

# Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities



## 2025 Legislative Session Bulletin

### Redesign Proposal

The Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council on Health Disparities (Council) is proposing a redesign of our authorizing statute (chapters [43.20.270](#), [43.20.275](#), [43.20.280](#) RCW).

Statutory updates would allow the Council to be more impactful and aligned with community priorities and leading health equity strategies. Updating the Council's authority, membership, and responsibilities will support Washington State to address the challenges of our time, including eliminating discrimination, responding and adapting to climate change, and realizing health as a basic human right.

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

- Community Partner

### Summary of Proposed Statutory Changes

- Enable the creation of a statewide vision, universal goals, and policy recommendations to propel Washington toward health equity and optimal health for all.
- Embrace Washington's full potential by renaming the Council to "Governor's Council for Health Justice and Equity."
- Extend interagency efforts upstream to focus on social determinants of health and root causes, so strategies to address complex challenges are effective and enduring.
- Facilitate goals and policies that reflect holistic health and our state's cultural, geographic, and linguistic diversity, so that a person's health and wellbeing are not restricted by where they live or the language they speak.
- Center community voices, including youth expertise, so that the actions we take today promote health for all generations, including future generations.
- Align Council efforts with current governmental structures and initiatives to reinforce accountability while avoiding redundancy.
- Update Council reporting requirements to spotlight policy implementation and progress.

### Request Legislation

In pursuit of these changes, the Council submitted request legislation to the Governor's Office in Fall 2024 for consideration. Updates to the Council's authorizing statute would also require action by state lawmakers during legislative session.

