



# Washington Health Benefit Exchange: 2024 Legislative Priorities

## Budget priorities



### Maintain equity gains: Cascade Care Savings, Immigrant Health Coverage

Health equity is a primary goal of the Exchange and its Board, as reflected in our [mission and recently updated equity statement](#). The Exchange is requesting funding to:

- Continue current funding levels for the state premium subsidy (Cascade Care Savings) through plan year 2025, to reduce access barriers for our lowest-income, most diverse customers.
- Support HCA in implementing the upcoming Apple Health Expansion for all Washingtonians, regardless of citizenship status, a program that will be primarily accessed through *Washington Healthplanfinder*.



### Support continuous coverage: Responsive call center, data-driven outreach

The Exchange has been successful in keeping people covered as they churn between Medicaid and Qualified Health Plans (QHP) eligibility.

- Funding to account for higher than anticipated call volume related to Medicaid redeterminations.
- Resources for monitoring and reporting out on the churn population, to inform tailored and efficient outreach.
- Maintain funding for enhanced local, community-based outreach and enhance direct to consumer outreach (via texting) and small business engagement.



### Maintain Healthplanfinder: Stable, high performing and secure

*Washington Healthplanfinder* is used by over one in four Washingtonians to obtain health and dental insurance, and access available federal and state subsidies.

- Funding for security and disaster recovery
- Funding to address backlog system to improve customer experience
- Funding to maintain operating costs for eligibility verification (ACES), software costs



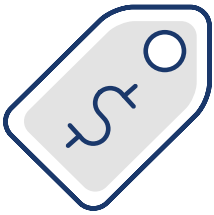
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## Policy priorities



### Simplify plan choice HB 2361/SB 6258

- The Exchange submitted [three Legislative reports](#) to inform session discussions about how to strengthen Cascade Care for Exchange customers. These findings include ways to improve the public option and standardize the market.
- One report analyzed the impact of standard-only market and concluded that this would improve customer experience with minimal market disruption.
- [HB 2361/SB 6258](#) implements the recommendation to standardize the market by 2027.
- The bill would transition to standard only in the Silver Metal level by 2026, and a fully standard market by 2027.



### Drive Affordability: Address underlying health costs

State and federal subsidies are supporting coverage gains, but over time they will not keep up with the fast rising costs of health care.

The Exchange is supporting and monitoring proposed bills that advance consumer affordability across markets.

- HB 2066 (Riccelli)/SB 5948 (Robinson) – [Improving affordability through Fair Market Negotiations](#)
- HB 1508 (Macri)/SB 5519 (Robinson) – [Increasing Oversight via Health Care Cost Transparency Board](#)
- SB 5241 (Randall)/HB 1263 (Simmons) – [“Keep Our Care Act”/Preventing Anticompetitive Mergers](#)