

Office of Healthy Communities

Description: The Office of Healthy Communities is dedicated to making the healthy choice the easy choice in homes, communities, workplaces, health care settings, early learning settings and schools. We work to prevent disease and promote health at every stage of life by implementing policies, system and environmental changes with a focus on health equity and informing the public about healthy choices. Our work addresses these priority areas:

- Active living and safe environments
- Clinical preventive services and interventions
- Healthy eating
- Healthy starts
- Healthy communities
- Quality screening, referral, and follow-up
- Reproductive and sexual health
- Social and emotional wellness
- Tobacco and substance-free living
- Health equity

The Office of Healthy Communities consists of five sections:

- Access, Systems and Coordination
- Community Based Prevention
- Community Healthcare Improvement Linkages
- Partnerships, Planning, Policy and Operations
- Surveillance and Evaluation

Mission/Purpose: To support people and communities to improve health throughout the lifespan and achieve health equity.

Target Population: All residents of Washington State.

Major Functions

- Implement the Washington State Plan for Healthy Communities in alignment with state and national goals.
- Support healthy starts for all babies.
- Support access to reproductive and sexual healthcare.
- Promote tobacco-free living and access to smoke-free environments.
- Develop marijuana education and youth prevention campaigns.
- Support access to healthy foods and encourage healthy eating.
- Support healthy and safe physical and social environments that promote physical activity.
- Support transitions for children and youth between service systems and into young adulthood.
- Monitor trends in health status and risk factors in the population.
- Promote health equity.

Major Issues

- Implementing our role in federal healthcare reform.
- The rapidly increasing use of e-cigarettes/vapor devices, especially by youth.
- Addressing the changing landscape due to legalization of recreational marijuana for adults, primarily to prevent use by youth.
- Aligning focus from specific diseases to common risk factors and the socio-economic environment.
- Limited federal and state funding reduces our capacity to meet the population's needs.
- Identifying and developing partnerships with private organizations, local agencies, and other community partners to sustain our work.
- Addressing problems with access to care for Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, and underinsured populations.

Budget: For the 2015-17 biennium, the Office of Healthy Communities budget is \$107.5 million with interagency reimbursements (IARs) included. This includes General Fund State (37.6 percent) and Federal (56 percent); Fund 319 – Public Health Supplemental Account which comes from outside organizations to support Breast and Cervical Health and Patient-Centered Medical Home (2.6 percent); IARs (2.6 percent); and Youth Tobacco Prevention Account Funds (1.2 percent). It also includes one-time General Fund State supporting the Autism Alliance and Diabetes Prevention. The office has 139 FTE among offices located in Tumwater, Shoreline, and Kent.

**Division of Prevention and Community Health
Office of Healthy Communities
Total Allotments by Fund Type
2015-17 Biennium**

Total = \$107,527,886 (With IARs)

Total = \$104,734,396 (Without IARs)

