

The cover features a vibrant sunset scene with a large orange and red sun, a lighthouse on a dark island, and a blue grid pattern on the water. The text 'Annual Report 2019' is prominently displayed in the upper left. The 'eoi' logo is in the lower right, with 'Economic Opportunity Institute' written below it.

*Annual
Report*
2019

eoi

*Economic
Opportunity
Institute*

NOTE FROM THE BOARD



Many of us in the fight for equity have sought to equip our society for a crisis such as the one we currently face. Of course, there is more to do and the stakes are higher now than ever. This moment underscores the need for a commonwealth that supports us all. EOI is working to make this moment a turning point in our society. As we recover from this crisis, we can rebuild our economy into one that works for everyone.

Washington is at a crossroads and working people face economic insecurity at every turn; from poverty wages and limited access to health care to a regressive tax code that asks the most from low- and middle-income families. A widening opportunity gap pushes higher education and the promise of prosperity further out of reach for low-income youth. Building a brighter future for Washingtonians must start with reforming our state's policy structure, so everyone can have equal access to opportunity - not just the wealthy few.

In 2019, we made significant strides expanding health care access, fighting for a fair and equal tax code, narrowing the racial and gender wage gap and moving our state closer to equitable higher education access. We can advance progressive policies that catalyze change in and beyond Washington State, together, one step at a time. Thank you for joining us in this movement.

THANK YOU FOR BEING BY OUR SIDE.

Board President Ximena Velázquez-Arenas
Board Vice President Ray Sugarman



EOI STAFF

SARA, AARON, GABRIELA, MARILYN, MELANIE, JOHN, EMNET, MATTHEW AND SAM

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

EOI was centrally involved in passing Cascade Care, which brings Washington closer to universal health coverage. Access to quality health care is a human right. EOI is working to shape the low-cost and public option plans that will become available in 2021.

Washington workers built the paid family and medical leave fund, preparing for the benefit launch on January 1st, 2020. EOI led passage of paid family and medical leave in 2017. EOI is helping to guide the implementation process to ensure all Washington workers have access to their paid leave, and advises leaders in other states – leading to new victories.

A FAIR DEAL AT WORK

EOI advocated for the new protections passed in the Equal Pay and Opportunity Act. To prevent pay discrimination from following workers from one job to another, employers are now banned from asking candidates about previous salaries. Employers must also disclose base pay so that candidates have the information they need to negotiate and address potential pay discrimination.

EOI helped extend overtime pay and paid sick leave rights to more than 400,000 workers. Our state's overtime threshold hadn't been updated since 1973. Low- and mid-wage workers had been putting in extra hours for free, unprotected by the state's paid sick & safe leave law. EOI advocated for the update and helped set the new threshold to enhance economic security and work/life balance.

A BALANCED TAX CODE

The Washington Court of Appeals ruled that Seattle can have an income tax. Seattle has the most unfair tax system in the country, but EOI's leadership in passing and defending the Seattle income tax on the affluent opens the door to progress toward healthier communities and true opportunity for all.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

EOI advanced the issue of addressing chronically low wages in the early learning field. Low wages lead to high turnover and teacher shortages, creating a system that fails students, families, and educators. EOI's original research and advocacy highlighted this issue, making it a top priority for the Legislature in 2020.

EOI developed a College Promise pilot proposal to help students from all backgrounds access higher education and participate in Washington's booming economy. EOI built partnerships with leaders in rural communities to ensure students and communities across the state gain new opportunities.

"People ask me how Washington became the best state in the country to live and work. I tell them it's because of EOI."

- Governor Jay Inslee



On the morning of her 26th birthday, Larkin Sheldon awoke, one year older and uninsured, like millions of Americans. Her small Seattle-based employer couldn't afford to offer health benefits and she had aged-out of coverage under her parents insurance. Discouraged by the complex world of high-cost private insurance, Larkin took a gamble on remaining young and healthy until she could better understand and afford her options.

Less than a month later, Larkin fell and found herself in serious pain, unable to walk. The extent of the damage to her knee was unclear. Larkin desperately wanted to see a doctor, but could not afford an out-of-pocket trip to the emergency room. After suffering through the night, she enrolled in a high-cost plan, telling herself that because she didn't want to be stuck with a mountain of debt, she'd figure out how to make the monthly payments later.

Today, Larkin struggles to balance the \$400 monthly premiums with the rest of her bills. She can no longer afford to contribute to her retirement savings or visit out-of-state relatives. "I've definitely had to sacrifice a lot of things in my life," she said.

There are hundreds of thousands of people across our state struggling to stay insured. With the coverage options that will be available through Cascade Care's public plans on the Exchange in 2021, working people in Washington will have access to the care they deserve. No one should have to choose between their physical and financial well-being, and soon that will be a choice fewer Washingtonians will have to make.

WHAT CASCADE CARE CAN DO



1 GIVE A ONE-TIME GIFT



2 ASK YOUR EMPLOYER TO MATCH YOUR GIFT



3 MAKE A PLANNED GIFT



4 GIVE A GIFT OF STOCK



5 VOLUNTEER

7 WAYS TO SUPPORT EOI



6 GIVE MONTHLY



7 SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER



Expenditures - \$1,126,701
 Revenue - \$1,223,247



PRELIMINARY FIGURES, SUBJECT TO CPA REVIEW, REPRESENTED ON AN ACCRUAL BASIS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1/19 TO 12/31/19

For questions about ways to support EOI, contact Development Manager Melanie Mazza at melanie@opportunityinstitute.org or (206) 529-6350

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

- 15 testimonies in Olympia
- 18 progressive bills supported in the Legislature
- Washington 1st state to pass public option for health care
- 22 public presentations with 2,537 attendees
- Advocates in 9 states aided in advancing paid leave programs
- 104 organizational partners in coalitions
- 30 media mentions

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