

### Funding Priorities



#### Coronavirus

Since having the first confirmed case in the nation, the Health District has significantly scaled up its staffing and response to protect our communities through five waves. In October 2021, the Health District was informed that approximately \$2.3M of its response funding was being withdrawn by DOH and OFM. Replacement and expanded funding would not be available for local public health agencies until DOH decision packages are approved, pending the upcoming legislative session. *The Snohomish Health District supports federal and state efforts to fund a sustained coronavirus response including community testing, contact tracing, epidemiology, vaccine distribution, and communications. The Health District also requests that the state legislature make urgent appropriations from ARPA funding at the beginning of session to allow local public health agencies to cover ongoing response expenses.*



#### Foundational Public Health Services

Sustain the increase in funding to fully implement the set of public health capabilities that were adopted in HB 1497 (2019) and approved in the FY21-23 budget. COVID-19 has shown and exacerbated the current systems deficits and local public health is working to use investments made by the legislature last year for current and future planning. This continues a phased approach to fully funding core public health services and infrastructure. *The Snohomish Health District supports federal and state efforts toward fully funding FPHS, with continued investments at the local level to fund additional important services.*



#### Marijuana Tax Revenue

In 2021, the Snohomish Health District received less than \$30,000 to focus on marijuana prevention and education efforts for the state's 3rd largest county. *The Snohomish Health District supports a more equitable portion of marijuana tax revenues going to local public health, counties, and cities to support substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery services.*

### Policy Priorities



#### Adult Mortality Review

Like the Child Death Review and Prevention system authorized by RCW 70.05.170, adult mortality review teams would seek to gather data and identify preventable circumstances in adult deaths and consider systems, policies, or environmental changes to reduce and prevent deaths. Initial focus of reviews for deaths of despair and disparate impacts, including suicide and substance abuse. *The Snohomish Health District supports the development, implementation and funding of an adult death review and prevention system.*



#### Housing and Health

The linkages between housing, homelessness, and health are a well-researched determinate of health. Health impacts related to housing are wide ranging and include communicable diseases, mental health, and respiratory diseases. *The Snohomish Health District supports legislation improving the access, stability, safety, quality, and affordability of housing to achieve improved population health outcomes.*



#### Quarantine or Isolation Employment and Childcare Protection

Supports legislation providing the extension of employment protections for impacted individuals and caregivers in compliance with health officer quarantine and isolation orders as well as funding to defray childcare expenses for parents/guardians when children must isolate or quarantine.

### Policy Positions



#### Equity

Supports efforts to ensure equitable access to public health resources in alignment with the public health systems moral and legal responsibilities.



#### Mental Health

Supports increased and equitable resources for mental health service access, interventions, and treatment.



#### Climate and Health

Supports efforts to address the health impacts of excessive heat, wildfires, and poor air quality.



#### Vapor Products

Supports state and federal bans on the sale of flavored vapor products, increased funding for vape education and outreach, increased oversight on the manufacturing and sales of vapor products, and additional research on the health impacts of vaping and vapor products.



#### Access to Whole Body Care

Support policies and funding that ensures residents get coverage and access to the services and devices needed to improve health outcomes. Allow EMT's to provide testing and vaccines for communicable disease prevention and control.