

2023 Budget and Legislation Proposals

Pregnancy, Infancy, and Early Childhood

Health Care Authority (HCA) is supporting early relational health through our strategic goal of ensuring equitable access to integrated, whole person care. We insure almost half the obstetric care in our state and about 50% of children and youth. We are committed to health initiatives that focus on early life to achieve a strong start for the children and build healthier communities for Washington.

The Decision Packages and Request Legislation build on the significant investments the state has made in its health care delivery system over the past decade and will keep the state well positioned to drive better health outcomes for pregnant and parenting people, children, youth, and families across our state. This list includes the agency’s budget proposals focused on early life for both children and caregivers.

**All funding amounts included in this brief are for the FY 24-25 biennia.*

	Title	Description
JB	Compensation for Lived Experience	To inform perinatal and early childhood initiatives, HCA seeks funding to compensate community members and people with lived experience for participation in HCA community engagement opportunities. Additionally, funding will be used to hire staff to support engagement activities and outcomes.
JG	ABA Rate Increases & Training	HCA seeks a 20% increase in rates for codes specific to clients with higher behavioral needs (0362T, 0373T), and a 15% rate increase for all other codes on the Apple Health (Medicaid) Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) fee schedule. Further, the proposal aims to address quality improvement needs for individuals with both intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and mental health needs.
JT	Birthing Center Start Up Funds	To support building health equity, HCA seeks one-time startup funding for up to four freestanding birthing centers in Washington with priority for black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)- owned/led centers for those in underserved or rural/semi-rural areas of the state. This is an investment with short-term and long-term returns in early life with an evidence-based midwifery model of care that drives better outcomes for birth parents and infants.
KA	Additional SUD Maternity Support (Compassionate maternity)	HCA seeks \$1,106,000 to cover additional inpatient hospital days for Apple Health clients who may need additional parenting assistance, a safe plan for discharge, and possible transition to long-term substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facilities when necessary.
KC	Developmental Screening Rate Increase	Routine developmental screenings are a critical tool to quality primary care for children 0-20 years old. Washington’s current developmental screening rates are lagging other states. HCA seeks funding to increase Apple Health rates for developmental screening and assessment.
KE	Apple Health Rate Study for Doula Care	In alignment with current legislation to increase birth doula access, HCA requests resources to conduct an analysis and identify recommendations for a doula model of care and surrounding supports that have been shown to contribute to success for doulas/doula care to inform implementation of an (Apple Health) Medicaid reimbursement rate for doulas.

Title		Description
KP	First Steps Maternity Support Services	The First Steps program has been available to pregnant individuals enrolled in Apple Health for the past three decades. HCA seeks funding to increase the reimbursement rate and number of allowable units. Further, funding will also allow HCA to make updates for the screening process to capture and evaluate program outcomes.
LG	Prevention Services for PCAP & PPW	The Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) and the Pregnant and Parenting Women (PPW) program provide substance use disorder (SUD) prevention services that keep families together, improve permanency, and increase timely access to SUD services. HCA requests funding to increase the capacity of the PCAP and PPW programs.
LH	Pregnancy & Postpartum Federal Poverty Level	HCA seeks funding to increase the eligibility income level for Apple Health pregnancy and postpartum coverage to match that for the children's programs. There is an existing inequity in the income eligibility criteria for children's Apple Health coverage (210 percent of the federal poverty level [FPL]) and their parents (193 percent of FPL).
LK	SUPP Provider Support	This request aims to improve access to needed services by pregnant people with substance use disorder (SUD) through one-time startup funding to assist three hospitals to build the infrastructure to become an approved Apple Health Substance Using Pregnant People (SUPP) provider.

Visit the [Office of Financial Management webpage](#) to view additional information related to these budget and legislative proposals and see Decision Packages and Request Legislation from other Washington State Agencies. To learn more about HCA's requests for funding or any of the programs described here, please contact Evan Klein at evan.klein@hca.wa.gov.