

MEMORANDUM

TO: Snohomish County Council

FROM: Dennis Worsham, Health Department Director

DATE: August 8, 2023

RE: 9.0 FTE request

Background

The Snohomish County Health Department receives just over 80% of its budgeted revenue funding through various granting organizations with most of the funds granted by the Washington Department of Health to provide public health services.

Proposed addition of FTE

- **Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS)**

The Health Department received notification on July 11, 2023, that it would receive an additional \$1.6 million to spend in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. These funds are to be used for core public health programs, services, and cross-cutting capabilities. This ongoing funding needs to be spent starting July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. As the majority of governmental public health services is provided by trained public health staff, the Department recommends adding additional FTE to its workforce to strategically maximize the effect of this funding.

This year's funding from the FPHS steering committee outlined targeted investments to be made that would strengthen the government public health system throughout the State of Washington. The requested local investment of 6.50 Regular FTE would include the following positions:

- 0.50 FTE Accounts Receivable role in the Finance Department to strengthen fiscal capacity
- 1.0 FTE Emergency Management Specialist role to focus on Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8)
- 1.0 FTE Health Policy Analyst to focus on strategic planning and accountability, public health policy development, and strategic partnerships
- 1.0 FTE Healthy Communities Supervisor within the Environmental Health division to spearhead efforts regarding strategic community outreach and engagement around environmental health topics
- 1.0 FTE Health Educator in the Prevention Services division to expand the work around injury and violence prevention
- 1.0 FTE Healthy Communities Supervisor in the Prevention Services division
- 1.0 FTE Healthy Communities Specialist in the Prevention Services division to expand work around substance use prevention

Funding through Foundational Public Health Services must be spent by the end of the fiscal year, or it will be returned to the Department of Health.

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

During the integration of the Snohomish Health District into Snohomish County Government, the newly-formed Department received additional funding with ARPA dollars. The Department would like to add two term-limited project positions from this new funding source to the food permitting team to better

support small business owners who run and operate food facilities. These permit technicians would work with the food safety program to improve the food establishment application review process and reduce turnaround time for the applicants. As small business owners start new restaurants, the plans to set up their restaurants must be approved by Department staff. These roles will assist these owners in the application process which will assist the inspectors in reviewing/approving the application.

- ***Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Clinic***

One role of public health is to prevent new communicable disease infections from happening and interrupt community transmission; however, STI infections have been on the rise for the past several years in Snohomish County and throughout the state. The State Legislature is providing additional funding starting July 1, 2023, with the goal of increasing STI services for county residents. The Health Department is requesting to increase a currently vacant and historically difficult to fill .05 FTE mid-level provider position to 1.0 FTE with these state funds. This would make the position more appealing for applicants, provide the ability to reach more clients, and expand the clinical hours for staff to diagnose and treat clients with high-risk behaviors.