



Washington  
**Foundational**  
Public Health Services



DRINKING WATER ADVISORY GROUP  
June 2025

# FPHS Discussion Facilitators

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**Brian Sayrs**

*Principal Planner*

Foundational Public Health Services



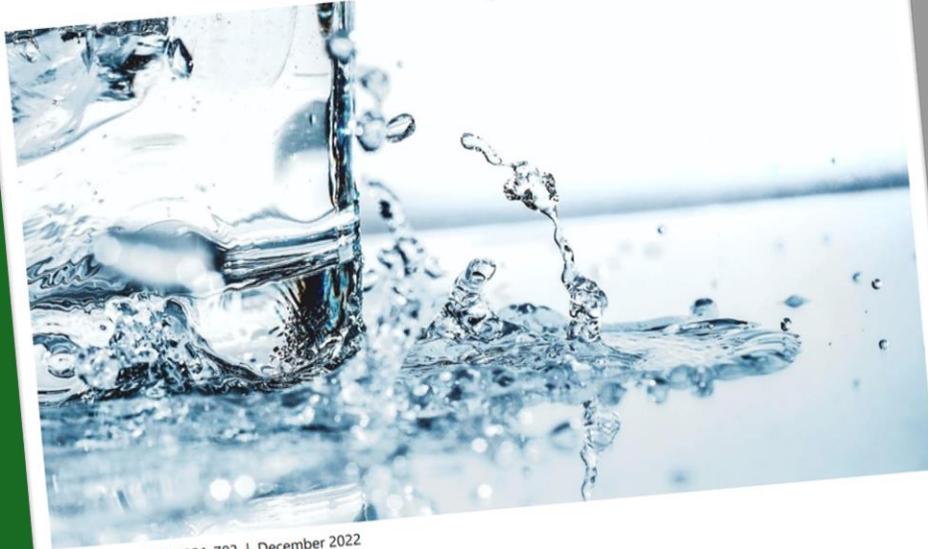
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*Local Water Programs Advisor*

Foundational Public Health Services

# Washington's Drinking Water Strategy

Department of Health Office of Drinking Water



DOH 331-703 | December 2022



Washington's strategy to protect the people of Washington by ensuring that every new and existing water system acquires and maintains technical, managerial, and financial capacity to equitably deliver safe, reliable drinking water and satisfy the aspirations of its community now and into the foreseeable future.

## Continuing work...

### □ Capacity Development Strategy

- Introduction to Washington's Capacity Development Strategy
- Major water system issues in the next ten years
- Themes from DWAG
- Capacity Development Barriers and Incentives
- Future of Asset Management

# Input from the Capacity Development Strategy

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- Barriers to capacity development
  - Educating **city councils**
  - Impact of **utility taxes** can be extreme
  - Communication issues and understanding/coordinating between **LHJ, ODW, federal, counties**
  - Challenges working with exempt wells and Department of **Ecology**—need more communication and coordination
  - Local government requirements for **zoning, density, landscape** can be costly and challenging
  - Constantly changing **growth management** requirements
  - Water systems have insufficient **source water protection** control over what gets into their water
- Incentives for capacity development
  - Have good communication between **government agencies** and water systems and utilities
  - **Communication and coordination getting better**
  - Benefit of **overarching support**

# FPHS Drinking Water Sessions

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## Session One: Coordinated Water System Plans

- What are Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)?
- Two parts of ODW FPHS
- 1. Planning support at ODW
  - Water Use Efficiency
  - Land Use Services
  - Coordinated Water System Planning in the Statewide Planning Framework



## Session Two: LHJ Drinking Water Model Update

- 2. LHJ support at ODW
  - Water Core Team
  - Available Services
  - Model Local Drinking Water Program
  - Future Topics

## FPHS as a concept

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- FPHS intent: [RCW 43.70.512](#)
  - Protecting the public's health is a fundamental responsibility of the state
  - FPHS are government services provided to everyone, everywhere
- Core public health services which the governmental public health system is responsible for providing in a consistent and uniform way in every community in Washington

## FPHS as a funding mechanism

- FPHS funding: [RCW 43.70.515](#)

State funding appropriated to OFM

DOH consults with Indian tribes

DOH, SBOH, and WSALPHO agree

OFM distributes funding



# FPHS-funded drinking water programs

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## Water Core Team (WCT)

**Scope.** Local drinking water programs including private wells, same farm, Group B, and Group A public water systems

**Approach.** Develop model local drinking water program elements for local health jurisdictions to adopt and adapt to protect and improve public health

