



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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

January 22, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

**SUBJECT: New Youth Toolkit materials added to the “For Our Lives” website**

In accordance with chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, regarding collaboration with Indian tribes in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affect Indian tribes and the Tribal Consultation and Communication Policy of the Health Care Authority (HCA), the HCA shares the following update.

**New Youth Toolkit Materials**

[For Our Lives](#) is an educational health campaign that informs and educates Tribal communities about opioid misuse prevention, overdose response, and treatment. Over the last year, HCA and campaign contractor, Desautel Hege (DH), have worked closely with Tribes across the state to share For Our Lives materials and localize/customize messaging specific to each Tribe.

During the 2023 Centennial Accord and Tribal-State Behavioral Health and Fentanyl/Opioid Campaign Workgroup meeting, Tribal leaders asked HCA to expand campaign messaging to include Native youth and create youth-specific materials. Workgroup members expressed the urgency and how quickly youth-specific materials are created.

In efforts to expand the campaign, new materials have been developed and added to the toolkit page of the For Our Lives website [here](#). The new materials (as well as some existing materials that are age appropriate for young people) have been added to both the "youth" and "all" filters of the toolkit. The full youth extension of the campaign will be launched in 2025, including a more robust set of toolkit materials created specifically for Native youth. If you have questions or would like to request the new toolkit materials, please contact Megan Hathaway at [meganh@wearedh.com](mailto:meganh@wearedh.com). The physical toolkit mailing has been sent to the following:

- Each of the 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington, including their tribally operated health and treatment facilities
- Each of the STEC schools in WA
- Each of the Title VI Native education programs
- A list of organizations in Washington state which specifically serve Native youth (i.e. UNEA, Native Project, Healing Lodge, Rise Above, etc.) as well as Urban Indian Health Programs

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### **Comments and Questions**

Please contact Aren Sparck, HCA Tribal Affairs Administrator, at [aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov](mailto:aren.sparck@hca.wa.gov) if you have any Tribal affairs-related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teesha Kirschbaum', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Teesha Kirschbaum  
Division Director  
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

By email

cc: Dr. Charissa Fotinos, Medicaid and Behavioral Health Medical Director, MSA, HCA  
Aren Sparck, Tribal Affairs Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Lucilla Mendoza, Tribal Behavioral Health Administrator, OTA, HCA  
Melissa Thoemke, Behavioral Health Communications Manager, COM, HCA