

September 12, 2025

K.D. Chapman-See
Director
Office of Financial Management
PO Box 43113
Olympia, Washington 98504-3113

Re: Department of Health 2026 Supplemental Operating Budget Submittal

Dear Director Chapman-See:

I respectfully submit our department's 2026 supplemental operating budget request for Governor Ferguson's consideration.

This supplemental request is limited to items that are necessary to finish the current biennium. **Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recognizes the financial strains of the state budget and has done its best to prioritize its requests in a way to balance this reality with the needs of protecting and promoting the health of Washingtonians.**

DOH also faces several challenges impacting our programs and services. As an agency with a majority of our funding coming from other sources beyond state funds the factors below have the potential to significantly impact the key health services our agency provides.

Examples of key challenges:

- Uncertain Federal Funding Environment – with more than thirty percent of our agency funding coming from the federal government, this uncertainty and changes at the federal level have an impact for public health services in our state.
- Public Health at the federal level – recent changes at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have created uncertainty in the public health landscape. This has required our state to join with a few other western states to partner together ensuring that our public health strategies are based on the best available science.
- Key technical fixes required from changes to DOH budget structure and reductions taken beyond funding that was appropriated to DOH ensuring information is captured accurately.
- Dedicated revenue issues that risk key public health services.

Funding is requested to ensure that the nationally recognized 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is fully functioning as the Legislature intended, our statewide trauma registry is operating to support our trauma system, Washington newborns continue to have access to early screening as required by state law, and a few other requests to right size fee revenue for effective program operations and to support the state's public health systems.

We appreciate your consideration of our budget proposals which represent investments to continue essential work to improve the health of Washingtonians.

Thank you again for your support of DOH and our public health mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis E. Worsham", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis E. Worsham
Secretary of Health
Washington State Department of Health

Enclosure

cc: Kelly Cooper, Director of Policy & Legislative Relations, DOH
Amy Ferris, Chief Financial Officer, DOH
Amy Hatfield, Budget Advisor, OFM
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, DOH
Caitlin Safford, Senior Policy Advisor, GOV
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary, DOH