



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

September 19, 2018

Dear Stakeholders and Partners:

SUBJECT: Budget Submittal for 2019-21 Biennial Budget

The Health Care Authority (HCA) has submitted our operating budget request for Governor Jay Inslee to consider as he builds his 2019-21 budget blueprint. This year, the Office of Financial Management has posted all agency budget requests on its website. You can find a searchable list here: <https://ofm.wa.gov/about/news/2018/09/agency-budget-requests-now-available-online>.

As with past budget requests, we are focused on being good stewards of public resources while making strategic investments in the health of our state's residents. Among our requests:

- **Community behavioral health:** Several requests to strengthen the community-based behavioral health system, including additional resources for substance use disorder peer support, Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), respite care for caregivers of youth with several emotional disturbance, and funding to implement the recommendations of the State Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.
- **Savings restoration:** HCA continues to work toward achieving savings in our medical, dental and pharmacy benefit offerings. However, initial savings estimates for several initiatives—Healthier Washington, the Apple Health (Medicaid) single preferred drug list, and implementation of the Apple Health managed care dental program are not achievable at the currently budgeted levels.
- **School employees benefits:** Authority for the projected third party administration fees for the School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program benefit offerings and funding to create an online interactive decision tool to help school employees make the best decisions when enrolling themselves and their families.
- **Replacing an aging IT system:** Funding to replace the aging PAY1 system so we can continue high-quality services to the more than 350,000 members of the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program.
- **Maternity Support Services:** Funding to add doula services as a covered benefit in the Maternity Support Services (MSS) program. This will reduce disparities in birth outcomes in our state.

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I look forward to continued partnership and collaboration as we enter the 2019 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan E. Birch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being the most prominent part.

Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Director