

Proposed Project: Statewide Vision and Goals for Health and Wellbeing

February 13, 2025

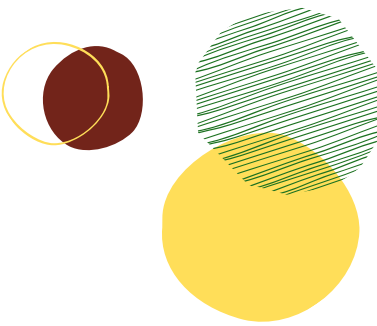




Overview

- How we got here
- New responsibilities and timeline
(if request legislation passes)
- Shared purpose
- Possible steps forward

We've done a lot of learning and building so far...



2023 – 25:
Funding & statute update (in process)

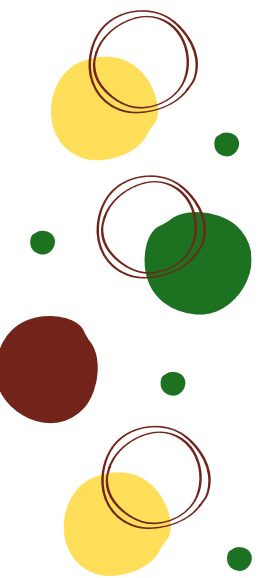
2023 – 24:
Initial steps to build a statewide
vision for health & wellbeing

2022 – 23:
Foundational truths for Council redesign

2023:
Community partner roadtrip

2018 – 19:
Council vision & operating principles

2006 – current:
Identify priority health issues / build relationships / coordinate action /
convene subcommittees and task forces / report to the Governor and Legislature





Name Change in Request Legislation: [HB 1262](#) / [SB 5228](#)

“Governor’s Council for Health Justice and Equity”

What are we working toward?
How do we get there?



Health Equity

Health Justice



“Health disparities are real. The evidence base is large and irrefutable. As such, the time is now to shift the research emphasis away from solely documenting the pervasiveness of the health disparities problem and begin focusing on health equity, the highest level of health possible.”¹

“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. Don’t perpetuate the hierarchical structures that got us to where we are right now.”
– Community partner

1. Srinivasan S, Williams SD. Transitioning from health disparities to a health equity research agenda: the time is now. Public Health Rep. 2014 Jan-Feb;129 Suppl 2(Suppl 2):71-6. [doi: 10.1177/00333549141291S213](https://doi.org/10.1177/00333549141291S213). PMID: 24385668; PMCID: PMC3863705.



Health Equity

Health Justice

Many definitions exist, such as:

- Optimal health for all
- Highest imaginable level of health
- Opportunity to reach our full potential
- Everyone can be healthy regardless of race, gender, income, ability, education, etc.
- No unjust differences in health outcomes

Framework to reach lasting health equity goals:²

- Collaboration across areas of work and study
- Upstream interventions that address root causes
- Advocacy for systems change
- Community-based strategies
- Racial justice
- Adaptability

2. Wiley LF, Yearby R, Clark BR, Mohapatra S. INTRODUCTION: What is Health Justice? J Law Med Ethics. 2022;50(4):636-640. doi:10.1017/jme.2023.2. PMID: 36883386; PMCID: PMC10009391.





Strength in Unity & Diversity

Targeted Universalism: setting universal goals and using tailored approaches to achieve those goals.



TU Strategies:

- Bridging and interconnectedness
- Everyone sees themselves as part of the bigger goal
- Dismantle structural barriers
- Co-design new structures for opportunity and thriving
- Be accountable to meeting everyone's needs

Source: powell, john, Stephen Menendian and Wendy Ake, "Targeted universalism: Policy & Practice." Othering & Belonging Institute, University of California, Berkeley, 2019. belonging.berkeley.edu/targeteduniversalism.



Request Legislation: [HB 1262](#) / [SB 5228](#)

Sec. 4, subsection 1:

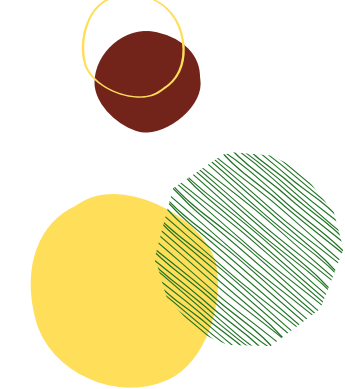
The council shall work with governmental and nongovernmental partners to create a statewide vision and universal goals for health and well-being as well as policy recommendations to move Washington toward achieving its vision and goals.



Request Legislation: [HB 1262](#) / [SB 5228](#)

Sec. 4, subsection 1 (a): The vision, goals, and policy recommendations shall:

- i. Provide an actionable framework to support communities, state agencies, the governor, and the legislature in advancing health justice and equity in Washington state;
- ii. Recognize racism as a public health crisis;
- iii. Recognize how climate change affects us all and exacerbates inequities;
- iv. Incorporate the diversity of communities across the state and recognize the intersecting forms of oppression people may experience as barriers to attaining optimal health and reaching their full potential;
- v. Guide state agencies as they continue to fulfill requirements pursuant to chapters 70A.02 [Environmental Justice] and 43.06D [Office of Equity] RCW; and
- vi. Work toward resolving the negative structural and social determinants of health and promoting the positive determinants.



