

how you can help

Your generosity helps create policy solutions that lift up Washington's most vulnerable communities – and there are many ways to make an impact!

A one-time or recurring cash donation: It's easy to make a single gift on our website, or choose a monthly or quarterly donation to fit your budget.

Other ways you can contribute include:

Workplace giving or payroll deduction is convenient – and some employers will even match your donation! Contact your human resources office for details.

Donating stock: One of the most tax-efficient ways to donate, helping ensure more of your gift goes directly toward EOI's work building a more just economy.

A rollover of your mandatory IRA withdrawal: If you don't need your mandatory IRA withdrawal in a given year, you can direct it to EOI. You can make this decision year-by-year.

A planned gift: Giving through your estate is flexible, leaves a legacy of equity and opportunity, and ensures the work you care about continues in perpetuity.

Join us at Changemakers: Our annual event is an uplifting and celebratory evening with our friends, supporters, and community allies.

learn more or make your gift today

Scan the QR code for more details – or email donate@opportunityinstitute.org.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTE

2022 Annual Report

what we do

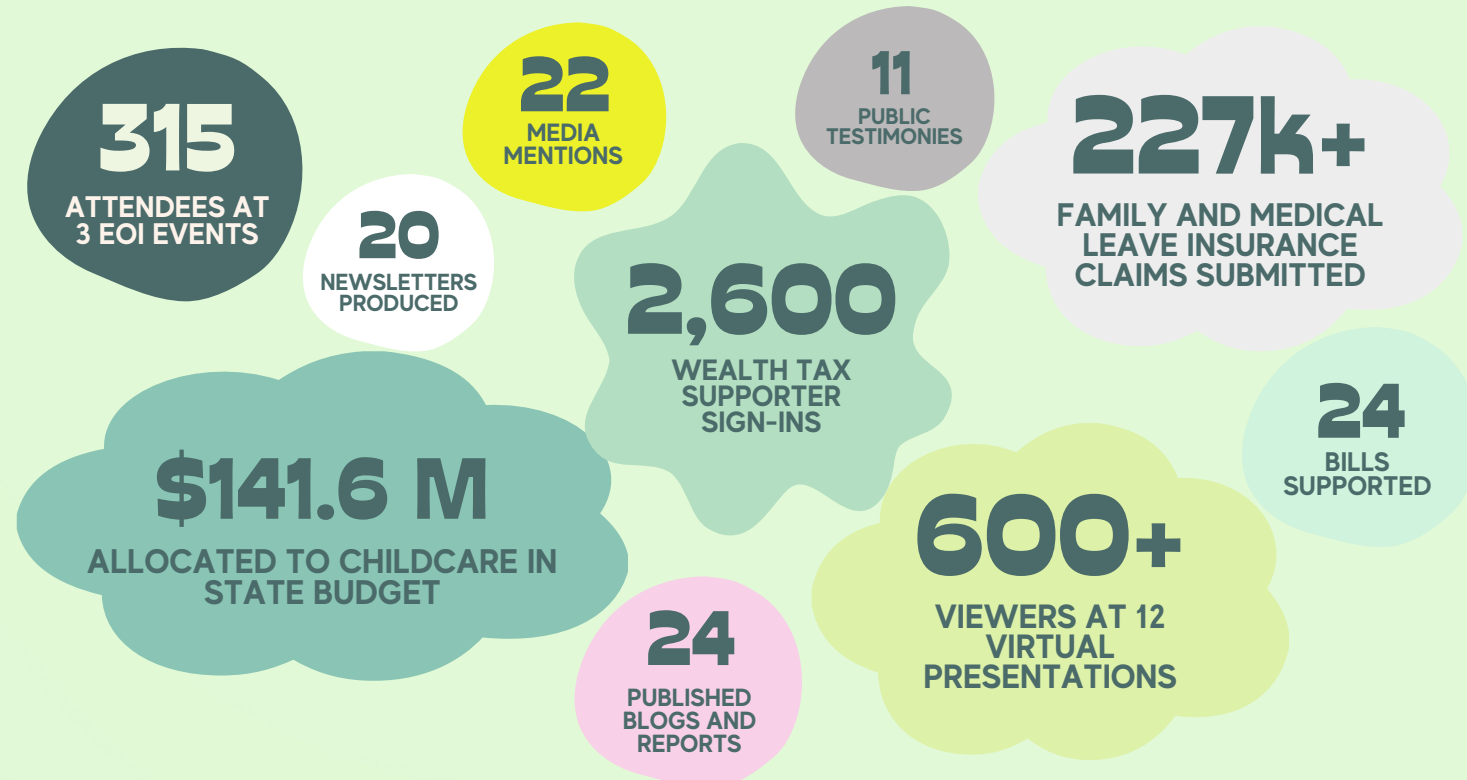
Founded in 1998, EOI works for a future grounded in economic security, racial equity, and a high quality of life for every Washington resident – including affordable, high-quality health care; access to affordable early learning and care and higher education opportunities; equitable opportunity and rights at work; time for care and the pursuit of happiness; and a secure and dignified retirement.

