



Call for Thought Partners!

THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

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Summary

Are you interested in shaping the future of public health in Washington State? As the federal government rolls back decades of progress in reducing poverty and improving access to healthcare, hearing from communities in our state is more important than ever. The Community Collaborative is a collective that centers the voice and perspective of community partners so that Washington State Department of Health (DOH) practices, programs and policies improve health outcomes for all Washingtonians.

Thought Partners are community leaders who advise the Department of Health. They act as trusted messengers and bridges for the Community Collaborative and every community in Washington that has been historically left out of decision making. By sharing their lived expertise and networks, Thought Partners serve as force multipliers; amplifying impact, deepening trust, and accelerating change across communities.

Who Should Apply

We are building a workgroup that reflects the diverse experiences of Washington communities. We are seeking up to **five** (5) Thought Partners to balance the representation of our current group and improve diversity across these [communities and intersections](#).

- To improve diversity across race and ethnicity, we are prioritizing people with lived and/or community experience working with the following communities: Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latine, Pacific Islander, South Asian.
- To improve geographic representation across WA, we are prioritizing those who live or work in
 - North Eastern Washington, including Adams, Lincoln, Spokane, Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.
 - The Olympic Peninsula with special attention to Jefferson, Clallam and Grays Harbor counties.
 - Southwest Washington with attention to Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties.
- We are also prioritizing the following experiences:
 - Community organizing, policymaking or advocacy
 - Connections to the public health system, e.g. through an ACH, community health clinic, or as a Community Health Worker (CHW)
 - Meeting facilitation experience
 - Experience working within or being directly affected by the following systems: agriculture, criminal legal or immigration, mental or behavioral health, substance use.

Membership Criteria

- Current Washington State resident.
- Work directly with one or more communities impacted by longstanding health inequities in a formal capacity (e.g. as an organizational leader, staff person, board member etc.).
- Represent the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of Washington State.
- Express a desire to work collaboratively with other Thought Partners and DOH staff.
- Willing and able to fulfill commitments as outlined below.

Position Description

Workgroup members will spend an average five hours per month (not including annual retreat, planned for Sept. 16-17, 2025) related to the following activities:

- Act as trusted advisors who carry community voices to DOH, offering perspective on local needs and priorities while ensuring communities are informed about relevant public health programs and initiatives.
- Engage in planning to develop lasting and accountable community partnerships across the Department of Health.
- Develop a system of accountability to directly engage with the Secretary of Health on key public health priorities and issues.
- Support community-centered planning to drive statewide system change and address the social and economic conditions undermining community health.
- Develop a community-centered policy framework to facilitate the implementation of the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and other DOH policy processes.

Notes

- Meeting materials and meetings will be in English with interpretation services on request.
- Reasonable accommodation will be made to support committee member participation.
- Members not currently receiving funding from DOH or not being paid by their organization to participate will receive compensation at the rate of \$100/hour.



Express Interest by August 18

Interested individuals should fill out the interest form as soon as possible to ensure September retreat participation: <https://forms.office.com/g/FDptL5JPJe>



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.

Questions or More Information:
Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov

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