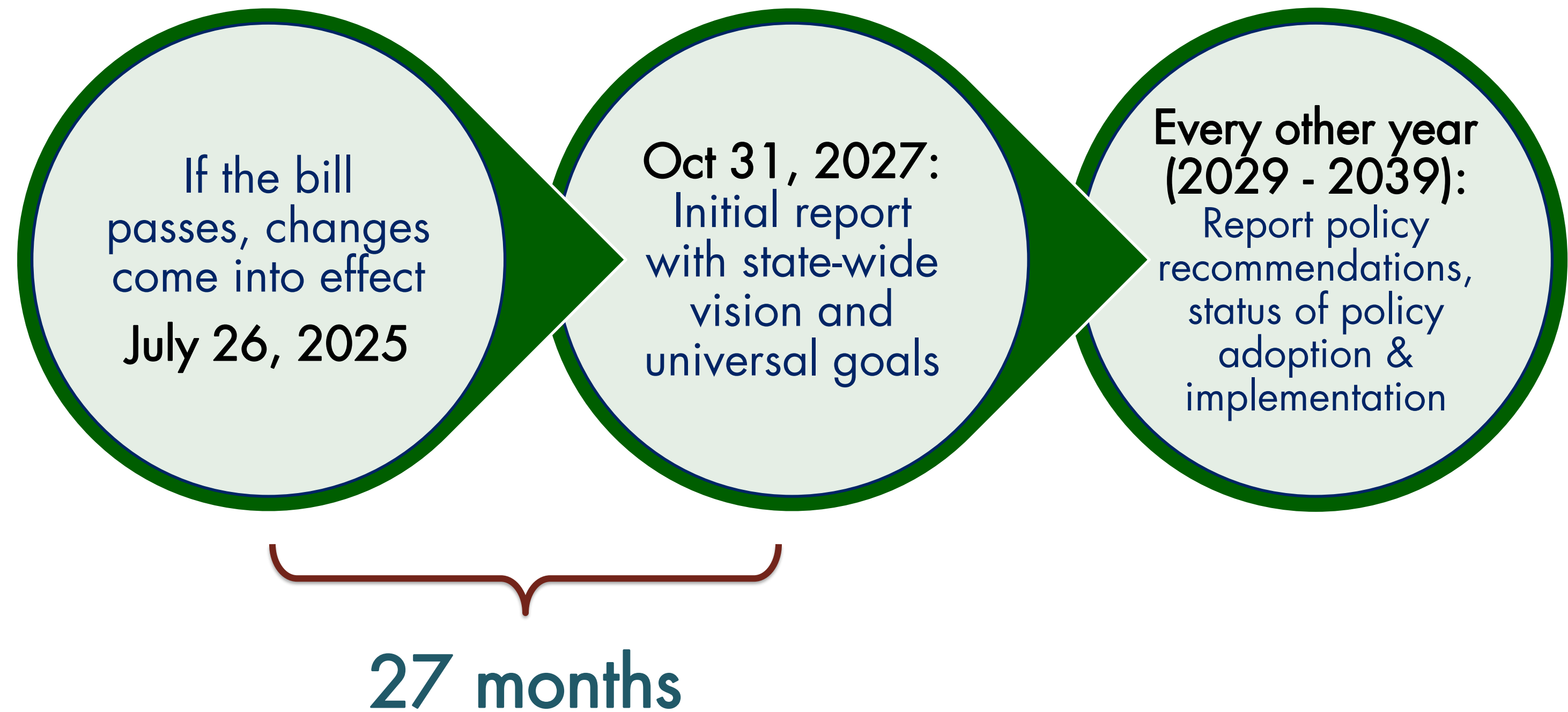
Request Legislation: [HB 1262](#) / [SB 5228](#)

Sec. 4, subsection 1 (b):

In the development of the vision, goals, and policy recommendations, the council shall engage communities and may use participatory methods that promote community-led planning and design, so that communities who are disproportionately impacted by inequities have meaningful opportunity and power to shape narratives, priorities, and policy recommendations.



Timeline in Request Legislation: [HB 1262](#) / [SB 5228](#)





Insights from Community Partners (2023)

"How do we build
a bigger pie,
together?"

"The compass
should always be
community."

"It would make a whole world
of difference if someone from
the government would show up
where we are to share your
work and vision."

How would a statewide vision support your agency's efforts? (Agency Members)

We're often asked to address gaps, but it's not clear what the optimal standard should be.

"It would provide a framework for advocating for systems change, a vision for why that is needed, and a roadmap for getting there."

"With community voice, it will be very powerful.
Systems connections.
One voice. Telling the same stories."

