

## RISE TOGETHER 2017 POLICY AGENDA



Rise Together’s policy agenda is informed by research and the priorities of our partner organizations and Steering Council. Rise Together will educate, inform and activate our network to support this suite of policies.

### POLICY PRIORITIES

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Housing plays a central role in the health, education and economic outcomes of Bay Area residents. Lack of affordability and high housing cost burden, however, has forced families to uproot their lives, many moving to the outskirts of our region where commutes are long and opportunities thin. High housing costs are making it challenging to retain a quality workforce and is contributing to persistent homelessness. Recognizing the critical role of housing as a key component of economic success to cut poverty, Rise Together will advocate for a spectrum of policies and programs at the State and Bay Area regional level that preserve, protect and expand the supply of affordable housing.

#### *IMPLICATION OF PROPOSED STATE BUDGET 2017-18*

Governor Jerry Brown released a proposed 2017-18 budget that reflects both deep uncertainty about looming federal actions and a tempered economic and fiscal outlook for the state. With lower than expected revenue projected, the proposed budget rescinds \$400 million set aside for affordable housing programs. In addition, the Governor’s budget does not include significant proposals to directly address California’s affordable housing crisis.

Policy	Bill Status	Level of Support	Partners
<a href="#">AB71</a> (Chiu) Bring California Home Act: provide ongoing state funding source for affordable housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Factsheet</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Sample Support Letter</a></li></ul>	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	EAH Housing Public Advocates Non-Profit Assoc. of N. CA MidPen Housing Corp.
<a href="#">AB72</a> (Santiago) Fair Housing Enforcement: Earmark funding for enforcement of existing state housing laws through the State Attorney General	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Factsheet</a></li> <li>• Sample Support Letter</li> </ul>			
<p><a href="#">AB74</a> (Chiu) Housing for a Healthy California: Incentivize local governments to spur production of housing near public transportation to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Factsheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sample Support Letter</a></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	Bay Area Council Western Center on Law & Poverty
<p><a href="#">SB2</a> (Atkins) Building Homes and Jobs Act: Establish a permanent source of funding for affordable housing through a \$75 fee on real estate document filings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Factsheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sample Support Letter</a></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	PolicyLink Bay Area Council
<p><a href="#">SB3</a> (Beall) - Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018: \$3 billion statewide general obligation bond for affordable housing on the November 2018 ballot to fund existing critical and successful affordable housing programs in California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Factsheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sample Support Letter</a></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	United Way of CA Western Center on Law & Poverty

**EARLY CARE & EDUCATION:** Access to high quality and affordable child care for low-income families enable parents to work or go to school while providing children with the early childhood education experiences needed for healthy development. Unfortunately, accessible quality early childhood education/care varies widely and due to limited spaces and lack of public investment it is most limited for high poverty families. State policymakers dramatically cut support for these programs during and after the Great Recession, and overall funding in the current fiscal year remains nearly 20 percent below pre-recession levels, after adjusting for inflation, even with reinvestments made in recent years. Despite tremendous unmet need, the state currently provides about 70,000 fewer slots than in 2007-08. Rise Together advocates for reinvestment in early care and education and increased accessibility. Rise Together supports expansion of children’s funds in more Bay Area Municipalities to provide sustained funding sources dedicated for children’s needs and services who are living in poverty.

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<p><a href="#">AB 60</a> – (Santiago &amp; Gonzalez ) Guarantees twelve months of continuous child care assistance for families that receive childcare financial assistance and raises income eligibility levels to current standards. Would help families retain child care as the minimum wage rises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Factsheet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Sample Support Letter</a></li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Care Law Center</li> <li>• Parent Voices</li> <li>• First 5 Association</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">AB 11</a> – (McCarty) Child Care and Development Services Act: to provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective system of child care and development services for children from infancy to 13 years of age and their parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Factsheet</a></li> <li>• Sample Support Letter</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	<p>Children Now</p>
<p><a href="#">AB 300</a> –(Caballero) Individualized Child Care Subsidy Plans: Santa Clara County</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	<p>First 5 Association</p>
<p><a href="#">AB 435</a> – (Thurmond) Individualized Child Care Subsidy Plans: Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma Counties</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3- Support</p>	<p>First 5 Association</p>
<p><a href="#">AB 377</a> – (Frazier) Individualize Child Care Subsidy Plans: Solano County</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	<p>First 5 Association</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 138</a> – (McGuire) School meal programs: free and reduced-price meals</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3- Support</p>	
<p><a href="#">SB 191</a>- Beall (Pupil health: mental health and substance use disorder services)</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	
<p><b>State Budget Advocacy:</b> The 2016-17 budget agreement called for</p>			

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<p>implementation of a multiyear plan to reinvest in the state’s child care and development system, including by updating provider payment rates in order to keep pace with the state’s rising minimum wage and further boosting the number of full-day state preschool slots. Yet due to the projected decrease in revenue, the Governor’s proposed 2017-18 budget now “pauses” these proposed reinvestments until the 2018-19 fiscal year.</p>			
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**PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT:** Access to a living wage or middle income employment is the foundation of financial stability for Bay Area low-wage workers. Families must have a steady source of income that covers the cost of basic needs such as food, housing, childcare and healthcare. By increasing access to quality education, job training and workforce development programs and encouraging sector-based strategies that connect skilled workers with jobs in growing sectors, low-income individuals can obtain living wage employment that offers the potential for career advancement. Rise Together supports policies and programs that strengthen economic security, increase fair employment practices, reduce barriers to employment, and raise the local minimum wage in the Bay Area cities and counties.