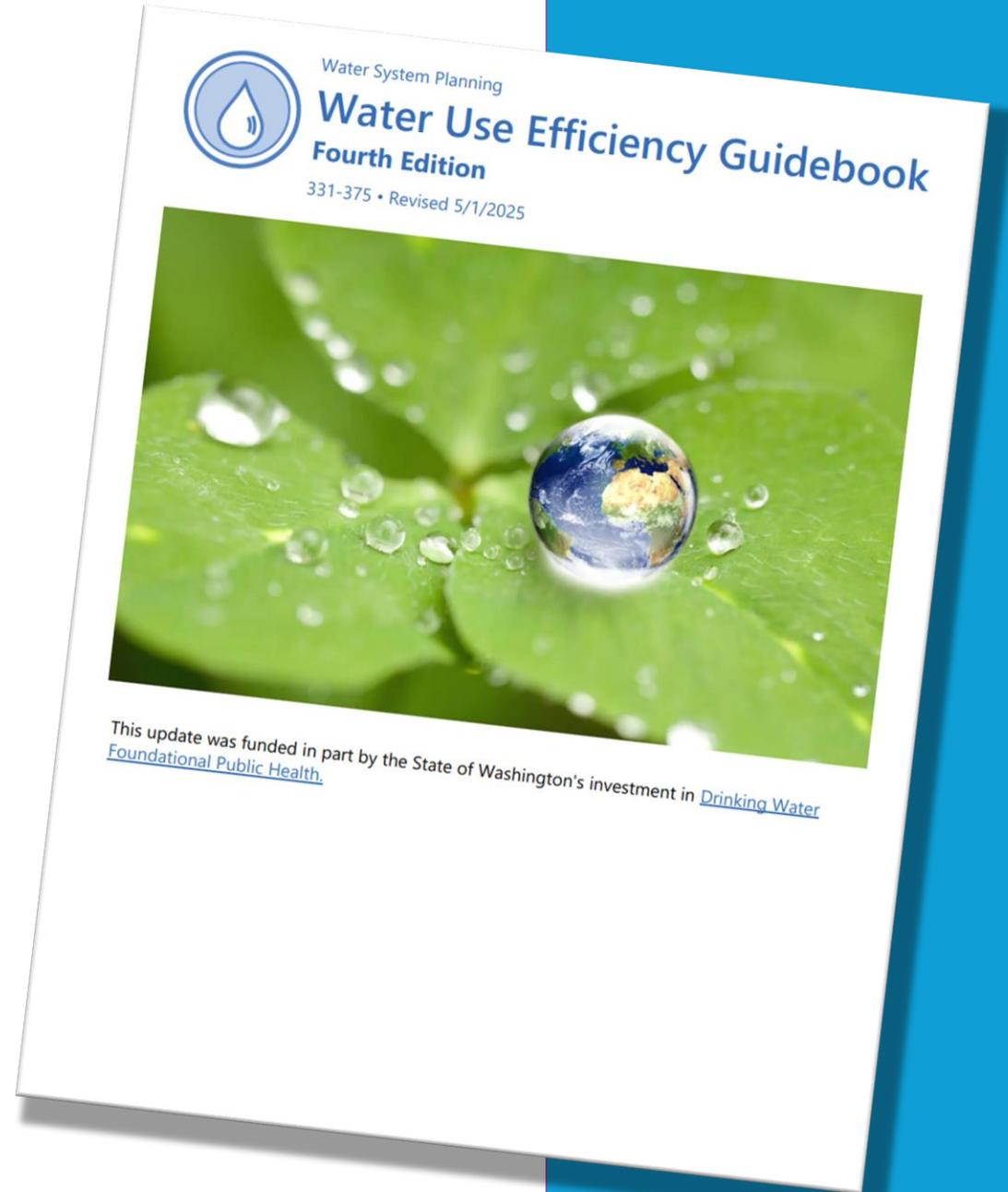
## Ensuring Water Capacity

**Scope.** Building, subdivision, and growth management; water use efficiency; coordination act

**Approach.** Technical, managerial, and financial capacity development to local health jurisdictions and local planning authorities; project management and technical assistance to WCT

## WUE Guidebook, Fourth Ed.

- ❑ A thorough refresh of the Water Use Efficiency Guidebook
- ❑ Clearer fonts and fewer distracting elements
- ❑ Removed old due dates and dated materials
- ❑ Live links to external documents







