



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Prevention and Community Health  
Post Office Box 47830  
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July 3, 2024

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners,

**SUBJECT: Collaborative - Adapting Breastfeeding Guidelines for Tribal Communities**

Respectfully, we request your collaboration on the development of a project to improve chest/breastfeeding supports. This year's governor's budget has allocated \$40,000 to promote evidence-based [breastfeeding guidelines](#) for individuals with a substance use disorder or who receive medication-assisted treatment for a substance use disorder and to adapt the guidelines for tribal communities.

In alignment with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we plan to partner with 1-2 community-based organizations serving American Indian/Alaska Native communities to undertake a project to improve chest/breastfeeding supports. The aim of the project is to better support tribal families who choose to chest/breastfeed by assuring access to Tribally informed guidance and align with the recommendations of the [Maternal Mortality Review Panel](#).

For those interested in learning more about this project, please contact Birth Equity Program Coordinator, Patanjali de la Rocha, at [patanjali.delarocha@doh.wa.gov](mailto:patanjali.delarocha@doh.wa.gov) or Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations Executive Director, Candice Wilson-Quatz'teanut, at [candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov) or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

Michele Roberts, MPH, MCHES  
Assistant Secretary  
Division of Prevention and Community Health

Cc: Patanjali de la Rocha (Mexicatl/Kalinga) - Birth Equity Project Coordinator - Department of Health  
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