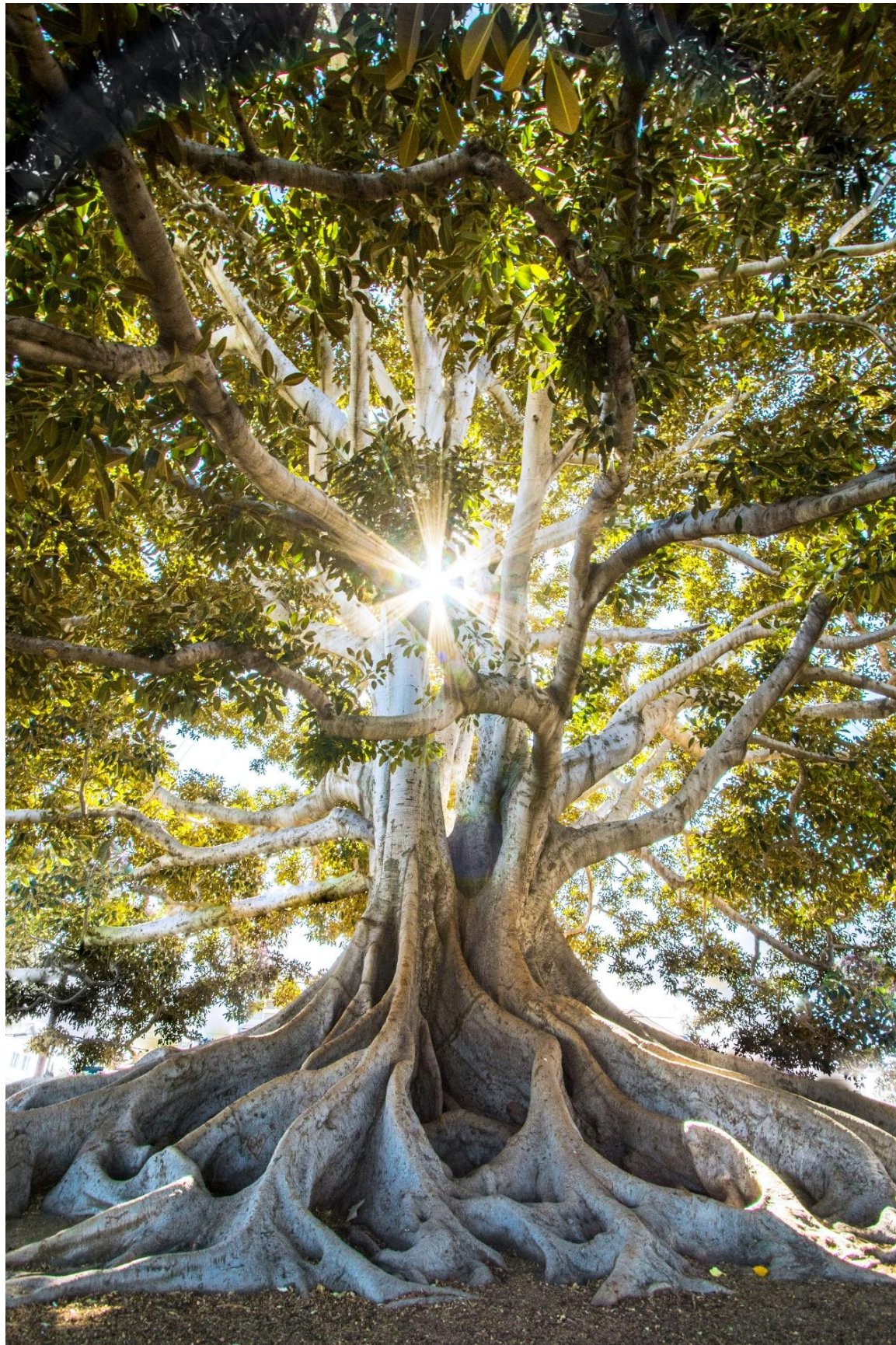
"Give clear priorities that each agency can share in... Opportunities for alignment & collaboration"

"Clarify and identify LGBTQ health needs/health injustices."

"Provide leverage with leadership who don't believe it's our responsibility."



Themes: Shared Wellbeing and Belonging



- Holistic health
- Thriving
- Social drivers of health
- Interconnectedness
- Relationships and culture
- Diversity of communities and health
- Health as a right
- Address racism as a public health crisis
- Climate change adaptation and resilience
- Intergenerational healing
- Focus on root causes
- Just systems
- Sustainable health workforce
- Civic engagement and power
- Cultural safety
- Language justice





Possible Steps Forward

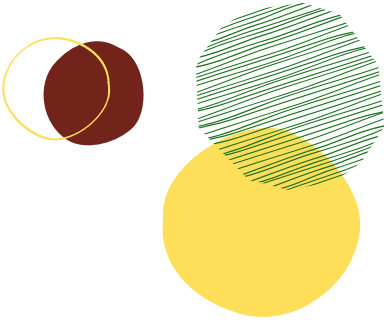
- Consult members and key partners
- Develop a project plan
- Review literature and existing models
- Do broad outreach
- Organize participation opportunities
- Onboard new Council members (if request legislation passes)
- **Possibly form subcommittees**





www.healthequity.wa.gov

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Thank You



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