Matching Gifts Program
- UAW Local 4121
- UFCW Local 1439
- UFCW Local 21
- UFCW Local 365
- UFCW Local 367
- Unite Here Local 8
- Washington Education Association
- Washington Machinists Council
- Washington Public Employees Association
- Washington State Council of Fire Fighters
- Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Waypoint Consulting Group, LLC
- WEA Fourth Corner UniServ Council
- WFSE Local 443

Individuals
- Aaron Katz
- Aaron & Annie Keating
- Adrienne Thompson
- Alexander Stone
- Alice Wolde
- Amanda Clark
- Amy & Bill Kinsel
- Amy Bowles
- Amy Hagopian
- Andrea Burbank & Michael Miller
- Andrew & Margo Gordon
- Anita Hewitt
- Ann Wyckoff
- Anna Haley-Lock
- Anne Sheehan
- Anonymous (4)
- Anthony Holmes & Tatsuaki Go Hollo
- April Seamon & Greg Feise
- Armand Tiberio
- Barry & Jannice Rose
- Becky Davis Pentz
- Behnaz Nelson
- Bernie Russell & Robin Fleming
- Bert Stover
- Betty Means
- Bev & Ed Isenson
- Bill Finkbeiner & Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner
- Bill Lyne
- Billie & Keith Watkins
- Bonnie MacEwan & Tom Manig
- Brenda Wiest
- Bruce Herbert
- Bruce Lund
- Byron & Susan Shutz
- C. Gomer Thomas
- C. Nelson Berry
- Cal Van Zee
- Catherine Rubenstein
- Cheryl Ellsworth & Walter Sive
- Cheryl M. Scott
- Chuck Richards
- D. Stephens
- Daniel Brandes
- Daniel Jacoby
- Daniel Weise
- Daryl & Priscilla Burbank-Schmitt
- Dave Ross
- David Freiboth
- David Jones & Maryanne Tagney
- David & Marcia McCracken
- David Okimoto
- David Rudo
- David Sawyer
- David Ward
- David West
- David Williams
- Dawn Trudeau
- Debbie & George (Lanny) Shuman
- Dee Frankforth
- Deidre Girard
- Demian Godon
- Dennis Ortblad
- Diana Rakow
- Diana Elser
- Diana Pearce & George Wright
- Dianne Gross
- Dick Burkart & Mona Lee
- Dina Burstein & Robby Stern
- Dmitri Keating
- Don & Judy Willott
- Donald Mitchell
- Donna Sakson & Jonathan Mark
- Dorie Ross
- Doug Conrad
- Douglas & Rachel Burbank
- Dustin Lambro
- Dwight Rouss
- Ed Zuckerman & Mary Bond
- Edith & Michael Ruby
- Elaine Albertson
- Elaine Von Rosenstiel
- Elizabeth Woody Lindquist
- Ellen Posel
- Emily Groves & Mark Willcox
- Emily & Paul Sisson
- Eric Grant
- Eric Main
- Eric Menninga
- Eric Smith
- Eugene Lux
- Eunice & Gerhard Letzing
- Floyd Jones
- Frances Groves
- Frances Posel
- Frank Chopp
- Fritz Cohen
- Gary Burrel
- Gabriela Quintana & Zack Hudgins
- Gerry Pollet
- Glenda Carper
- Glenn Davis
- Heidi Bennett
- Helen & Peter Lauritzen
- Helen Lee Williams
GET INVOLVED

Donate
www.eoionline.org/donate
206.529.6363

Volunteer
www.eoionline.org/about/get-involved
2014 BY THE NUMBERS

6
Forums on women’s economic security held by EOI across WA in 2014

17
Legislative hearings featuring EOI staff giving official testimony

54
Percent of U.S. states considering Pay It Forward higher education legislation

4500+
People attending 76 different public presentations given by EOI staff

40,000
People working in Tacoma, WA who newly have access to paid leave, thanks to the work of EOI and its allies on the Healthy Tacoma coalition

158,000
People working in Washington at or near minimum wage who received a cost-of-living adjustment, thanks to the work of EOI and its allies on Washington’s minimum wage initiative in 1998