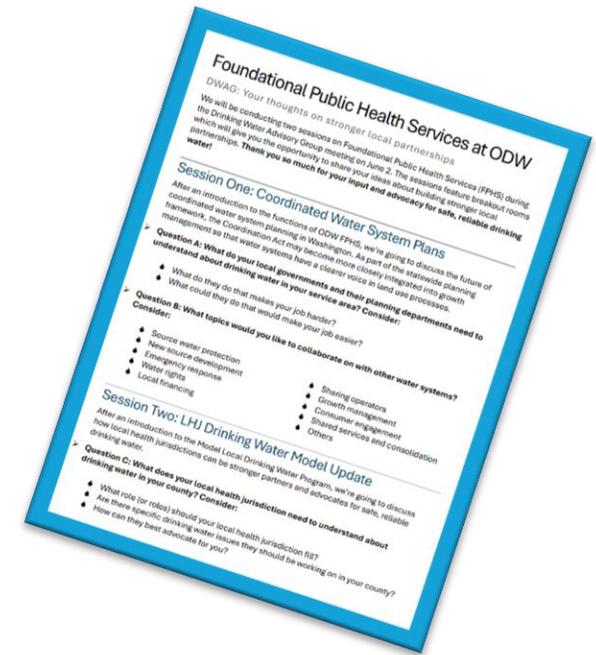
# Proposed Future Publication

## Water-Aware Communities

- ❑ A toolbox for land use planners for:
  - ❑ Growth management
  - ❑ Critical Areas Ordinances
  - ❑ Coordinated Water System Planning
  - ❑ Subarea planning
  - ❑ Binding Site Plans
  - ❑ Zoning
  - ❑ Subdivisions
  - ❑ Building and plumbing codes
  - ❑ Landscape codes
  - ❑ Incentives
  - ❑ Post-Occupancy Programs



## Breakout Session: Questions A & B



**WHAT DO YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR PLANNING DEPARTMENTS NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT DRINKING WATER IN YOUR SERVICE AREA?**

**WHAT TOPICS WOULD YOU LIKE TO COLLABORATE ON WITH OTHER WATER SYSTEMS?**

Up Next

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LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS AND YOU

