

2019

Legislative Session

Local Public Health Priorities

Funding Priorities

Foundational Public Health Services

WSALPHO's top priority is the full and sustainable funding of Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) for the governmental public health system. Protecting public health is a fundamental responsibility of the state. A strong governmental public health system is essential to keep Washington healthy and safe. In partnership with the Department of Health, State Board of Health, and Tribal governments **WSALPHO requests FPHS funding prioritization of environmental public health, communicable disease prevention and control, and assessment.** To fully fund all aspects of the public health system, FPHS will be a multi-year request. *General Fund State: \$148,421,000 in FY 20 and \$147,580,000 in FY 21.*



In addition, **WSALPHO supports FPHS legislation which defines the FPHS framework of the governmental public health system, including concurrence language which ensures funding and system changes are agreed by both state and local health jurisdictions.**

Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

WSALPHO supports the following Department of Ecology MTCA funding requests:

- **Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Fund: includes enforcement grants to ensure solid waste facilities protect human health and the environment, reducing human exposure to toxins.** *MTCA: \$28,200,000*
- Chemical Action Plans: Funding to implement plan development and implementation monitoring to reduce human exposure to specific toxins. *State Toxics Control Account: \$4,482,000*
- Local Source Control Programs: local government assistance to small businesses to manage chemicals and hazardous waste to prevent spills and stormwater pollution. *Local Toxics Control Account: \$3,000,000*
- Litter Control Account: Restore and create recycling programs to reduce contamination and improve waste reduction. *Waste Reduction Recycling and Litter Control Account: \$6,000,000*



Monitor Group B Water Systems



Local Group B programs provide citizens with greater opportunity to pursue their economic interests and enables local government to better satisfy their communities' needs while protecting health and safety. **WSALPHO supports the Department of Health request to work with local public health to ensure the approximately 13,400 Group B public water systems comply with statewide rules and are providing safe and reliable drinking water.** *General Fund State: \$506,000 in FY 20 and ongoing.*

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Policy Legislation

Vital Records Modernization



Vital records serve as documentary proof of a life event, which the public uses to prove identity, citizenship, and relationship in order to get official documents, enroll a child in school, obtain Social Security, or other benefits and services. The Department of Health and WSALPHO have worked to update and modernize current vital statistics law (chapter 70.58 RCW) because current law does not provide adequate protections against identity theft and fraud. Many parts of the statute have not been updated since 1907, making the law outdated, confusing, and inconsistent to current best practices. **WSALPHO supports modernizing vital statistics law to better protect the public against identify theft, provide consistent practices across Washington, and support program self-sustainability through a certification fee increase.** *General Fund State: \$95,000 in FY 20 and \$304,000 in FY 21.*

Tobacco 21



Tobacco continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease. Proposed legislation focuses on holding retailers accountable for responsible sales practices in addition to raising the legal age for tobacco products from 18 to 21 for; (1) persons to whom retailers can sell or give tobacco and vapor products; (2) persons who vapor product retailers can allow to taste product samples; and (3) where self-service displays and vending machines that contain the products can be located. **WSALPHO supports strategies to prevent marketing, sales, and use of tobacco, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and marijuana to youth including raising the legal sales age from 18 to 21.**

Local Public Health Authority

Local boards of health and health officers have the responsibility and authority to: enforce public health statutes and rules of the state, control contagious or infectious disease, and maintain the health and sanitation of the community. **WSALPHO supports legislation that respects the public health authority of local health officers, boards of health, and state health agencies.**



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Fiscal sustainability for county operations

Virtually all programs and services that counties deliver are required by state constitution, laws, or rules. Counties need the tools to be able to adequately fund state mandated programs. **WSALPHO supports the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) legislative priorities that ensure fiscal sustainability for all county operations.**

