



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Division of Prevention and Community Health
Post Office Box 47830
Olympia, Washington 98504-7830
711 Washington Relay Service

June 12, 2023

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners,

We are seeking tribal input related to our ongoing application to the Health Resources and Services Administration for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG). Included please find an overview of this grant.

The funding agency requires a state-wide needs assessment to be conducted regarding maternal, child, adolescent, and family health every five years. This needs assessment includes a focus on the health of children and youth with special health care needs.

To ensure that tribes and tribal organizations have a full opportunity to provide input, the Department of Health will host two listening sessions regarding the MCHBG Application and the 5-Year Needs Assessment Process.

Listening Session One

Thursday July 6, 2023

3:00- 5:00

Zoom Link: [MCHBG Listening Session #1](#)

Listening Session Two

Thursday, September 7, 2023

1:00-3:00

Zoom Link: [MCHBG Listening Session #2](#)

For additional information, please contact MCHBG Coordinator Mary Myhre at 360-236-4626 or mary.myhre@doh.wa.gov. For tribal related matters, please contact Tribal Policy Director Candice Wilson at 360-819-7626 or candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES

Assistant Secretary - Division of Prevention and Community Health
Washington State Department of Health

Cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH - Secretary of Health - Department of Health
Candice Wilson Quatz'tenaut (Lummi) - Tribal Policy Director - Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday - Chief of Strategic Partnerships - Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez - Chief of Public Affairs and Equity - Department of Health
Kristin Peterson - Chief of Policy, Planning and Evaluation - Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich - Chief of Staff - Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach - Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health - Department of Health
Katie Eilers - Director, Office of Family and Community Health Improvement
Mary Myhre - Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Coordinator

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG)

The **core values of the MCHBG** are:

- All people deserve the opportunity to thrive and achieve their highest level of health and well-being. Improving systems that serve families and children to be more equitable is a core responsibility of public health practitioners.
- We value both evidence-based and community-developed promising practices. We work in ways that embrace cultural humility and appropriateness.
- We are working to ensure trauma-informed approaches are built into all our programs and services.

Overview of MCHBG:

- Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG) provides the Department of Health with essential financial and technical support.
- It helps programs that improve the well-being of parents, infants, children, adolescents, and youth, including children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and their families.
- MCHBG adds to state and local public health's abilities to provide foundational public health services.
- We braid this with other funding to support state work focused on maternal, child and infant health, like the birth equity project, maternal mortality review panel, screening and genetics, and school-based health.

Tribal Engagement Goals

- MCHBG is a five-year funding cycle and funding is divided between CYSHCN and other populations and between direct and enabling services. Each year, we ask for feedback from Tribes and state residents on the application. This application is due in **July 2023, but we have ongoing opportunities to represent Tribal needs to our funder, including at our annual site visit, which is scheduled for October 17th, 2023.**
- Every five years DOH is required to conduct a needs assessment that establishes the need for services to pregnant people, infants, children, and children and youth with special health care needs. We are seeking to work more closely with Tribes and Tribal organization to understand how these needs impact Tribal families.
- The next needs assessment will be submitted with the application for the next five-year cycle in **July 2025.**
- We will use community input, in combination with quantitative data and other information, as a foundation for the strategic planning process.
- The strategic planning process is where we will build the action plan for MCHBG for the next five years.