We are making that vision a reality by advancing public policies that promote the common well-being of current and future generations. In partnership with community groups, labor unions, coalitions, elected officials and businesses, we identify key areas where changes to public policy are needed for local communities to thrive.

We generate high-quality research, informed by an equity lens, that centers those most impacted by policy systems and decisions made at the state level. We use collaborative advocacy including coordinated action alerts, public testimony, educational presentations, and community listening sessions. And we follow policies through implementation in partnership with community members to ensure they remain equitable.

We believe that our economy should work for everyone – and through our commitment to bold and progressive policy change, we're helping create a brighter future for Washington.

by the numbers



our staff



Hanna Brooks-Olsen
Communications Specialist



Carolyn Brotherton
Policy Associate



Emmet Getahun
Communications Director



Sam Hatzenbeler
Senior Policy Associate



Aaron Keating
Co-Executive Director (interim)



Andrea Lopez-Diaz
Development Associate



Melanie Mazza
Development Director



Gabriela Quintana
Senior Policy Associate



Traci Underwood
Co-Executive Director (interim)

our board

Executive Committee
Michael Tamayo, President
Mary Curry, Secretary
Stan Sorscher, Treasurer
Dawn Trudeau, At-Large
Matt Loschen, At-Large
Andrew Gordon, At-Large

Members
April Sims
Rep. April Berg
Algernon Austin
Rep. Tarra Simmons
Elizabeth Woody Lindquist
Councilmember Tammy Morales



2022 highlights

Progressive Revenue

In 2022, EOI laid the groundwork for strong state and national coalitions to fight for ample investments for our communities through a balanced tax code. With the support of several partners, EOI commissioned a new legal analysis of the state wealth tax that further strengthens the foundation of our progressive revenue policy work. We also helped spearhead nationally coordinated wealth tax efforts which led to new organizing efforts across the country as well as funding for state-level polls.

During the 60-day 2022 state legislative session, EOI and its coalition partners successfully advocated for increased public investments in behavioral health, housing, and K-12 educational supports. And with the Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) set to launch in 2023, EOI and its allies helped secure public funding for community outreach as well important technical fixes to the program, helping ensure it will be accessible and equitable for hundreds of thousands of Washington's lowest-income residents.

High-Quality Child Care

EOI and childcare advocates helped secure and bolster funding for crucial programs through appropriations in Washington's supplemental budget, including: **\$125.7 million** to increase the state's subsidy rate for kids from low-income families and support childcare centers and family providers; **\$14.6 million** to expand Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, the state's early learning program for children from low-income families; and **\$1.3 million** to waive background check fees and convene a background check workgroup to help ease difficulties in hiring new staff.



State and federal lawmakers and child care advocates in Olympia, WA

Expanded Paid Family and Medical Leave

Through powerful worker-centered advocacy, EOI and its paid leave allies and champions secured multiple improvements to Washington's landmark Paid Family and Medical Leave Program, including a provision to ensure seven days of bereavement leave for parents in the event of the child's death immediately after birth. EOI also advocated for changes to the program's funding structure to assure its long-term financial stability; state leaders have since created a paid family and medical leave taskforce and funded an actuarial analysis to make recommendations to the 2023 legislature. EOI continues to solicit community feedback to ensure that PFML remains equitable and accessible to all Washingtonians.

