



Funding Priorities

Foundational Public Health Services



Sustain the increase in funding to fully implement the set of public health capabilities that were adopted in HB 1497 (2019) and approved in the FY21-23 budget. COVID-19 has shown and exacerbated the current system's deficits and local public health is working to use investments made by the legislature last year for current and future planning. This continues a phased approach to fully funding core public health services and infrastructure. *The Snohomish Health District supports federal and state efforts toward fully funding FPHS, with continued investments at the local level to fund existing and additional important services.*

Policy Priorities



Workforce Recruitment, Development and Retention

The public health system, across all disciplines, is experiencing a large number of staff exiting the profession alongside a decrease of qualified professionals. In support of innovative and consistent delivery of foundational public health services, such as informatics, our workforce must meet these challenges. *The Snohomish Health District supports the development, implementation and funding of public health workforce development and retention system.*



Environment and Health

There is an on-going connection between our environment and impacts to human health. Examples include water quality and shellfish, climate and excessive heat, wildfires, and poor air quality. *The Snohomish Health District supports legislation improving the quality of and addressing health impacts of our environments to achieve improved population health outcomes.*



Health Systems

Healthy communities happen with robust and coordinated public health and health care systems. Snohomish County health care and long-term care systems are operating in crisis mode. *The Snohomish Health District supports federal and state efforts to reshape, sustain, and advance an equitable, resilient health care system, including mobile services and addressing barriers to long-term care.*



Despair and Health

The linkages between diseases of despair such as substance abuse (alcohol, opioids and other drugs) and mental health are a well-researched determinant of health. Related health impacts are wide ranging and include communicable diseases, mental health, and behavioral health. *The Snohomish Health District supports legislation improving the understanding the linkages of despair and health and actively address the root causes to achieve improved population health outcomes.*

Policy Positions



Equity

Supports efforts to ensure equitable access to public health resources in alignment with the public health system's moral and legal responsibilities.



Vapor Products

Supports state and federal bans on the sale of flavored vapor products, increased funding for vape education and outreach, increased oversight on the manufacturing and sales of vapor products, and additional research on the health impacts of vaping and vapor products.



Access to Whole Body Care

Support policies and funding that ensures residents get coverage and access to the services and devices needed to improve health outcomes.