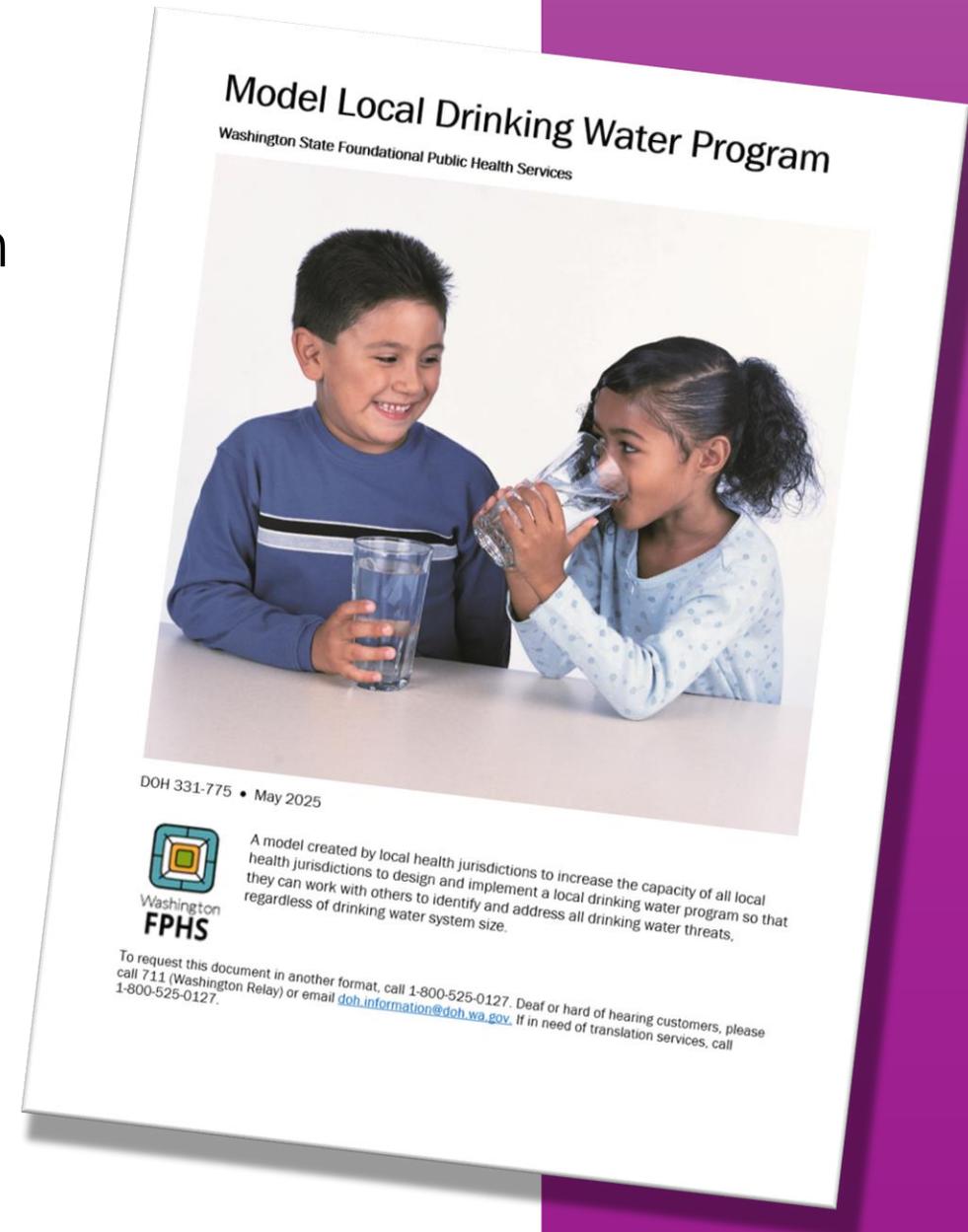


# What we are doing to make FPHS successful

- 💧 Our practices
  - Local Water Programs Advisor
  - Assisted Self-Assessment
  - Water Core Team Consultation
  - Partner Hub

# Model Local Drinking Water Program

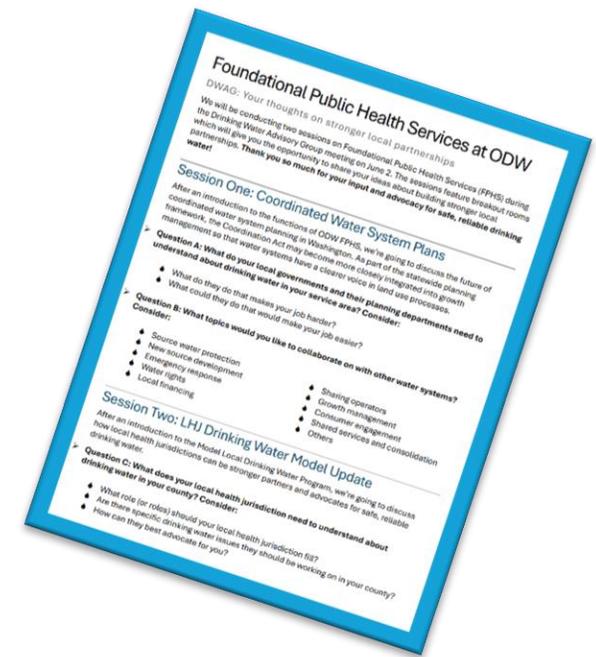
- ❑ First Edition
- ❑ A guidance for local health jurisdictions to strengthen and grow their drinking water program
  - ❑ Introduction
  - ❑ Groundwater
  - ❑ Water Availability
  - ❑ Sanitary Surveys
  - ❑ Group B Program



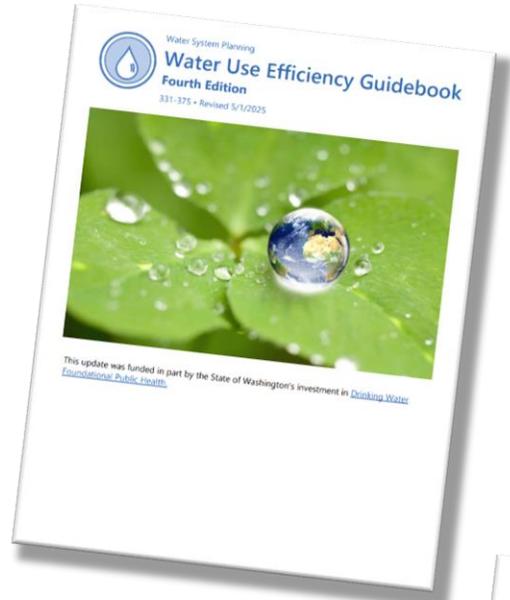
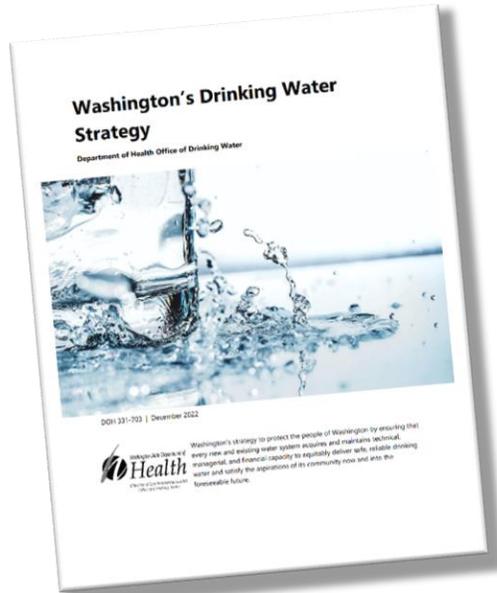
# What is coming next

