2024 Legislative Priorities

Everyone everywhere should be able to count on public health.

Public health protects communities from known and emerging health threats, natural disasters, and environmental threats. Thank you for your $324 million investment in the governmental public health system for the 2024–2025 biennium to protect all Washington residents.

We’ve used previous Foundational Public Health Services funding to expand our workforce, share services with smaller health jurisdictions, and add services:

- **Control communicable disease**—Investigate cases of tuberculosis and ensure people complete treatment quickly and safely.
- **Prevent cases of syphilis in newborns**—Make sure those who are pregnant get the treatment they need.
- **Climate justice**—Help communities most affected by extreme weather events.
- **Keep children and families healthy and safe**—Implement evidence-based approaches to strengthen families and reduce violence.

During the 2024 legislative session, you promote healthy lives, reduce chronic disease costs, and improve length and quality of life when you support these priorities.

- **Tobacco and vaping.**
  - Protect youth from the harms of tobacco and vaping.
  - Support removing flavors, including menthol, in commercial tobacco products.
  - Support a tax on vapor products.

- **Fentanyl and opioid use disorder.**
  - Increase access and availability to opioid treatment programs and services for Pierce County residents.
  - Increase awareness and prevention strategies, including reducing stigma.

- **Active living and healthy eating for adults and children.**
  - Invest in funding for robust youth-targeted physical activity and nutrition programs.

- **Control communicable disease.**
  - Allow medical assistants to provide intramuscular injections for syphilis treatment in the field.
  - Protect newborns from respiratory disease by expanding coverage of the Washington Vaccine Association to include RSV immunization.

- **Prevent hospitalizations.**
  - Continue to support the Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations initiative to improve access to quality healthcare.

- **Racial justice and health equity.**
  - Close disparity gaps and eliminate racism to lift people up.
  - Promote system changes to help all people achieve their full health potential.
  - Promote environmental justice.
  - Invest in community wealth building to advance economic justice.

We can help you with data requests to inform decision making.

Contact us at director@tpchd.org.

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