



2020 Budget and Legislation Proposals

AUGUST 2019



Central Administration

Maintain the Child Profile Health Promotion System, \$2 million (General Fund State, Fund 001)

The federal funding which historically supported the Child Profile Health Promotion System has diminished. Along with naturally rising operational costs, there is no longer sufficient funding to fully manage and run this instrumental tool which disseminated important health information to Washington State families for the last 20 years. This proposal sustains this one-of-a-kind system that delivers critical health messages to parents, well-child visit and immunization information and reminders, and other important public health information.

Restore Foundational Public Health Services Funding, \$3.2 million (General Fund State, Fund 001)

The legislature provided the Office of Financial Management with \$12 million in spending authority from the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Account in the 2019-2021 biennium to support foundational public health services through the Department of Health (DOH). The revenue supporting this spending authority was anticipated to come from the collection of a newly enacted tax on the distribution of vapor products, created by Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1873. Recent tax collection indicates only \$8.8 million of tax revenue would be available in the 2019-2021 biennium for this account. Therefore, DOH requests \$3.2 million GF-State to backfill this revenue shortfall, which allows the agency to fulfill the Legislature's foundational public health mandates.

Fund Foundational Public Health Services, \$23.3 (General Fund State, Fund 001)

The local, tribal, and state governmental public health system is failing to provide the most basic, core public health services necessary to adequately protect and promote the health of all Washingtonians. This proposal continues the phased approach to fully funding the Foundational Public Health Services gaps (\$450 million/biennium), starting with funding communicable disease, environmental public health and assessment services. The outcomes include reducing communicable disease and environmental health threats.

Prevention and Community Health

Preserve Title X Program, \$8.4 million (General Fund State, Fund 001)

The Department of Health's Family Planning Program administers \$13 million in combined state and federal funds annually, including \$4 million from the federal Title X program and \$8.4 million in GFS to provide infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, supplies, health education, training for providers and staff to maintain quality of services, and reimburse providers for discounted services for qualifying clients. On March 4, 2019, the United States Department of Health and Human Services published the new rule that would change federal Title X regulations. The rule is being legally challenged by numerous states. This request is to replace federal dollars that Washington can no longer accept due to changes in federal Title X rules, which conflict with state law.

Department of Health

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Improve Immunization Compliance, \$10.2 (General Fund State, Fund 001)

Although the average immunization out-of-compliance rates for Washington kindergarteners in schools was eight percent, school self-reported rates ranged from less than one percent to more than forty-three percent. This broad range of reporting highlights inconsistencies in reporting methodology and could place schools and communities at risk for diseases that vaccines can prevent. Schools and child care centers carry the burden of ensuring children are in compliance with state immunization laws. This request is for a comprehensive system to decrease out-of-compliance rates in schools and child care centers to better protect our communities against vaccine-preventable diseases and potential outbreaks. This system would build on use of already existing technology, provide education to health care providers, and provide outreach to parents and vulnerable communities with low vaccination rates.

Reduce Tobacco Use for 18-20 Year Olds, \$365,000 (General Fund State, Fund 001)

Engrossed House Bill 1074 raised the minimum legal age for a person to be sold tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21 effective January 1, 2020. The Department of Health requests funding to promote tobacco cessation and provide counseling support and nicotine replacement therapy to Washingtonians age 18-20 who currently use tobacco and vapor products.

Train and Educate CHW Workforce, \$586,000 (General Fund State, Fund 001)

Community Health Workers (CHW) improve health outcomes and lower healthcare costs by helping people understand the healthcare system and connecting people to health services like preventive screenings, behavioral health support and chronic disease self-management. In 2018, the legislature designated funding for the department to implement the 2015-2016 Task Force Training and Education Recommendations. The 2018 CHW Task Force Recommendations were in four key areas: CHW abilities, methodology, employer support, and infrastructure. This proposal builds on the 2018 task force recommendations to implement training and education recommendations. Funding is requested to implement a training framework that is specific to the CHW workforce needs of Washington and establish training standards for the knowledge and abilities a trained CHW should have.

Reduce Suicide Rates, \$8.2 million (General Fund State, Fund 001)

Suicide rate increases in Washington are alarming and visible across all populations. They are also preventable. In 2018, the Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (AASP) – whose member organizations include government, K-12 and higher education, business, tribes, health systems and practitioners – identified

suicide prevention strategies to lay the foundation for a strong, flexible, and responsive suicide prevention system. This proposal would fund that request, including increasing staff at crisis centers answering Washington calls to the Lifeline, community-based suicide prevention grants, promoting the safe storage of medications and firearms, and the creation of a state veterans' suicide prevention plan.

