

Community Collaborative Meeting

November 14, 2024

Next meeting:

December 11, 3:30-5:00 PT

We are working to find balance in the benefits and costs associated with translation. If you would like any part of our materials in another language, please email Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov and we will work with you to translate into the language(s) needed.

Estamos trabajando para encontrar un equilibrio entre los beneficios y costos asociados con la traducción. Si desea leer o compartir esto o alguna parte de nuestros materiales con una audiencia en otro idioma, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov y trabajaremos con juntos con usted para traducir al idioma o idiomas necesarios.

Meeting Slides

Access Meeting slides on WaPortal here: <https://waportal.org/partners/community-collaborative/meeting-notes-and-slides>

Meeting Recap

Opening

Collaborative members were welcomed into the space by Mayra Colazo, Thought Partner and Executive Director, Central Washington Disability Resources. As part of the welcome and introduction, participants were asked to add their name and their favorite fall food in the chat.

Update on the State Budget & Public Health

Julie Peterson, Executive Director, Foundation for Healthy Generations, provided an overview of the State Budget and its likely impact on public health programming in Washington. Key takeaways include:

- The situation is fluid, so expect changes to what is shared.
- At the state level, we're going to have the first change in administration in 12 years.
- Coming out of COVID, we had some of the biggest budgets we've seen in our lifetime. The legislature invested some of that money in one-time investments in food programs, health programs, and getting people insured.
- Those funds are ending when we are also facing reduced tax revenue and inflation. The revenue forecast is scheduled for Nov. 20, a budget shortfall of between \$5-10 billion is projected.
- The Office of Fiscal Management has asked all state agencies to conduct an exercise reflecting a 15-25% budget reduction in agency funds.



- Depending on final vote counts, the Democrats may have a super-majority (holding over 2/3 of the seats). This would allow for possibilities of generating revenue (raise taxes, issue bonds) to balance the budget.
- We need to see what is going to happen with Federal resources for public health services.
 - We're currently operating under a CR (Continuing Resolution) and it is unclear when a permanent budget will be passed.
 - There will likely be a fight over the debt ceiling in January, which will impact Federal funds getting to states.
 - Under the last Trump Administration, there were Federal funds (for example around reproductive health) that came down with such significant restrictions that Washington State turned the money back.
- The incoming Governor and elected Attorney General have been preparing for the possibility of a second Trump presidency for over a year. Washington State had success with legal challenges to the previous administration (3 defeats in 100 cases brought against the administration).
- The 2025 legislative session starts the 2nd Monday of January. Top priorities will be housing, behavioral health, and education funding.

EVENTS TO TRACK

- Economic and Revenue Forecast Council Meeting, Nov. 20th ([Listen in](#))
- Assembly days, 2nd week of December (Committee chairs selected)
- Governor Inslee's Budget Release, 3rd week in December

Q&A

- Will a super majority be necessary if we have Republicans voting across the aisle?
 - No. The majority of bills in WA State are passed in a bipartisan manner and generally legislators from both parties have strong working relationships.
- Will the budget crisis impact the willingness to make long-term, forward-thinking investments?
 - Last time this happened, there was a framework put forth about what investments to prioritize and protect. It is likely this approach will be taken again.
- What is being done to prioritize the health care, dietary, and nutritional concerns of those in carceral settings?
 - A member of the Washington State legislature has previously been incarcerated (Rep Tarra Simmons), has a strong voice and has been great about uplifting issues.
 - TVW has been a game changer with the ability for people to testify anywhere in the State of Washington. Three young people from Green Hill testified throughout the last two or three sessions of the Washington State legislature about conditions at Green Hill (Washington State teen detention center).

Resources:

Budget Information: [Economic and Revenue Economic Forecast Council](#)

View hearings: <https://tvw.org/schedule/>

Learn about scheduled hearings, submit comments and reach legislators: <https://leg.wa.gov/>

Policy resources and Foundation for Healthy Generations newsletter: <https://healthygen.org/resources/>



Nutrition

Amy Ellings, Deputy Director, Healthy and Safe Communities Prevention and Community Health, Washington State DOH shared where DOH-funded programs sit within the broad and complex set of food and nutrition programs offered. Panelists represented three DOH-funded nutrition programs:

- WIC
- SNAP-Ed
- Fruit and Vegetables Incentive Program

Each program provided a brief overview of services provided, eligibility, and people served. Panelists answered audience questions and engaged in a discussion of how to ensure that vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations in the community can participate in these programs. Key points of interest from Community Collaborative members in the discussion included:

- Strategies for community engagement.
- Barriers to access including:
 - Long and complex documents.
 - Stigma and the fear of being seen as a “public charge.” (Immigrants who are viewed as likely to be dependent on public benefits can be classified as a “public charge” and can be denied a green card, visa, or admission into the United States.)
 - Difficulty in using the provided gift cards.
- How culturally specific grocery stores, farmers, and food producers could become vendors in these programs.
- How to make materials more accessible, especially for:
 - Those with disabilities or access and functional needs.
 - Those primarily speaking languages other than English, especially less prevalent languages and languages where many speakers don’t communicate in written script.
 - Those in rural communities.

Resources:

[Fruit and Vegetables Incentives Program](#)

[SNAP Market Match \(Farmers Markets\)](#)

[Order free promotional material in 25 languages](#)

[SNAP Produce Match \(Grocery stores\)](#)

[Order free promotional material in 13 languages](#)

[Interactive Map | Washington State SNAP-Ed Providers](#)

Examples of how to reach groups that don’t primarily rely on written materials like flyers:

- WIC outreach in Bambara: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqnJNUBPZ8k>
- WIC in Wollof: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJmkWH-8NrI>
- WIC skit in Mandinka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDdjo7Vksm0&t=55s>



From Pa Ousman Joof: We are currently working with the Washington Health Plan Finder to do outreach and application assistance for members of our community. We are helping people to apply for insurance during this Open Enrollment period. See sample videos:

- Fula: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nukpyn5xBY>
- Fante: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6X3QrtT1gQ>
- Mandinka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vl3VoK4322c&t=1s>

Programs that work with ethnic and cultural groups to help them grow culturally appropriate food:

- <https://livingwellkent.org/food-access.html#/>
- <https://www.blackfarmerscollective.com/>

Closing

Mayra Colazo closed with a quote by Amanda Gorman, excerpted from *The Hill We Climb*, January 20, 2021. She also reminded everyone of the December meeting to discuss behavioral health programs at DOH.

We will not march back to what was, but
move to what shall be: a country that is
bruised but whole, benevolent but bold,
fierce and free. We will not be turned
around or interrupted by intimidation
because we know our inaction and
inertia will be the inheritance of the
next generation, become the future.

AMANDA GORMAN