

Washington Health Benefit Exchange

Presentation to the House Health Care & Wellness Committee
By Ingrid Ulrey | Chief Executive Officer

January 14, 2025



Exchange Overview



- ▶ Public-private partnership established in 2011
- ▶ Operates **Washington Healthplanfinder**



- ▶ Access to ACA Marketplace and Medicaid



washington
healthplanfinder

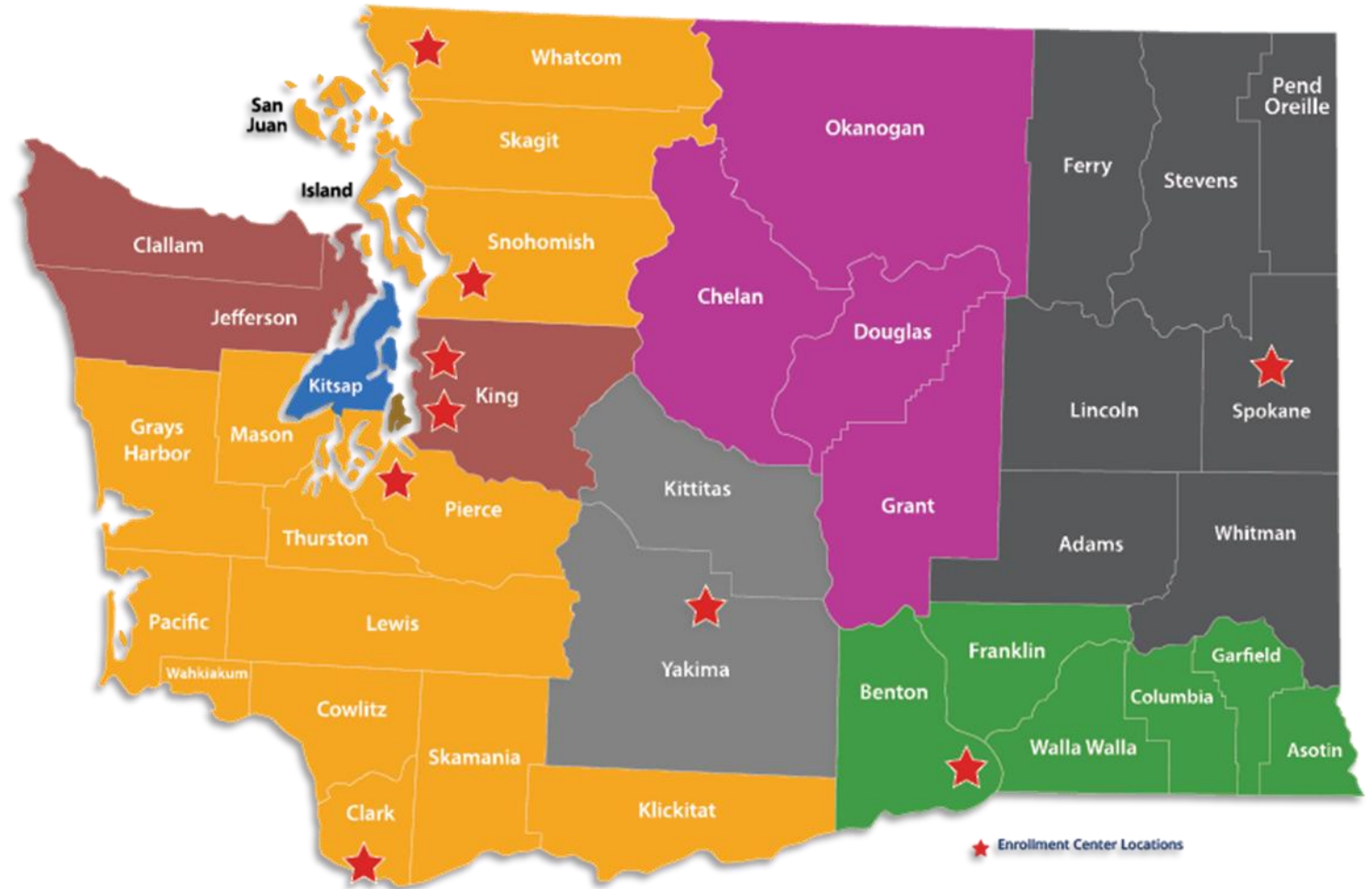
click. compare. covered.

www.wahealthplanfinder.org



Statewide In-Person Assistor Network

- ▶ Lead organizations across 8 regions
- ▶ More than 3,000 brokers and navigators



Open Enrollment 2025



On target to reach over
300,000 enrollees

Sign up now for 2024 at wahealthplanfinder.org

It's Open Enrollment
Get the health insurance you need



 **washington healthplanfinder**
do. compare. cover.



The Affordability Challenge

- ▶ Premiums vary based on age, geography and family size
- ▶ \$600 average gross monthly premium (40-year-old)
- ▶ Premiums have doubled over the past decade

Carrier	2025 Rate Increase	Cumulative Rate Increase 2022-2025
BridgeSpan Health Company	15%	53%
Premera Blue Cross	15%	48%
Regence BlueShield WA	22%	43%
UnitedHealthcare of Oregon, Inc.	24%	41%
Kaiser Washington	8%	37%
LifeWise Health Plan of Washington	8%	35%
Molina Healthcare of Washington	6%	24%
Kaiser Northwest	10%	23%
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon	15%	20%
Community Health Plan of Washington	9%	11%
Coordinated Care Corporation	9%	10%
Average Rate Change, All Carriers	10%	31%

Subsidies are fueling record high enrollment

- ▶ Costly health insurance premiums are a growing barrier to being insured and accessing health care.
- ▶ While financial assistance is not the singular solution to affordability, it is a step in addressing customers' cost of care.