Disease Control & Health Statistics

Legislation: Communicable Disease Modernization, \$51,000 one-time (General Fund State, Fund 001)

The Department of Health (DOH) is proposing legislation to modernize the control of sexually transmitted diseases and blood-borne pathogens by eliminating HIV and AIDS exceptionalism, eliminating outdated statutory requirements, and ensuring the effectiveness of the public health tools available for the control of sexually transmitted diseases.

Conduct Recommended Newborn Screening, \$360,000 (General Fund Local, Fund 001-7)

In 2019, the State Board of Health recommends adding spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) to the mandatory newborn screening panel. Additional expenditure authority and a fee increase is necessary for the Department of Health's Newborn Screening Laboratory to conduct the required blood sample testing for this heritable condition.

Reinforce Outbreak Response—Lab Courier, \$400,000, (General Fund State, Fund 001)

The Washington State Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory provides critical laboratory services that positively impact the public's health by supporting our environmental health and communicable and infectious disease investigation programs. Delivering rapid and accurate lab results to local, state, tribal and federal stakeholders is currently limited by infrastructure deficiencies. One challenge is the lack of a state funded courier system for specimen delivery. Getting quicker, more accurate lab results to disease investigators and medical providers means quicker public health action and better patient outcomes.

Eliminate Hepatitis C, \$6.8 million (General Fund State, Fund 001)

In September 2018, Governor Inslee issued Directive 18-13, unveiling a first-in nation approach to eliminate the hepatitis C virus (HCV) by 2030. HCV is an infectious condition that can cause liver disease and morbidity. Annually, it causes more fatalities in Washington State than HIV did at its epidemic peak. Approximately 65,000 Washingtonians live with HCV. Since 2011, reports of new acute cases have risen dramatically, reflecting a rise in injection drug use associated with the opioid epidemic. DOH requests funds to invest in a comprehensive public health plan to achieve the Directive's goal.

Department of Health

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Prevent Infectious Disease—SSP, \$3.8 million (General Fund State, Fund 001)

Syringe Service Programs (SSP) reduce improperly discarded syringes in the environment, including implementing community based pickup programs and implementing syringe disposal sites where they are likely to have the biggest impacts. They further allow direct contact with drug users and the opportunity to provide access and referral to a range of available services, such as healthcare and drug treatment, to people whom otherwise are unlikely to seek access to such services. In the face of the ongoing opioid crisis, infectious diseases related to drug use have increased significantly, and scaling up SSP is critical to address this threat. The Department of Health requests funding to rapidly expand capacity at Syringe Service Programs (SSP)s by investing in a public safety initiative to improve access to safe syringe disposal.

Health Systems Quality Assurance

Maintain HEAL-WA Web Portal, \$769,000 (Health Professions Account, Fund 02G)

The Health Electronic Resource for Washington (HEALWA), managed by the University of Washington (UW) with funding from the Department of Health, is a web portal that supports public health by providing certain health care providers with access to the latest evidence based health care information. Costs for UW to maintain the web portal are increasing as the numbers of licensees who use the web portal increase. The Department of Health requests expenditure authority from the existing fund balance to cover the increased costs to maintain this program.

Maintain Medical Test Site Inspection Capacity, \$880,000 (Medical Test Site Licensure Account, Fund 002)

The Department of Health works to ensure that licensed laboratories provide safe laboratory services by regulating more than 4,000 Medical Test Sites (MTS). The department performs routine inspections and investigates complaints. It also provides education, technical assistance, and consultation to assist laboratories in meeting compliance with standards or regulations. Additional spending authority is needed for the Medical Test Site program to maintain inspection of licensed laboratories and protect patient safety. Without the additional spending authority, the program will be unable to keep up with the required inspection workload, posing risks to patients by not holding facilities accountable to existing standards.

Environmental Public Health

Drinking Water System Improvements, \$400,000 (Drinking Water Assistance Administrative Account, Fund 05R)

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) receives federal funding to capitalize a state revolving fund known as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). This fund, combined with a state match and loan administration fee, supports low interest loans to public water systems and are a key infrastructure support for our state. The DOH requests additional appropriation authority of \$400,000 per biennium to enhance the loans and grants tracking data system, increase access to feasibility study funding for water system consolidations, and align funding with future staffing needs and program costs.



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