



SDM CONSULTING

# END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT 2022

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**SDM**  
CONSULTING

# INTRO

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## WHO?

S.D. Martin Consulting is one of the nation's premier Black-Owned Lobbying Firms. We provide contract lobbying services, professional development trainings, and organizational consultation. We strive to energize and uplift communities who don't traditionally engage in legislative activity.

## WHAT?

In this guide you will find highlights of the 2022 Washington Legislative Session relating to bills and budget items expected to most significantly impact communities of color and other marginalized communities who traditionally have not had audiences in state legislature.

## WHY?

We aim to dismantle systems of oppression. While billions of dollars are spent on lobbying by corporations and political interest groups, this often overshadows the voices of those with less resources. We provide Federal and State-based legislative advocacy on a variety of topics. We aim to rectify that and make legislative advocacy accessible for non-profits, small businesses, community level interest groups, and the individual.

# LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

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The 2022 Washington State Legislative Session brought SDM Consulting staff, community partners, individuals with lived experience, and other stakeholders together to champion important changes for Washington youth, families and workers and to enact transformative, equitable policy to better the lives of the people of our state.

The voices of young people, homeless youth, workers and others traditionally left out of the legislative process were critical in our efforts to truly represent their needs and advance important legislation and to lobby for equitable policies in youth services, housing, education, policing and other areas of systemic racism and oppression.



**OUR APPROACH TO THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOCUSES ON UPLIFTING THE VOICE OF PEOPLE WHO TRADITIONALLY HAVE NOT HAD AUDIENCES IN STATE LEGISLATURES AND CHANGING THAT THROUGH THE POWER OF COMMUNITY BUILDING, COLLABORATION AND PUTTING LIVED EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTER OF OUR LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WORK.**

SDM's policy team worked collaboratively with legislators to secure wins such as passing legislation to reduce homelessness for youth and young adults discharged from a publically-funded system of care, expanding eligibility for the independent youth housing program, increasing funding for the Homeless Student Stability Program and community prevention services, and expanding the state paid family and medical leave act to provide paid family leave after the death of a qualifying family member, and more.

# \$130 MILLION IN FUNDING

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Working collaboratively with AfricaTown International Highlights, Washington for Black Lives, A Way Home Washington, Mockingbird Society, and other partner organizations, \$130 million in funding was secured to help prevent youth homelessness, invest in behavioral health services and reduce wealth gaps for historically impacted communities of inequities.

Over \$41 million of that funding was secured to support the prevention of homelessness among youth and young adults as well as provide behavioral health services, key policy priorities for the Mockingbird Society and A Way Home.

\$850,000 was appropriated in the State budget to operate a low-barrier homeless shelter and provide housing intervention and placement services for youth and young adults.

\$200,000 was secured for programs to further prevent youth and young adult homelessness. Narrowly tailored grants were also provided to nonprofits such as AfricaTown International and A Way Home to provide the services needed to support those policy goals.

\$45 million was allocated for eviction prevention rental assistance programs, and a total of \$15.5 million over 4 years was allocated to homelessness prevention for discharged youth. Lastly, landlord mitigation and aid totaling \$27 million to assist landlords in preventing potential evictions.



# REDUCING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

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With our help, A Way Home Washington and Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy secured millions in funding to further its mission to prevent and end homelessness for youth in our state.

In addition to the investments made to prevent and reduce homelessness in youth and young adults, \$500,000 was secured for the University of Washington to actively support youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in Seattle's University District. Narrowly tailored grants were also provided to nonprofits such as A Way Home Washington to provide the services needed to support those policy goals.

This investment in the prevention of homelessness among youth and young adults as well as funding to support their behavioral health takes a cross-systems approach to addressing homelessness that focuses on reducing or eliminating longstanding inequities for youth and families.



**THE IMPACT OF THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THIS FUNDING IS SIGNIFICANT, PROVIDING HUGE AND UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITIES TO TACKLE HOMELESSNESS IN THE STATE, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNGER, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.**

# SUPPORTING WASHINGTON WORKERS

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Our work with Working Washington led to several legislative wins for the rights of workers of our state. The expanded state paid family and medical leave act provides paid family leave after the death of a qualifying family member,

The passage of the “Silenced No More Act” is an important victory for workers that prohibits agreements containing nondisclosure and nondisparagement provisions that prevent an employee or independent contractor from discussing certain violations of law. Washington becomes only the second state after California to offer such protections to our workers.

And the passage of SB 5838 provides a monthly diaper subsidy for parents or other caregivers receiving temporary assistance for needy families.



**THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION INCLUDES MANY WINS FOR WASHINGTON WORKERS THAT PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS AND IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THIS STATE.**

# INVESTING IN BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES

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Our work with Washington for Black Lives, Working Washington and the Mockingbird Society, among others, focused on legislation that would provide necessary investments in Black and Brown communities and defund and demilitarize the police.

The Baby Bonds Bill, for example, sought to invest \$450,000 in a pilot program for the Washington Future Fund to reduce wealth gaps and provide expenditures to historically impacted communities of inequities. This type of program has been shown over and over again to reduce inequities in communities of color. Despite that, opposition to the bill was strong, and it did not pass.



We also saw another tough legislative loss for communities of color with the failure to pass the Juvenile Record Destruction bill. We partnered with Mockingbird Society and Washington for Black Lives to advocate for the bill that would allow the juvenile justice records of youth aging out of the juvenile system and reintegrating into society to be destroyed. This important policy priority would help ensure a fresh start for young people, allowing them access to jobs, housing and school. These important bills remain a top legislative priority going into the next legislative session.



Despite some failures on the part of the legislature to support communities of color, we were successful in preventing harmful laws from being passed. Three-quarters of the bills our partners opposed that would cause further harm to BIPOC Washingtonians were stalled or stopped in their tracks.



With the passage of HB 1719 and HB 1735, Washington for Black Lives clogged the military-to-police pipeline and imposed greater de-escalation standards on Washington police.

# USING THE POWER OF POLICY TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES


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SDM's policy team worked collaboratively with legislators, organizations, and other stakeholders to secure these important wins for the people of Washington and help create transformative, equitable policies that will improve the lives of youth, families and workers. It's a high-touch, community-driven approach to change.


## REPRESENTATIVES ENGAGED

85 

## PARTNERS, ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES & WORKGROUPS COLLABORATED WITH

15+ 

## BILLS AND BUDGET PROVISIONS PASSED

38+ 



# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

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As SDM prepares for the 2023 legislative session, our agency is committed to continuing our work to enact equitable policies in housing, youth services, education, policing and other areas of systemic racism and oppression.

We are focused on systemic and transformational change through centering the voices of those with lived experience and working collaboratively with stakeholders to shift the balance of power, one person, one community at a time.

Our goals for the 2023 session include:

- Helping our partners develop intentional strategies for legislative advocacy with clear goals and policy agendas and putting into place the necessary legislative advocacy processes to help support their policy work as a whole.
- Identifying champions and ensuring their support and work for priorities will help secure bills.
- Strengthening partnerships with key organizations and stakeholders and building coalitions to support key policy goals.
- Facilitating intentional relationships between legislators and leadership at partner organizations.

We truly thank the many individuals with lived experience, youth advocates, organizations, and partners who have worked with us during the 2022 legislative session. Your hard work and partnership were instrumental to securing important wins for Washington youth, families and workers.

The fight is not over. Our work is just beginning.



POLICY  
IS OUR  
PASSION



CHANGE  
IS OUR  
PURPOSE



## CONTACT US

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To learn more about how SDM can help support your legislative advocacy efforts, please reach out.

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