



LEGISLATIVE POLICY BRIEF:

Foundational Public Health Services

Policy Position:

Preserve current funding for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in Washington state.

Key Points

- **FPHS funding is vital for protecting the health of people in Kitsap County** and throughout Washington state. Foundational Public Health Services are minimum public health capabilities that every community needs.
- **FPHS fills funding gaps for mandated and essential public health services**, supporting work not covered by contracts, grants, fees or other revenue sources.
- **A reduction of FPHS funding would directly impact Kitsap Public Health District's ability** to prevent the spread of communicable disease, monitor and communicate emerging health risks, and champion community-driven health improvement initiatives, among many other essential functions.

Background

The Washington State Legislature has prioritized public health funding through dedicated Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) investments in the state operating budget.

The Washington State Department of Health allocates FPHS funds to support state, local, and tribal public health programs. Frequently, FPHS pays for mandated or essential services not fully funded by contracts, grants, fees and other traditional funding sources.

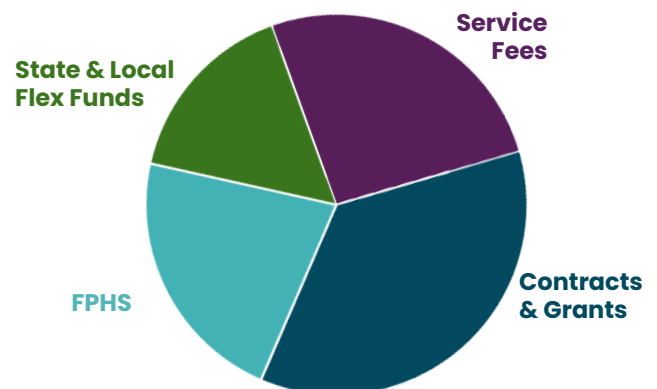
FPHS funding in Kitsap County supports:

- Communicable Disease Control
- Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention
- Environmental Public Health
- Maternal, Child, & Family Health
- Access to & Linkage With Clinical Care

Funding also strengthens "foundational capabilities," including communications, equity, emergency preparedness, health assessment and surveillance, policy development, among other functions.

FPHS Funding in Kitsap County

\$3.6 million in FPHS funding was allocated to Kitsap Public Health District in 2025, accounting for approximately 23% of our agency's budget.



2025 Kitsap Public Health District revenue sources

Statewide, FPHS faces reductions in FY26 and FY27. These reductions will have a negative impact on Kitsap Public Health's budget and FPHS-supported services.

How FPHS Protects the Communities You Serve

Two examples of essential public health services supported by FPHS in Kitsap County:



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

What FPHS funds: With FPHS support, Kitsap Public Health works to ensure all people in Kitsap County have access to trusted health information when and where they need it.

From issuing alerts about disease outbreaks and environmental health threats, to providing guidance to healthcare providers, sharing science-based vaccine recommendations with families, translating materials for access to information across languages, and addressing misinformation, our team is constantly working to keep the Kitsap community safe and informed.

Why it's important: Amid a growing epidemic of misinformation, compounded by conflicting health messaging from federal agencies, local public health departments play an increasingly important role in delivering reliable, timely, and accessible health information.

If FPHS funding is reduced... Kitsap Public Health could be forced to scale back public communications, leaving critical information gaps in reliable and science based health information.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS PREVENTION

What FPHS funds: Primarily funded by FPHS, our Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Program prevents the spread of STIs by supporting access to testing and treatment, partnering with healthcare providers, and providing education in our schools and community. Our team focuses on prevention of HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea.

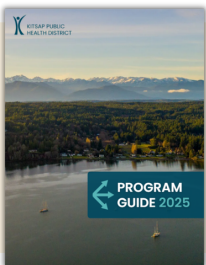
Why it's important: Many STIs spread easily and can lead to serious, long-term health problems. However, people frequently do not know they are infected or are not willing or able to seek care. Our team bridges gaps between healthcare providers and community, strengthening residents access to the testing, treatment, and prevention information they need.

If FPHS funding is reduced... Kitsap Public Health could be forced to scale back its STI prevention efforts, increasing the risk of serious health problems due to barriers in accessing services that protect our community from the spread of diseases.

Local FPHS Impact: Case Management & Care

Kitsap Public Health works to prevent syphilis by linking cases and sexual partners to appropriate treatment and promoting syphilis testing to identify cases that may be missed. We connected 36 confirmed cases to treatment in 2024 alone.

Our team has also prioritized prevention of congenital syphilis, which has been on the rise in Washington. Between 2023 and early 2025, our STI team helped 24 pregnancy-capable people with suspected syphilis navigate testing, treatment, and prenatal care.



Learn more

View our Program Guide at kitsappublichealth.org/programguide to learn more about Kitsap Public Health District and FPHS-funded services.

Find an overview of FPHS in Washington at wsapho.org/policy

