



# 2025 Federal Legislative Agenda

To help fulfill its mission to the people of Olympia, the City will advocate for federal policies and budget decisions which promote the City's civic, economic, and cultural life and support a greater quality of life and sustainable community for its residents.

The City will work to engage federal elected officials and government representatives on issues of priority, including securing federal funding that warrants Congressional or other Federal government engagement.

## Congressional Funding

While Congress must complete its work on Fiscal Year 2025 funding, planning is already underway for possible projects in Fiscal Year 2026. The City of Olympia is reviewing opportunities for federal funding for the following projects:

- **The Armory Creative Campus Conversion**

The City has actively engaged in the planning and construction improvement process to begin converting the Armory into a Creative Campus and community hub as envisioned by the Olympia community. The City is anticipating \$10-12 million needed for this project. With the commitment of local funding for programming through the 0.1% sales tax from Inspire Olympia!, the City will pursue federal resources to support the Armory development.

- **Plum Street Village Relocation**

In the coming future, the City will need to relocate Plum Street Tiny Home Village, a site that provides stable, managed shelter for up to 29 people

experiencing homelessness in Olympia. Citing of a new location will require purchase of land, building of infrastructure, and expansion to serve more community members. There is a projected need of approximately \$3 million for this project.

Referred to as Congressionally Directed Spending in the U.S. Senate and Community Project Funding in the U.S. House, the City will continue working with policymakers to highlight the issues and needs for both of these priority projects.

## Expand Childcare Opportunities

Many hardworking residents of the City of Olympia are struggling, and part of that struggle includes access to quality childcare. While preschool, youth programs and summer camps can help fill that void, there's simply not enough quality childcare opportunities available. The City of Olympia will continue advocating with federal policymakers the importance of investments in programs that support and encourage the expansion of childcare options and promote safe environments for children for example: tax breaks, universal childcare and expansion of maternity and paternity leave.

## Deschutes Estuary Project

The City, along with other stakeholder partners including the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Port of Olympia (Port), the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES), and LOTT Clean Water Alliance (LOTT), will continue to advocate for federal project support and funding to restore the Deschutes Estuary.

This valuable and sustainable work responds to the longstanding issues related to the clean-up of Capitol

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Lake and the restoration of the Deschutes Estuary, addresses sea level rise in Budd Inlet to minimize flooding, protects critical infrastructure and assets, and supports and protects coastal ecosystems necessary to help restore salmon and other native species. The City will continue working with partners to elevate this project at the federal level.

## **Housing & Homelessness**

As Olympia works to support dignity for every member of the community, housed and unhoused, by connecting people to resources, housing initiatives and supporting community partners, federal engagement will include requests for additional resources to support these objectives. Following on the data, purpose and goals established in the One Community Plan and Olympia Strong, the City will share with federal elected officials and representatives the challenges, approaches, successes and experiences with housing and homelessness to help advance and share best practices and policies.

In the past year the City of Olympia submitted for both PRO Housing and PRICE grant applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City secured support for both these grants from Members of Congress. The City also continues to advocate for fully funding the Community Block Development Program. In 2025, the City will continue to monitor federal funding opportunities, seek and advocate for support for additional resources for housing and homelessness programs.

## **Economic Development and Infrastructure**

As part of Olympia Strong, the City's federal engagement will focus on workforce pathways, housing and sense of security, infrastructure, and business enterprise resources. In particular, the City will focus on federal opportunities that may include funding and showcasing the combined workforce training and housing program at Plum Street Village.

With two years' worth of additional funding remaining in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, the City will continue to monitor what transportation infrastructure funding opportunities remain and to promote multi-modal and bike-pedestrian projects.

## **Promoting Health and Safety**

The City is committed to promoting the health and

safety of its residents. As part of its federal agenda, the City will work to advocate for policies and resources that support these goals including working to address behavioral health issues and supporting effective, strong gun safety measures.

The Olympia Police Department provides services, builds partnerships, and enhances public safety to strengthen community trust and improve quality of life for current and future generations, using teamwork, accountability, compassion and integrity to support a safe and vibrant community for all. The City will review and pursue federal funding to support partnerships in crisis response services.

## **Protecting Rights**

Protecting the rights of its citizens, including reproductive rights, will be a focus of the City's federal agenda. In 2022, Olympia became the first city in the State of Washington to declare itself a reproductive right, pro-choice sanctuary city. The City of Olympia will engage with federal elected officials on matters impacting residents' rights when they are debated in Congress, as appropriate.

## **Overall Approach to Federal Engagement**

The City of Olympia will work collectively and collaboratively among staff and departments to:

- Develop strategies to meet the City's federal government affairs objectives.
- Coordinate materials, including background information, written correspondence and the like for presentation to federal officials.
- Provide guidance and support the engagement of federal policymakers including Congressional members and their staff as well as the Administration regarding policy related to the City's interests.
- Coordinate, identify, and work with stakeholders to advocate for agreed upon policy objectives and strategies to achieve success.
- Identify areas of mutual interest between the City and targeted external stakeholders that will help develop and execute strategies to capitalize on those areas of mutual interest where they are beneficial.



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