

GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

REDESIGN PROPOSAL

The Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities (Council) is proposing a redesign of our statute and budget. This proposal incorporates our 17 years of work and learning addressing health disparities in Washington. It centers community partner insight on how the Council could better engage communities and propel action for health justice and equity.



The Council's proposal has two main parts:

STATUTORY:

Clarify and update the Council's focus, processes, and responsibilities by revising our authority in state law (RCW 43.20.270 – 43.20.280).

BUDGETARY:

Dedicate adequate funding for Council operations through the state budget.

The Council submitted our redesign proposal to the Governor's Office in October 2023 for consideration. Revising the Council's statute and operating budget also requires action by state lawmakers during legislative session.

The Council's redesign proposal centers on health justice.

Health equity only exists when we all have the opportunity to reach our full potential.

Health justice builds on principles of health equity and provides a framework to achieve lasting health equity goals.

Collaboration across areas of study and work

Racial Justice

Advocacy for systems change

A Health Justice framework includes:

Upstream interventions that address root causes of inequities

Adaptability

Community-based strategies



"[We're] working in solidarity so everyone has meaningful opportunity to achieve their full potential."
- Community partner

You can read the full proposal, including proposed statutory changes, on our [Redesign webpage](#).

STATUTORY PROPOSAL

- Update the Council's name to "Governor's Council for Health Justice and Equity."
- Enable the Council to create a Health Justice framework and policy recommendations that guide state actions toward health equity and optimal health for all.
- Align with initiatives that unify partners and reinforce accountability (e.g., state Pro-Equity and Anti-Racism – PEAR, environmental justice, and economic justice strategies).
- Center community voice and participatory processes.
- Add the WA State LGBTQ Commission, additional community member seats, and flexible seats to Council membership.
- Spotlight policy adoption and accountability among agencies and decision-makers by updating Council reporting requirements.

"How much more research do we need? We know what the inequities and root causes are. Ensure there is action and address the root causes instead of recycling what we already know."
- Community partner



BUDGETARY PROPOSAL

The Council is requesting increased funding through the state operating budget. Adequate, sustainable funding would allow the Council to:

- Fully operate and create meaningful, enduring relationships and strategies.
- Have staff for research, analysis, policy development, communications, administration, Tribal relations, and community engagement.
- Hold hybrid and accessible public meetings throughout the state.
- Use communication tools to share information, build connection across communities, and support collaboration.
- Provide language assistance services.
- Provide stipends and other supports to workgroup participants.



To learn more about the Council's work and this redesign project, visit healthequity.wa.gov or contact us at healthequity@sboh.wa.gov or 360-236-4110 or TTY 711