



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
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June 14, 2023

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners:

SUBJECT: Department of Health Implementation of New Grant Programs During 2023-2025 Biennium

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people. We are writing today to invite your collaboration on the development of three grant programs.

In its 2023 session, the Washington State Legislature passed the conference budget through [Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5187](#) and Governor Inslee signed the bill into law. The budget includes three grant programs recommended by the [Environmental Justice Council](#) in their [Climate Commitment Act funding recommendations](#) and [budget priorities](#). DOH is mandated by the legislature to implement these new programs. The three programs include:

1. \$26,355,000 for DOH to administer capacity grants to tribes and tribal organizations and to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations to provide guidance and input on [Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Act](#) activities. At least 50% of the total amount distributed for capacity grants must be reserved for grants to tribes and tribal organizations. The funding may be used for tribes and tribal organizations to hire staff or to contract with consultants to engage in updating the Environmental Health Disparities map or on implementing the HEAL Act.
2. \$10,000,000 for DOH to develop and administer a workplace health and safety program for vulnerable populations in overburdened communities as defined in the [Climate Commitment Act](#). It is for workers affected by climate impacts, including but not limited to: extreme heat and cold, wildfire smoke, drought, and flooding. This program will focus on workplace health and safety for farmworkers, construction workers, and other workers who face the most risk from climate-related impacts. The program includes pass through grants and the procurement and distribution of equipment and resources.
3. \$38,600,000 for DOH to develop and administer a grant program to fund projects that benefit overburdened communities as defined in the [Climate Commitment Act](#). DOH must select five communities in Washington to develop and prioritize projects that achieve the greatest gain for decarbonization and resilience. Grants to fund the projects may not be obligated until the legislature approves the projects.

DOH invites tribal leaders and/or representatives for collaboration, as *tribes* were named in these new grant programs, and the creation of these programs are considered significant agency actions in the HEAL Act. We look forward to collaboration with tribes in establishing these new grant programs. A draft agenda of the listening session is attached to this letter.

Virtual **listening session** on:

Date	Time	Log In
August 9, 2023	3:30 PM-5:30 PM	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84458666651?pwd=NXcrK05UTWtxMGhxS2x6WHh0cHhEZz09

This listening session is *not* a substitute for government-to-government consultation. It is to share information and accept feedback on building the consultation agenda.

We appreciate your feedback if you have suggestions or questions about how to best work with your nation, community, and people. Please direct your written comments or requests for additional information to Erika Baker, Office Deputy Director, Environmental Public Health Sciences by telephone at 360-790-4434 or by email at erika.baker@doh.wa.gov. Please contact Candice Wilson, our agency's Tribal Policy Director, by telephone at 260-819-7626 or by email at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov if you have tribal affairs-related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,



Laura Johnson, Office Director
Environmental Public Health Sciences

Enclosed: proviso language, draft agenda

cc: Umair Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health
Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health, Department of Health
Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health
Erika Baker, Office Deputy Director, Environmental Public Health Sciences
The Hon. Sylvia Miller, Puyallup Indian Tribe

The Hon. Misty Napeahi, Tulalip Tribes

Environmental Justice and Climate Change Grant Program Provisos

This document includes the proviso language from [Engrossed Second Substitute Bill 5187](#) related to the three new environmental justice and climate change grant programs.

HEAL Capacity Grants (pg. 324 ESSB 5187)

(28)(a) \$26,355,000 of the climate commitment account—state appropriation is provided solely for the department to administer capacity grants to tribes and tribal organizations and to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations to provide guidance and input:

(i) To agencies and to the environmental justice council on implementation of the healthy environment for all act; and

(ii) To the department on updates to the environmental health disparities map.

(b) At least 50 percent of the total amount distributed for capacity grants in this subsection must be reserved for grants to tribes and tribal organizations.

(c) Funding provided in this subsection may be used for tribes and tribal organizations to hire staff or to contract with consultants to engage in updating the environmental health disparities map or on implementing the healthy environment for all act.

