

Uninsured Care Expansion Grant dispute resolution process

When a dispute arises between the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the grantee over an issue that pertains in any way to this Grant, the parties will use the following process to address the dispute:

1. The party raising the dispute shall request a dispute resolution conference with the HCA Director. The request must be in writing and shall clearly state all the following:
 - a. The disputed issue(s);
 - b. An explanation of the positions of the parties; and
 - c. Any additional facts necessary to explain completely and accurately the nature of the dispute.
2. Requests for a dispute resolution conference must be mailed to the HCA Director, P.O. Box 45502, Olympia, WA 98504-5502 or emailed to contracts@hca.wa.gov. Requests must be received by the Director within fifteen (15) calendar days after the disputing party receives notice of the disputed issue(s).
3. The Director, in his or her sole discretion, shall determine a time for the parties to present their views on the disputed issue(s). In addition, the Director may delegate his or her duties in this regard to an HCA designee of his or her choice. The format and time allowed for the presentations are solely within the discretion of the Director or Director's designee. The Director or Director's designee shall provide written notice of the time, format, and location of the conference. The conference is informal in nature and is not governed in any way by the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.
4. The Director or Director's designee shall consider the information provided at the conference and shall issue a written decision on the disputed issue(s) within thirty (30) calendar days after the conclusion of the conference. However, the Director or Director's designee retains the option of taking up to an additional sixty (60) calendar days to consider the disputed issue(s) or taking additional steps to attempt to resolve them. If the Director or Director's designee determines, in his or her sole discretion, that an additional period of up to sixty (60) calendar days is needed for review, he or she shall notify the party, in writing, of the delay and the anticipated completion date before the initial 30-day period expires.
 - a. The Director, at his or her sole discretion, may appoint a designee to represent him or her at the dispute conference. If the Director does appoint a designee to represent him or her at the dispute conference, the Director shall retain all final decision-making authority regarding the disputed issue(s). Under no circumstances shall the Director's designee have any authority to issue a final decision on the disputed issue(s) without consultation and approval of the Director.
5. This dispute process shall precede any judicial or quasi-judicial proceeding and is the sole administrative remedy under this Grant. Nothing in this Grant or in these provisions limits HCA's ability to recover funds through judicial or other processes under law.