

Submitted for Affordable Housing Committee consideration by Sound Cities Association.

To: Governor Jay Inslee, House Majority Leader Pat Sullivan, House Minority Leader J.T. Wilcox, Senate Majority Leader Andy Bilig, Senate Minority Leader Mark Schoesler

From: The Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council

RE: Expiration of Eviction Moratorium

Date: July 22, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee and Legislative Leaders,

We, the Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council, serve as the regional advisory body for affordable housing across King County. We are very concerned about what will happen when the statewide moratorium on evictions expires on August 1, 2020. We fear that thousands of families and individuals will be evicted and become homeless, exacerbating an already untenable homelessness crisis in King County. We urge you to proactively address this issue and extend the eviction moratorium through the Fall of 2020.

More funding is needed for emergency rental assistance and mortgage relief to adequately address the crisis; the amount needed for this assistance will require federal intervention through legislation such as the Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020. We urge you to advocate for such measures on the federal level, but until we see expansive rental assistance and mortgage relief from Congress, we are offering the following solutions to ameliorate the impending crisis:

1. Require landlords and tenants to enter reasonable payment plans *before* eviction proceedings can occur; except when there is danger to public health, safety, or property.
2. Work with dispute resolution centers or other non-profit/legal assistance entities to develop templates for comprehensive, reasonable payment plans.
3. Prohibit pandemic eviction proceedings from being made public so that the proceedings do not follow an individual and impact their ability to attain rental housing in the future.

Given the disproportionate financial hardship COVID-19 has caused for Black, Indigenous and People of Color, as well as immigrant communities, we feel it is necessary to address the impending eviction crisis in an equitable way in order to protect existing communities of color from displacement. We encourage you to continue to provide grants, like the recent allocation of \$20 million of federal funding, to support nonprofits working to “address disparities and inequities exacerbated by the increased need”; however, we also implore you to explore increasing these allocations, and direct future grants to community-based organizations that serve Black, Indigenous, People of Color and immigrant communities.

We call on you to act with urgency as we aim to preserve access to affordable homes and protect existing communities of color and low-income communities from displacement.

Sincerely,