

MODERNIZING THE GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM IN WASHINGTON STATE

2017 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Phase 1 of a Multi-Year Plan

September 2016

BACKGROUND

After a century of effectively preventing death and illness and increasing the quality of life of our residents, the public health system faces the dual challenges of a severe funding crisis and a change in the nature of preventable disease and illness in our state. Public health officials and local leaders have defined a set of core services that government must provide in all communities in our state. To maximize return on investment and ensure that these core services are available statewide, the Department of Health (DOH) and local health jurisdictions are looking at how services are currently provided and developing new models for how we deliver them. A proposal is being developed for the Governor and 2017 Legislature to implement the framework for a 21st Century Public Health system in Washington. The proposal is part of a multi-year plan and will include a funding request to address some of the most critical gaps in core services at the state and local level.

PHASE 1 – FILLING THE MOST CRITICAL GAPS FIRST (\$29.9M/year)

Part 1 – Addressing Critical Gaps in Essential Services - \$26.9M/year		
Essential Service	LHJ – \$25M/year*	System-wide & DOH – \$1.9M/year
Communicable Disease Investigations & Response	Increase capacity to provide core services: monitoring communicable diseases; investigating outbreaks; identifying causes; preventing cases; and coordinating disease response across agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand capacity at state public health laboratory to meet increased demand. • Replace lost federal grant for monitoring incidence of Hepatitis C. Funding to maintain current level of service. • Increase capacity for communicable disease monitoring, outbreak investigation and support to local health jurisdictions.
Chronic Diseases	Increase capacity to provide core services: monitoring impact and causes of chronic diseases; coordinating disease response across agencies and partners; and implementing evidence based programs to prevent chronic diseases by addressing the major risk factors for illness and death.	
Essential Service	LHJ	System-wide & DOH

Assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand capacity to monitor non-infectious diseases and provide technical assistance and surge capacity to support local public health’s response to community problems.
Other Core Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand capacity to monitor adverse events in health care facilities – follow up on reports, analyze root cause reports and develop corrective action plans. • Increase Health Impact Assessments capacity for State Board of Health. • Translate communication products and tools for non-English speaking people. • Develop agency-wide IT proposal incorporating shared platforms and data sources concepts.

Part 2 – Pilot Projects and Implementation Planning - \$3M/year

- Implement, oversee, and evaluate service delivery proof of concept pilots to gain efficiency and effectiveness in public health system.
- Update cost of core services for each local health jurisdiction.
- Develop robust accountability framework.
- Develop funding allocation model for funds received in 2019-2021 biennium and beyond.
- Develop operational guidelines for all core services.