

Agency: 303 Department of Health
Decision Package Code/Title: P1 Healthiest Next Generation
Budget Period: 2015-17
Budget Level: PL – Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

Funding is requested for the Department of Health to implement proven and broad comprehensive strategies across Washington State to support healthy weight in children and prevent childhood obesity. These strategies must occur in hospitals, early learning centers, schools and communities in collaboration with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Early Learning and other public and private partners to create the Healthiest Next Generation.

Fiscal Detail

PLACEHOLDER DP – FUNDING LEVEL IS YET TO BE DETERMINED

Package Description:

The requested funding allows the Department of Health (DOH) to advance the implementation of proven, highly effective and healthy practices launched by local public health agencies, educational service districts, community organizations, multicultural organizations, schools and early learning centers that have a high likelihood of making sustainable and equitable changes to increase access to healthy food, drinking water, and implement strategies to get children more active in their daily lives. It also allows for statewide public education to help parents, guardians and families gain knowledge about the importance of nutrition and physical activity. It also allows support for hospitals to improve maternity care practices to support breastfeeding; a primary prevention strategy for childhood obesity. Lastly, this funding allows for staffing at the DOH to support contractors and the continued collaboration with Department of Early Learning (DEL) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

The Governor and many state and local partners want the next generation to be the healthiest ever. To accomplish that we must make sure our kids maintain healthy eating, active living and healthy weights. Many experts believe the current generation of children in our country may have shorter lives than their parents, for the first time in our nation’s history. Other states have found opportunities to collaborate and use best practices to prevent chronic obesity – and it is working. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the states currently showing a decline in childhood obesity rates have made, “...broad, sweeping changes to make healthy foods available in schools and communities – and integrate physical activity into people’s daily lives.”

Broad changes that equitably support healthy weight for all children in Washington State must occur in hospitals where children are born; in early learning environments where many children are cared for every day; in schools where children spend half their waking hours and eat up to half of their daily calories, and in communities where children live with their families and guardians. Specific changes include: training for hospitals to support breastfeeding (a primary prevention strategy for childhood obesity); parent and family education; changes to improve access to healthy food, water, and physical activity in communities, schools and early learning centers; outreach to disproportionately impacted

populations; and physical improvements for schools and early learning centers to improve physical activity and access to drinking water.

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Narrative Justification and Impact Statement:

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

Implementation of the activities proposed in this decision package will allow DOH to:

- Increase the percent of infants who continue to breastfeed at six months of age.
- Increase the percentage of children ages 2-4 with a healthy weight.
- Increase the percent of 10th graders with a healthy weight.
- Increase the percent of adults with healthy weight.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: A002- Prevent Chronic Disease

Is this Decision Package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Yes. This decision package supports the following in the updated 2014-16 DOH Strategic Plan goals and objectives:

Goal 2: Prevent illness and injury and promote ongoing wellness across the lifespan for everyone in Washington.

Objective 3: Support healthy weight in children and adults.

Goal 5: Ensure core business services are efficient, innovative and transparent.

Objective 1: Develop and initiate appropriate policies and legislation to support our goals and objectives.

Does this decision package provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

Yes. This decision package supports Results Washington Goal 4 – Healthy and Safe Communities:

- Measure 1.2.Y-b: Increase percentage of 10th graders with healthy weight from 75 percent to 76 percent by 2016.
- Measure 1.2.A-d: Increase percentage of adults with healthy weight from 36 percent in 2011 to 38 percent by 2016.
- Measure 1.2.A-d.1: Increase percentage of adults with healthy weight among Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders from 33 percent to 35 percent; American Indians/Alaska Natives from 21 percent to 25 percent; Blacks from 23 percent to 26 percent; Hispanics from 31 percent to 33 percent by 2016.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

The Healthiest Next Generation has strong support from agency stakeholders such as the Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition, Empire Health Foundation, Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) Washington and the YMCA Pioneering Healthy Communities. This initiative is also partnering with the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities.

What alternatives were explored by the agency and why was this alternative chosen?

DOH considered developing a policy platform and separate recommendations for the governor to consider. Given the initial success and synergy of the collaboration with the DEL, OSPI and the broad and enthusiastic support from partners, the DOH decided to ask for funding to continue the Healthiest Next Generation.

What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?

Funding for the Healthiest Next Generation is the only state-funded investment in childhood obesity prevention. Unhealthy weight and obesity is an issue that costs the state tens of millions of dollars annually. Not funding this package will limit us to federal funding which is often unstable, competitive and categorical restricted. Not funding this request would also significantly impact our ability to engage public and private stakeholders– therefore preventing or significantly slowing implementation of recommendations presented by Healthiest Next Generation partners.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state capital budget?

To Be Determined.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

Prospective policy alternatives from statewide recommendations may require additional rulemaking and legislation.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions.

Revenue:

None.

Expenditures:

TO BE DETERMINED

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

TO BE DETERMINED

For federal grants: Does this request require a maintenance of effort or state match?

Not applicable.

For all other funding: Does this request fulfill a federal grant's maintenance of effort or match requirement?

No.