



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service

September 14, 2023

Dear Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners:

RE: New DOH program to address environmental health issues associated with homelessness

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian Tribes and Tribal People. We are developing a new program to address environmental health issues associated with homelessness, which has the potential to impact Tribes and Urban Indian Health Organizations due to the disproportionate risk of homelessness among Tribal members and Native peoples in Washington.

Currently, the funding for the program is provided through Foundational Public Health Services to work with local health agencies to develop model programs addressing these concerns. Among other potential areas, we are exploring addressing conditions in encampments and shelters, promoting safer waste disposal, developing responses to extreme weather to protect people who are unhoused, and supporting availability of hygiene services. We welcome your participation as we prioritize areas for development.

We appreciate your comments or concerns. To provide input or for more information please contact Colin Maloney, Community Health Strategies for Homelessness Manager at 360-701-3121 or by email at colin.maloney@doh.wa.gov. If you have any tribal related questions or comments please contact Candice Wilson, Tribal Policy Director, at 360-819-7626 or candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov.

Please feel free to forward this information to any other potentially interested parties.

Sincerely,

Lacy Fehrenbach, MPH, CPH
Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health, Department of Health

cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, Department of Health
Candice Wilson, Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health
Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Public Health Division
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Colin Maloney, MPH, Community Health Strategies for Homelessness Manager
Charmi Ajmera, MPA, Equity and Social Justice Manager