Federally funded enhanced premium tax credits



State funded Cascade Care Savings

Risk for Washingtonians

- ▶ If Congress allows the enhanced premium tax credits to expire at the end of 2025:

72%

average net
premium increase

80,000

people who may
forgo coverage

\$275 million

lost in federal funds

Driving affordability with Cascade Care

Cascade Care Savings	State premium assistance
Cascade Select	Public option plans
Cascade Care	Standard plans



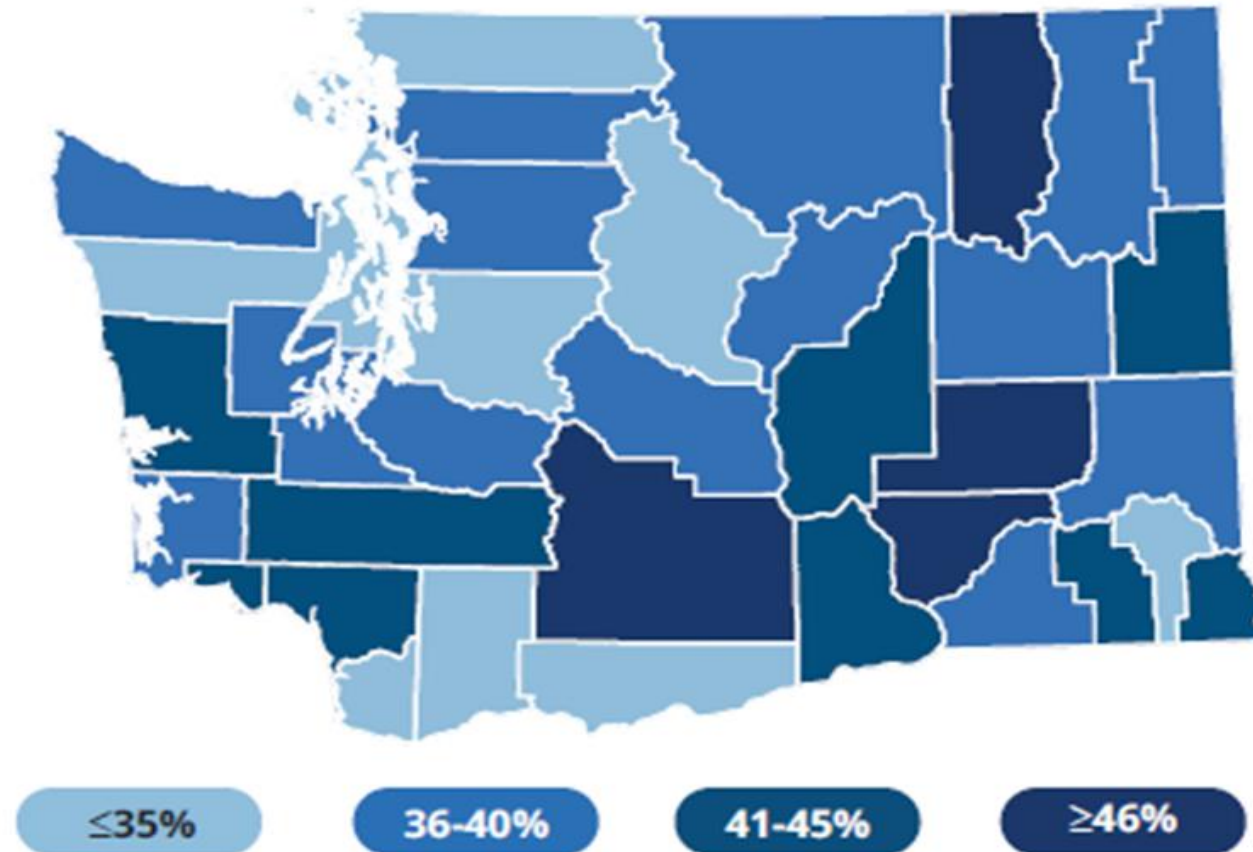
Cascade Care Savings

- ▶ Created by the Legislature
- ▶ Launched by the Exchange in 2023
- ▶ Lowest income customer – up to **\$110/month** in premium reductions
- ▶ Higher amounts if ineligible for federal tax credits
- ▶ Helps **more than 100,000** Washingtonians affordable coverage
- ▶ Continuing the program beyond 2025 is our top priority



Cascade Care Savings - continued

Percent of Washington Healthplanfinder customers receiving Cascade Care Savings



What happens if subsidies end?

► Meet Adrian



Without federal enhanced premium tax credits and Cascade Care Savings, his net premium will increase

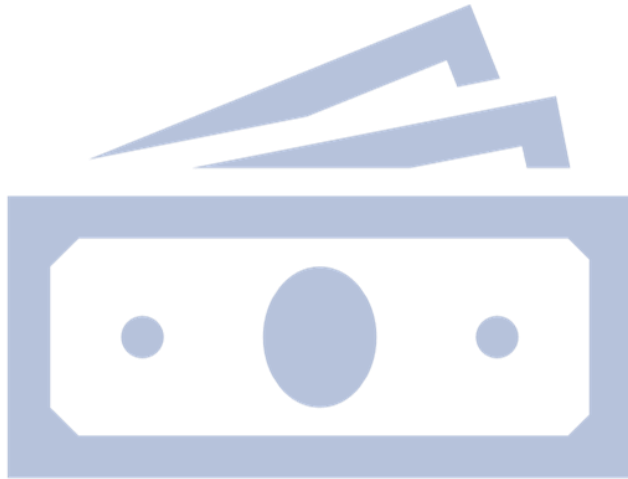
168%



Equity for ALL Washingtonians



Exchange partnerships



**Health Care Cost
Transparency Board**



HHS Enterprise Coalition



**Universal Health Care
Commission**



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