

# Washington State Women's Commission

## 2024 Policy Agenda



### Our Mission

To improve the life of every woman and girl in our state by advancing equitable opportunities and removing systemic barriers through engagement, advocacy, and public policy, while being inclusive of diverse populations.

### Our Mandate

The Women's Commission's authorizing legislation (RCW 43.119.005) states that, "For economic, social, and historical reasons, a disproportionate number of women find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from the benefits of equal opportunity. It is the purpose of this chapter to improve the well-being of women, **by enabling them to participate fully in all fields of endeavor, assisting them in obtaining governmental services, and promoting equal compensation and fairness in employment for women.**"

It further states that the Commission "shall address issues relevant to the problems and needs of women, such as domestic violence, child care, child support, sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, equal compensation and job pathways opportunities in employment, and the specific needs of women of color."

### Our Policy Priorities



#### Securing Critical Access to Women's Healthcare

- Addressing maternal health outcomes.
- Protecting access to reproductive care services.
- Establishing equitable, comprehensive emergency preparedness & recovery health infrastructure for vulnerable populations.



#### Ensuring Safety for All Women

- Addressing gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.
- Establishing safe community initiatives, including safe use of technology & preventing gun violence.
- Funding behavioral health systems to address mental health and substance abuse connected to gender-based violence.



#### Promoting Economic Security & Economic Opportunity for All Women

- Funding affordable education.
- Ensuring equitable employment opportunity, advancement, and compensation, including promoting implementation of Women on Corporate Boards legislation.
- Eliminating workplace gender-based harassment & discrimination.
- Establishing supportive, accessible systems and funding for childcare, eldercare, and family leave.
- Addressing the economic impact of climate change.