



The Legislature Should Invest \$6.2M in Capital Funding to Continue Expanding Access to Oral Health Care at Community Health Centers

Dental Access Remains a Critical Health Equity Issue for Washington

- Untreated oral disease has serious consequences on chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, pneumonia, and pregnancy complications. Diabetes and heart disease are major risk factors for COVID-19.
- Lower-income people and communities of color are more likely to lack access to oral health care. In FY2021, just 19.8% of Washington’s Medicaid-insured adults, and 51.1% of Medicaid-insured kids, received dental care.
- Access challenges persist from when Washington cut adult dental coverage in 2011; more than 1.2 million Apple Health enrollees are still expected to go without dental care this year. In order to continue expanding care in Washington, we ask that lawmakers invest in our dental capacity projects.

CHCs Are Helping Fulfill Washington’s Promise to Expand Access and Bring Equity to Dental Care

- The Legislature created an ongoing staffed dental grant program run through the Department of Commerce.
- **In the 2021-2023 biennium**, the Legislature invested \$12,713,000 to build dental capacity at 11 CHC sites, serving 42,290 additional patients.
- **In the 2019-2021 biennium**, the Legislature invested \$4,504,000 to build dental capacity at 7 CHC sites, serving 18,800 additional patients.
- **In the 2017-2019 biennium**, the Legislature invested \$16,534,000 to build dental capacity, allowing 18 CHCs to serve 55,650 more patients.



In 2023, the Community Health Centers propose these dental capacity projects:

Community Health Center	Location	LD	Add'l Appts	Request
Community Health Care	Tacoma	27	N/A*	\$1,200,000
Columbia Valley Community Health	East Wenatchee	12	9,000	\$1,800,000
HealthPoint	Seattle	34	3,000	\$490,000
Lake Roosevelt Community Health Center	Keller	7		\$76,000
Neighborcare Health	Seattle	43	6,330	\$1,800,000
Peninsula Community Health Services	Bremerton	26	12,000	\$495,000
Seattle Indian Health Board	Vashon	34	1,195	\$305,039
TOTAL			31,525	\$ 6,166,039

*CHC-Tacoma’s funding will support better patient care through a dental x-ray equipment upgrade and increase the dental health workforce by enhancing the dental residency program.