

# #FUNDEXCLUDEDWORKERS

## Iowa

January 18, 2022

Washington City Council, Mayor, and Administrators

To Washington City Officials and Staff:

Essential workers risk their health and safety everyday to keep society running and to make sure everyone receives the things they need to survive - like food, shelter, education, transportation, and healthcare.

But in the last two years, too many value-producing frontline workers have been excluded from stimulus checks, childcare payments, and unemployment insurance, slowing down the economic recovery.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), Washington now has more than one million dollars to address the negative economic and public health impacts of COVID-19. Permissible uses include direct aid to households and premium pay for essential workers.

We call on the city to invest Washington's ARPA dollars in an Excluded Workers Fund, to distribute \$1,400 in direct assistance to every Washington city resident who was excluded from previous rounds of pandemic relief.

Based on U.S. Census Bureau data, we estimate at least 140 excluded workers live in Washington city limits. Therefore, an Excluded Workers Fund must invest at least \$200,000 to support all of the workers who were left behind.

Since Washington has already received the first half of its \$1 million ARPA allotment, we call on the city to allocate \$200,000 to an Excluded Worker Fund now, to guarantee immediate relief for up to 140 excluded workers.

Like Johnson County, Iowa and other states such as New York, New Jersey, and Washington, the only eligibility requirements for a City of Washington, Iowa Excluded Workers Fund should be:

1. **Proof of identity** such as a passport, birth certificate, national ID card, government or nonprofit assistance letter.

2. **Proof of residency** in the city of Washington, such as any letter or document with the address and name listed.

3. **A self-certification of annual income** less than \$75,000 per individual.

4. **A self-certification of exclusion** from previous pandemic relief such as unemployment insurance or stimulus checks.

This is more than just the right and just thing to do. According to the Economic Policy Institute and Common Good Iowa, every “\$1 increase in compensation to low-wage workers leads to a \$1.20 increase in economic activity,” plus 6.4% in new sales tax revenue.

A \$200,000 investment in excluded workers would produce \$240,000 in economic stimulus to the local economy, plus \$12,800 in new sales tax revenue.

Our organization will work with you to connect excluded workers with the new program. Together, we can deliver effective and efficient relief to the people in our community who work the hardest and need it the most.

Signed,

Areli Espinosa, Benito Herrera, Nila Herrera, Escucha Mi Voz Washington members

Rev. Bernie Weir, St. James Catholic Church

Rev. Nick Stoddard, pastor, Washington Mennonite Church

Bethany Glinsmann-Vittetoe, Latinos Por Washington

Luke Hertzler, Jane Noble Davis, Martha Sherman, Lyn Thomas, Carol Ray, Washington for Justice members

Roger Farmer, Chairman, Washington Mennonite Church Outreach and Service Committee

Tim Widmer, member, Washington Mennonite Church Outreach and Service Committee

Jon Widmer, member, Washington Mennonite Church Outreach and Service Committee

Carol Detweiler, member, Washington Mennonite Church Outreach and Service Committee

Tim Detweiler, Washington Mennonite Church

Martha Graber, Washington Mennonite Church

Myron Graber, Washington Mennonite Church

Erika Detweiler, Washington Mennonite Church

Craig Davis, Washington resident

Eric Schmitt, Washington resident

Heidi Schmitt, Washington resident

Katie Lujan, Washington resident

Melissa Turner, Washington resident

Tony Turner, Washington resident

Erin Kaye, Washington resident

Diana Flannery, Washington resident

Ryan Flannery, Washington resident

Gwen Flannery, Washington resident

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Kathy Salazar, Washington resident