



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of Public Affairs and Equity
Post Office Box 47830
Olympia, Washington 98504-7830

February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Collaborative - Seeking Advice on Preventive Health and Health Service Block Grant

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners:

In accordance with [Chapter 43.376 RCW](#) and the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), I am writing today to invite your collaboration on the Department of Health's (DOH) [Preventive Health and Health Services \(PHHS\) Block Grant](#).

Washington receives about \$1.5 million annually through the PHHS Block Grant funds to support activities toward achievement of any of the nation's [Healthy People 2030 health objectives](#). A mandatory ten percent is set aside for sexual violence prevention, and of the remaining funds, DOH spends 30% on health literacy efforts. The remaining 70% of these funds (about \$800,000) go to birth equity initiatives with direct community investments in local birth equity programs across the state, including four projects serving tribal communities. However, our committed investment in birth equity ends in 2025, and we must either extend the birth equity funding or reallocate the funds currently committed to birth equity to address another public health issue(s).

The grant activities and funding decisions are guided by a Community Health Advisory Committee (CHAC). The committee meets quarterly and will make recommendations on how to invest these funds. The CHAC has requested a list of potential new funding options but will also consider renewed funding for birth equity programs. The CHAC will incorporate feedback from tribal partners into their recommendations.

I invite you to actively collaborate as funds could be allocated towards public health concerns that disproportionately affect tribal communities. I appreciate your feedback, suggestions, or questions. For additional information contact Emma Wolf, Acting Health Promotion Supervisor and PHHS Block Grant Coordinator at emma.wolf@doh.wa.gov or 564-999-3217, or Candice Wilson, Tribal Public Health and Relations, at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Perez
Elizabeth Perez, MPH

Chief of Public Affairs and Equity
Executive Office of Public Affairs and Equity

cc: Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
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