Accessible Health Care



Health equity for immigrants panel conversation, EOI Changemakers Remixed 2022

EOI successfully advocated for several policies aimed to control consumer costs, improve access to health care, and protect health care workers, including:

New protections for consumers against surprise medical billing. By prohibiting doctors and providers from asking patients to waive their rights and adding new protected services, such as emergency behavioral medicine, air ambulances, and post-stabilization care, we're helping patients better predict the cost of care.

Improved equity for immigrants. EOI helped shepherd Washington's first steps toward a new Apple Health (Medicaid) lookalike program for low-income immigrants. The program also paved the way for Washington to become the first state in the nation to receive federal permission to allow undocumented immigrants to purchase health plans on the state marketplace. This allows immigrants earning 139-250% of the federal poverty level to access health care as well as premium subsidies, like other state residents.

Lower pharmaceutical prices. EOI championed the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB), an oversight group aimed at driving down pharmaceutical costs for patients by holding drug companies more accountable for their prices. The PDAB will have the authority to conduct an annual affordability review of 24 drugs per year, and beginning in 2027, will be able to establish upper payment limits on up to 12 drugs per year if price increase have led, or will lead to, excess costs for patients.

News and Transitions

In February 2022, EOI celebrated the retirement of Policy Director Marilyn Watkins, honoring her commitment and many powerful contributions to our work. Recognized as a national leader, Marilyn was instrumental in shaping EOI's policy priorities for 23 years and in securing Washington's Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

In September, we ushered in a new era of policy leadership with the hire of Traci Underwood as our Policy Director. Traci comes to EOI with over 20 years of public policy experience to help guide our team's research, advocacy, and policy vision.

EOI also boosted its advocacy and communications capacity by adding a Communications and Advocacy Specialist to our staff team. And we welcomed our community back for an in-person reunion at our 2022 Changemakers event. We were thrilled to see our powerful community of supporters gather and celebrate – and we can't wait to do it again this year!

building equitable child care policy

Listening to Providers and Parents



High-quality childcare is a cornerstone of a healthy economy. When it is widely available and affordable, it bolsters kids' social well-being, intellectual development, and physical health; it supports parents who want to find and keep a job; and it ensures workers for employers. But decades of public underinvestment have left childcare teachers with poverty-level wages, childcare providers often unable to recruit or retain qualified staff, and working families facing high costs and limited availability.

The COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated these problems. Many facilities have reduced hours or closed, with many staff moving on to other jobs with better wages and benefits – leaving the child care facilities that remain with fewer highly-qualified and experienced workers. **When providers can't find staff or must raise the already-high price of care to make ends meet, it creates disastrous ripple effects in our communities and economy.**

