



## [DOH Community Collaborative] Navigating Immigration and Health and More

*Washington State Department of Health sent this bulletin at 01/30/2025 11:00 AM PST*

# THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE



Dear Community,

We hope you are drawing strength and support in community during these challenging times. In this edition of our community newsletter, we are sharing essential resources related to immigration and health, reminders about the **988 crisis line** and Care-a-Van, and staying up to date on funding and legislation that will impact us all. Below are the key topics:

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## Community Collaborative

Save the Date for our February 12 Community Collaborative meeting which will highlight the 988 Crisis Line and the Urban Indian Initiative. ASL and Spanish interpretation and closed captioning are provided. [Visit this page for interpretation in another language.](#)

[Add To Calendar](#)

## Please Take Our Survey!

Will you please take our Community Collaborative survey? We value hearing from every one of you, and your responses are helpful for our planning efforts!

[Take Our Survey](#)

## Navigating Immigration & Health

**These Know Your Rights with ICE flyers from WAISN** are also available in **Spanish, Portuguese, French, Somali** and **Lingala** to ensure everyone knows their rights in an encounter with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

**RSVP to Legal Workshops with Washington West African Center (WAWAC).** Join WAWAC and US Immigration Attorney Kelsey Beckner to learn about your rights, responsibilities and adjusting your status or file your citizenship. **Meetings are in-person or virtual, ranging from early-Feb to Oct.** Food and language interpretation will be available.

Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction released **guidance on state and federal protections for immigrant students in Washington's K–12 public schools.**

WA HealthPlanFinder.com has information on the **health care options available for immigrants** such as Apple Health, Apple Health for Kids, and Cascade Care Plans. More details on options can be found **here**.

The Washington Health Care Authority **Citizenship and Immigration Status Guide** for guidance shows what health care insurance you may be eligible for.

**Your child may be eligible for Apple Health for Kids free or low-cost coverage** (with a low premium). Visit the **Help Me Grow Benefit Finder** to determine eligibility or call 1-800-322-2588.

Most Apple Health (Medicaid) coverage will not count against you in the public charge test. **Learn more here.**

**Learn more about potential changes in federal immigration policies and practices** from The Washington Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA).

Being on WIC does not make you a public charge and does not affect your immigration status. U.S. citizenship is not required to qualify for WIC. **Check your eligibility here.**

## Legislative Education

Listen to the **Public Health is Essential** podcast by the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA).

**Keep up with Washington Legislative Session.** Learn about the bills, meetings, and sessions here. Watch live or catch up on past sessions on **TVW**.



Community partners can bring their priorities to their legislators or participate in one of the upcoming legislative education days below:

- Jan 30: **Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy with WAISN**
- Feb 6: **Head Start & ECEAP Advocacy Day 2025**
- Feb 11: **Children's Alliance – Have a Heart for Kids Day**
- Feb 13: **APIC Wash**
- March 6: **Washington State Public Health Association 2025 Legislative Education Day**
- March 10: **Latino Legislative Day**
- March 14: **Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day**
- March 14: **Statewide Poverty Action Network**
- Through March 26: 2025 **Advocacy Days** with The Arc of Washington - **Browse the virtual opportunities** including education, community living, workforce, and budget.

## Community Resources

**Resources and emergency shelters available statewide to keep people safe and warm during dangerously cold winter weather by county.**

**Find overnight and daytime shelter information for severe weather events** for Seattle and King County from the Regional Homelessness Authority.



**Call, text, or chat 988** to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline to support your mental health, to help a loved one with substance abuse or for any emotional stress or anxiety. The 988 Lifeline is confidential, free, and available 24/7/365. **Los servicios de llamada, texto, y chat de 988 Lifeline se ofrecen en español, for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, LGBTQi** and more.

**Special Education Trainings 2024-2025: Join virtual training sessions** to learn about key aspects of the special education process hosted by PAVE and the Kitsap County Parent Coalition.

**Join WithinReach for a 5-day winter learning virtual series** on Navigating Parenting in Times of Crisis in the last week of February 2025. **Early bird registration is \$50 and ends on January 31, 2024.**

**Want to get a COVID-19 or flu vaccine? Or get a blood pressure screening? Browse the upcoming places you can find the Care-a-Van.**



## Events

Feb 5-6, join the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine for the **2025 Health Justice and Belonging Conference**. [Register now!](#)

On Feb 10, join Kaiser Family Foundation's Larry Levitt, at 12 ET to explore **What's Next for the Affordable Care Act?** [Register for the webinar.](#)

On Feb 22 Seattle King County Public Health will host a **Community Health and Wellness Event at Rainier Community Center.**

## In Case You Missed It

Governor-elect Bob Ferguson has **outlined his budget priorities for the upcoming term**, which include a focus on reducing state spending by \$4 billion.

**DOH and Tulalip Tribe sign historic Tribal-specific data sharing agreement.** The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Tulalip Tribe made history by signing the first data sharing agreement of its kind in our state.

**A Program to Close Insurance Gaps for Native Americans Has Largely Gone Unused.** In Washington state, where sponsorship in ACA plans began in 2014, **12 of 29 tribes participate.**

**New Apple Health birth doula benefit.** The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) launched a **new birth doula benefit for Apple Health (Medicaid)** on January 1, 2025.

## Volunteer and Jobs

**The Washington Farmland Trust is hiring for a part-time Engagement Coordinator.** This role will be a key contributor to the Washington's Farmland Trust's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign in 2025. [Apply by February 2.](#)

The DOH Workforce Pathways Program is hiring a **Pathways Professional within the Office of Infectious Disease (OID)** for an entry-level, 18-month opportunity. [Apply by February 2.](#)

**NOTE:** We are working to find balance in the benefits and costs associated with translation. If you would like to share this or any part of this newsletter in another language, please email [Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov) and we will work with you to translate into the language(s) needed.

Estamos trabajando para encontrar un equilibrio entre los beneficios y costos asociados con la traducción. Si desea compartir esto o alguna parte de estos materiales en Español, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a [Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Community.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov) y trabajaremos con juntos con usted para traducir.

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