- 💧 Annual development cycle
- 💧 Second edition topics: well decommissioning, irrigation wells, emergency response, and community and industry relations
- 💧 What should be in the third edition?

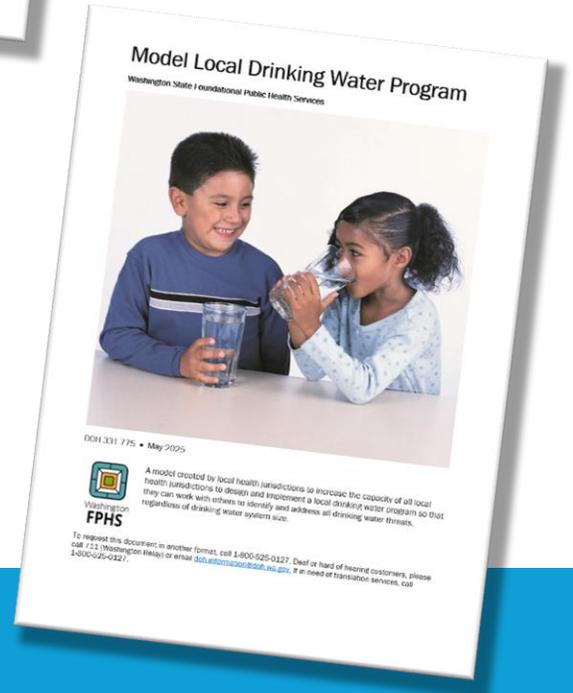
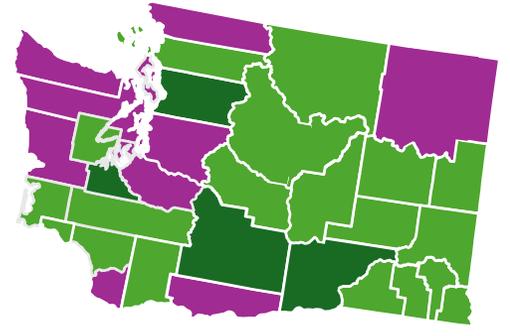
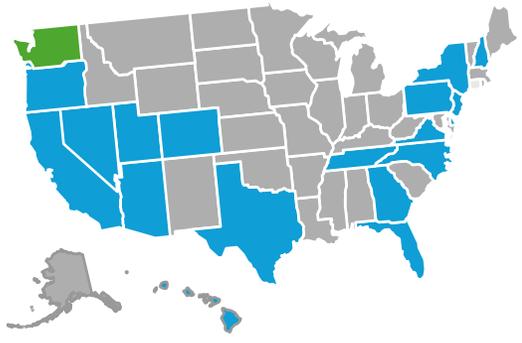
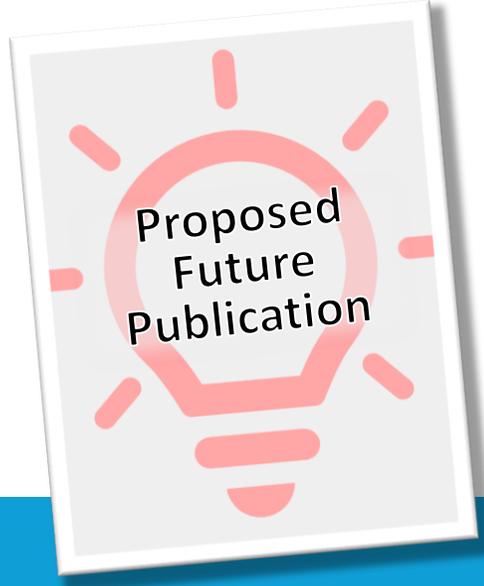
## Breakout Session Question C



**WHAT DOES YOUR LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT DRINKING WATER IN YOUR COUNTY?**



# Questions?





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