

**Statewide Pandemic After Action Review (AAR) Task Force
Information & Equity Gathering Recommendations**

**Task Force Mission outlined in the 2021-23 State Operating Budget
(ESSB 5092.SL)**

Sec. 144 (9)(a) \$251,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for the military department to facilitate a task force to conduct a comprehensive after-action review of the statewide pandemic response and recovery.

(b) The task force is composed of the following members:

- (i) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate;
- (ii) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (iii) The secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's designee
- (iv) The adjutant general of the military department, or the adjutant general's designee
- (v) The commissioner of the employment security department, or the commissioner's designee;
- (vi) The director of the department of financial institutions, or the director's designee;
- (vii) The insurance commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;
- (viii) The secretary of the department of social and health services, or the secretary's designee;
- (ix) The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee;
- (x) The director of the department of labor and industries, or the director's designee;
- (xi) The director of the department of commerce, or the director's designee;
- (xii) The director of the department of enterprise services, or the director's designee;
- (xiii) The secretary of the department of transportation, or the secretary's designee;
- (xiv) The director of the department of licensing, or the director's designee;
- (xv) The director of the office of financial management, or the director's designee;
- (xvi) The director of the health care authority, or the director's designee;
- (xvii) The executive director of the pharmacy quality assurance commission, or the executive director's designee;
- (xviii) One member representing the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;
- (xix) One member representing the association of Washington businesses; and
- (xx) Additional members to be appointed by the governor, as follows:
 - (A) One member representing the office of the governor;

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- (B) One member representing the association of Washington cities;
- (C) One member representing the Washington state association of counties;
- (D) One member representing emergency and transitional housing providers;
- (E) One member representing a statewide association representing physicians;
- (F) One member representing a statewide association representing nurses;
- (G) One member representing a statewide association representing hospitals;
- (H) One member representing community health centers;
- (I) Two members representing local public health officials;
- (J) Two members representing local emergency management agencies, one member located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains and one member located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains;
- (K) At least one member representing federally recognized tribes;
- (L) Up to 10 members representing demographic groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, that include, but are not limited to, individuals of different race, class, gender, ethnicity, and immigration status;
- (M) One member representing leisure and hospitality industries;
- (N) One member representing education services; and
- (O) One member representing manufacturing and trade industries.

(c) The adjutant general, or the adjutant general's designee, and the secretary of the department of health, or the secretary's designee, shall cochair the task force and convene its initial meeting.

(d)(i) The task force shall conduct the comprehensive after-action review of the COVID-19 pandemic response in accordance with established national standards for emergency or disaster after-action reviews. In order to improve the response to and recovery from future pandemics, the task force shall develop lessons learned and make recommendations that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (A) Aspects of the COVID-19 response that may inform future pandemic and all-hazards responses;
- (B) Emergency responses that would benefit the business community and workers during a pandemic;
- (C) Standards regarding flexible rent and repayment plans for residential and commercial tenants during a pandemic;
- (D) Whether establishing regional emergency management agencies would benefit Washington state emergency response to future pandemics;
- (E) Gaps and needs for volunteers to support medical professionals in performing their pandemic emergency response functions within Washington state;
- (F) Gaps and needs for tools to measure the scale of an impact caused by a pandemic and tailoring the pandemic response to affected regions based on the scale of the impact in those regions;
- (G) Gaps and needs in health care system capacity and case tracking, monitoring, control, isolation and quarantine, and deploying medical supplies and personnel; and

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(H) Implementing guidelines for school closures during a pandemic.

(ii) The topics identified in (i) of this subsection (7)(d) are intended to be illustrative but not exhaustive. The task force should consider issues relating to equity, disparities, and discrimination in each topic it studies and for which it makes recommendations.

(e) The military department must provide staff support for the task force. The military department may employ staff and contracted support to fulfill the requirements of this subsection.

(f) The task force shall consult with owners of small businesses, epidemiologists, and representatives of immigrant communities.

(g) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with chapter 43.03 RCW.

(h) The task force shall report its initial findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2022. The task force shall report its final findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2023.

Task Force Equity Gathering Recommendations:

- Provide more training and resources for schools. Provide universal meals for all students across Washington State.
- Systematize food bank services. Food is a system that needs design and cohesion.
- Look to the Association of Black Psychologists and Social Workers to provide solutions for Black/African American wellness.
- Invest in the Black/African American Community, including reparations.
- Create collaborative funding models that support organizations working for the betterment of all. Current funding models prompt competition, not collaboration.
- Consider equity implications when making decisions.
- Build space and opportunity for cross-agency collaboration.
- Include community support systems as essential long-term infrastructure.
- Engage direct service staff to understand how differences in telework ability impacted communities. Not all direct service staff were able to telework.
- Continue to upgrade technology deserts.

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