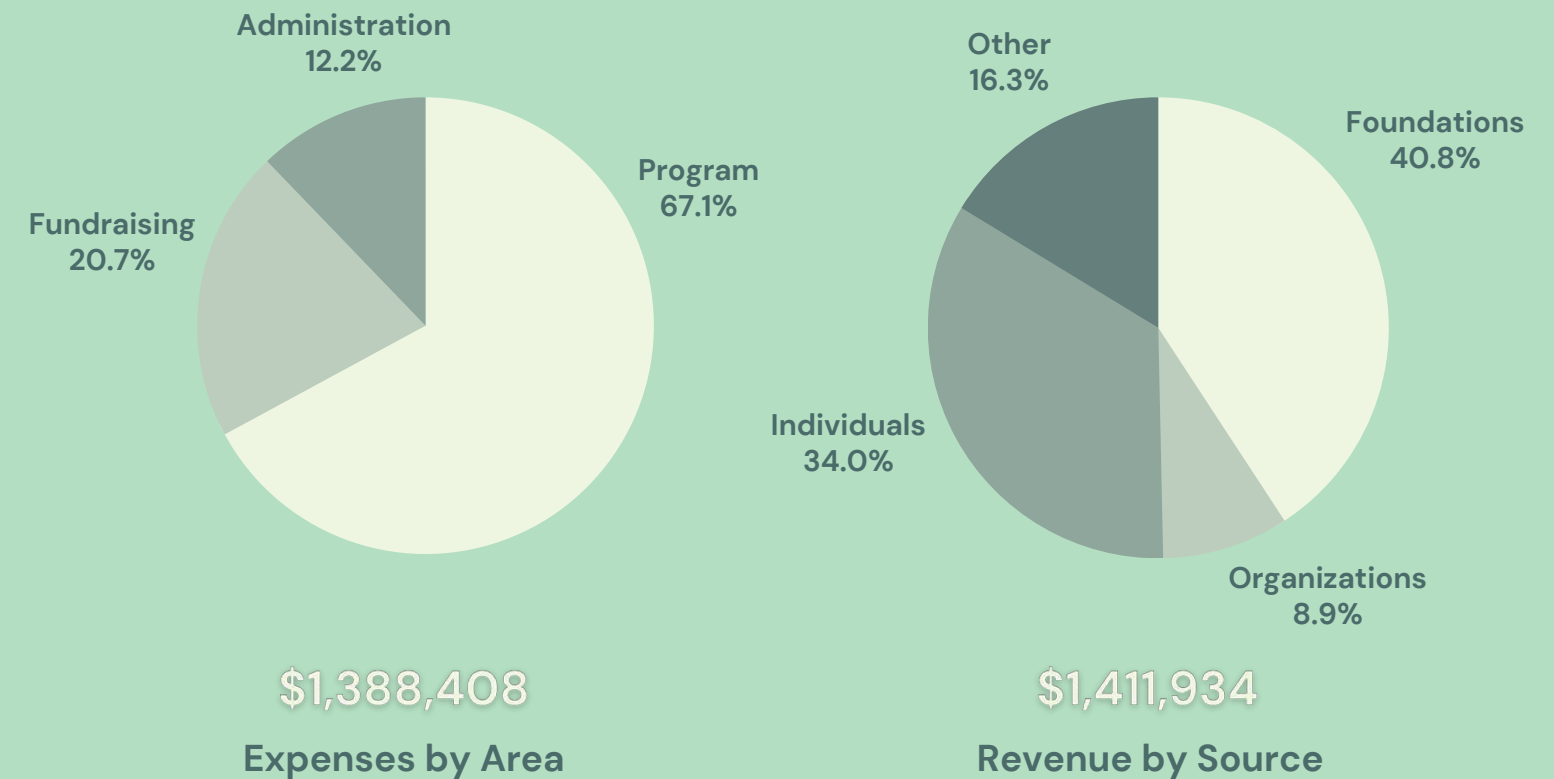
Addressing this ongoing crisis and creating sustainable policy change requires working not only with advocates, but also members of the communities most directly impacted by it. We must put the people who are actively struggling to make the system work – those who know first-hand what needs to be done, but who are too often left out of the conversation – at the center of decisions about childcare policy development and public investment.

This work requires trust and open communication, supported by persistence and a willingness to engage for years to come. **In 2022, EOI took steps on that journey by working in partnership with Yes for Early Success to prioritize thoughtful relationship-building and education via four listening sessions across Washington that specifically sought input from providers, teachers, and parents impacted by the childcare crisis.**

As the movement to amply fund and support the childcare sector grows, building on people's lived experience and direct knowledge will help us design and advocate for functional and sustainable childcare policies with state leaders.

If we truly value our children and their futures, then our policies and investments must change to support the providers and spaces that care for them. **Washington's working families deserve high-quality care they can afford, from providers who are well-compensated and protected.**

financial summary



**Preliminary figures subject to CPA review, represented on an accrual basis for fiscal year 1/1/22 to 12/31/22*

Save the date for EOI's 2023 Changemakers Dinner!

EOI is thrilled to invite you to join us in person for this year's Changemakers Dinner. We can't wait to celebrate the powerful work of our community and the significant policy strides we've made with you by our side.

Mark your calendars and get ready to share in the fun – this year's Changemakers Dinner is not to be missed! Stay tuned for more details to come.

October 11th, 2023
McCaw Hall
321 Mercer St, Seattle, WA 98109

Questions?

Reach out to events@opportunityinstitute.org to learn more.