Policy	Bill Status	Level of Support	Partners
<a href="#">SB 63</a> (Jackson) New Parent Leave Act: Provide up to 12 weeks of job-protected maternity and paternity leave	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>California Work &amp; Families Coalition</li> </ul>
<a href="#">AB 1111</a> (Eduardo Garcia, Arambula, Eggman, Maienschein, Quirk-Silva, Santiago, Steinorth) Removing Barriers to Employment Act: Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative.	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	
<a href="#">AB 1008</a> (McCarty) Employment discrimination: prior criminal history – “Ban-the-Box” make it unlawful for an employer to include on any application for employment any question that seeks	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3 - Support	

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the disclosure of an applicant’s criminal history.			
<a href="#">AB 160</a> (Stone) Employment/CalWORKS to improve the work support benefits of the CalWORKs program by increasing the program’s Earned Income Disregard and restoring lifetime eligibility to 60 months.	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3- Support	
<a href="#">AB 387</a> (Thurmond) To ensure that any person engaged in a period of supervised work experience to satisfy requirements for licensure, registration, or certification as an Allied Health Professional be included in California’s minimum wage law	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3- Support	Ensuring Opportunity Campaign
<a href="#">AB 415</a> (Chiu) CalFresh: employment social enterprises to clarify that someone who is employed through a social enterprise can continue to receive aid even after they income out for up to 12 months	<a href="#">Current Status</a>	Tier 3- Support	REDF Western Center on Law & Poverty
Expand Local Minimum Wage and Living Wage ordinances into additional Bay Area municipalities			

**SAFETY NET:** The social safety net is a critical resource that helps lift children and their families out of poverty and prevents more from falling into poverty. Safety net assistance includes cash grants, nutritional support, housing assistance, and earned income tax credits. The new CalEITC will help reduce poverty and boost economic growth by leveraging federal EITC. Unfortunately, many Bay Area low-income families still face barriers to accessing the social safety net including income restrictions, lack of awareness, stigma and enrollment difficulties. Additionally, benefit limit tests or “benefit cliffs” penalize people who begin moving out of poverty by terminating their benefits with changes in family’s income. Rise Together supports policies and programs that protect critical safety net and expand CalEITC.

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Policy	Bill Status	Level of Support	Partners
<p><a href="#">AB 75</a> (Steinorth) – CA EITC to expand the earned income credit to include specified net earnings from self-employment in earned income, thus allowing an earned income credit for taxpayers for those earnings. This bill would additionally set the earned income tax credit adjustment factor as 85%</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	<p>UWBA</p>
<p><a href="#">AB 1010</a> (Ting) CA EITC Expansion to align the CalEITC with the federal EITC by raising the income limit to qualify for the state credit up to the level needed to qualify for the federal credit.</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 – Support</p>	<p>UWBA</p>
<p><a href="#">AB 225</a> (Caballero) CA EITC to increase the earned income threshold for which the phase out begins and would increase the amount of investment income that is allowed per taxable year before the credit is denied, thereby increasing the amount of eligible taxpayers and the credit percentage for those eligible individuals for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2017</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	<p>UWBA</p>
<p><a href="#">AB 1010</a> (Ting) CalEITC Expansion to include all households currently eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit by increasing the income eligibility threshold and including earnings from self-employment</p>	<p><a href="#">Current Status</a></p>	<p>Tier 3- Support</p>	<p>UWBA</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 167</a> (Skinner) would improve access for people leaving prison to CalFresh anti-hunger assistance and to Supplemental Security Income (SSI).</p>	<p>Current Status</p>	<p>Tier 3 - Support</p>	<p>Western Center on Laws and Poverty</p>

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### PARTNERS WE WILL WORK TO ALIGN OUR POLICY AGENDA WITH INCLUDE:

- All In Alameda County
- Bay Area Council
- California Forward
- Ensuring Opportunities Contra Costa County
- Live Healthy Napa County
- Marin Promise & Marin Kids
- PolicyLink
- Step Up Santa Clara County
- United Way Bay Area
- United Ways of California
- Urban Habitat
- Western Center on Law & Poverty
- YWCA San Francisco & Marin

### RISE TOGETHER LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT:

- Tier 1: Legislative Leadership** – Rise Together will assume a leadership role in advocacy and devote resources to proactively advocate on the issue, and engage our stakeholders -- volunteers, partners, and other supporters -- to advocate for the issue.
- Tier 2: Legislative Advocacy** – Rise Together will develop a position, advocate, and generate grassroots support on an as-needed basis.
- Tier 3: Legislative Support** – Rise Together will monitor and respond to requests for support through such vehicles as “sign-on letters” and support the work of partners who are the thought leaders on Tier 3 issues.