



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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

September 21, 2016

Dear Stakeholders and Partners:

Today, we submitted our 2017-19 operating budget decision packages to the Office of Financial Management (OFM). This is the first step in the budget-making process. Governor Jay Inslee will review agencies' proposals and then submit his proposed budget to the Legislature later this year for their consideration during the 2017 Legislative Session.

While our state economy continues steady growth, demands on the state budget outpace revenue growth. Accordingly, [The direction from OFM to state agencies](#) for this budget biennium was clear: Continue striving for cost effectiveness and operating within existing funding.

Our decision packages reflect issues that we feel must be prioritized in the next operating budget, including:

- **Pain management:** We are requesting funding to create a phone line managed by the University of Washington for primary care providers to get consultation on pain medication management and medication assisted treatment.
- **Managing caseload for incarcerated individuals:** Senate Bill 6430 requires the Health Care Authority (HCA) to suspend, rather than terminate, justice-involved individuals enrolled in Apple Health (Medicaid) effective July 1, 2017. Despite the automation of some functions, staff will be required to manually work some cases.
- **Data-driven decision-making:** HCA is working to build our capacity to use data to make the best health care purchasing decisions possible. We are requesting funding to advance our data and analytics capability.
- **Replacing an aging benefits system:** The system we have used for 40 years to administer medical, dental, and life and long-term disability benefits for Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program members is reaching the end of its useful life. We are requesting funding for a replacement feasibility study.

You can find our decision packages on our website at www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/budget-information. Thank you for your continued partnership to provide the best health care possible for the more than two million Washington residents HCA serves.

Sincerely,

Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA
Director