(d) The department may use a reasonable amount of funding provided in this subsection to administer the grants.

Workplace Safety and Climate Change (pg. 325 ESSB 5187)

(26)(a) \$10,000,000 of the climate commitment account—state appropriation is provided solely to support and administer a workplace health and safety program for workers who are affected by climate impacts, including but not limited to, extreme heat and cold, wildfire smoke, drought, and flooding. This program will focus on workplace health and safety for farmworkers, construction workers, and other workers who face the most risk from climate-related impacts. This amount shall be limited to supporting vulnerable populations in overburdened communities under the climate commitment act as defined in RCW 70A.65.010. Funding shall be provided for:

(i) Pass through grants to community-based organizations, tribal governments, and tribal organizations to support workplace health and safety for workers who are burdened by the intersection of their work and climate impacts; and

(ii) Procurement and distribution of equipment and resources for workers who are burdened by the intersection of their work and climate impacts directly by the department of health, or through pass-through grants to community-based organizations, tribal governments, and tribal organizations. Equipment and resources may include but are not limited to: Personal protective equipment, other protective or safety clothing for cold and heat, air purifiers for the workplace or worker housing, protection from ticks and mosquitoes, and heating and cooling devices.

(b) The department of health, in consultation with the environmental justice council, community groups, and the department of labor and industries, shall evaluate mechanisms to provide workers with financial

assistance to cover lost wages or other financial hardships caused by extreme weather events and climate threats.

(c) No more than five percent of this funding may be used to administer this grant program.

[Community Informed Budgeting Grant \(pg. 343 ESSB 5187\)](#)

(124) \$38,600,000 of the climate commitment account—state appropriation is provided solely for the department to develop a grant program to fund projects that benefit overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.02.010(11). Of the amount provided in this subsection:

(a) \$6,000,000 of the climate commitment account—state appropriation is provided solely for fiscal year 2024 for the department and the environmental justice council created in RCW 11 70A.02.110 to engage in a participatory budgeting process with five overburdened communities, as identified by the department, to develop a process to select and fund projects that mitigate the disproportional impacts of climate change on overburdened communities. The process must allow for full community engagement and develop criteria for eligible entities and projects and establish priorities to achieve the greatest gain for decarbonization and resiliency. A report of the outcomes of the participatory budgeting process detailing its recommendations for funding as well as future improvements to the participatory budgeting process must be provided to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2023.

(b) \$32,600,000 of the climate commitment account—state appropriation is provided solely for fiscal year 2025 for the department to provide grants that benefit overburdened communities. The department must submit to the governor and the legislature a ranked list of projects consistent with the recommendations developed in (a) of this subsection. The department shall not sign contracts or 29 otherwise financially obligate funds under this section until the legislature has approved a specific list of projects.

Listening Session Agenda

August 9, 2023 3:30-5:30pm

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84458666651?pwd=nxcrk05utwtxmghxs2x6whh0chhezz09>

I. Welcome and Introductions

Lacy Fehrenbach will provide a welcome. Candice Wilson will facilitate introductions.

II. Words for Starting in a Good Way

We invite a Tribal Leader or Elder to start us in a good way.

III. Brief Overview of the Three Environmental Justice And Climate Grant Programs

Laura Johnson will share basic information about the provisos leading to the development of three new grant programs.

IV. Discussion

- How would you like to see these grant programs structured?
- How would you like to be involved in the development and/or implementation of the grant programs?
- How would you like the HEAL Capacity Grant funding to be distributed?
- What would you like to see addressed at the roundtable?
- What solutions would you like to see presented at the roundtable?
- Who would you like to have speak at the roundtable?
- What issues would you prioritize for consultation?
- What dates are recommended, or recommended to avoid, for roundtables and consultation?

V. Next Steps

Laura will summarize the discussion and next steps.

VI. Closing

Lacy will close the listening session.