

Policy Level

Agency:

107 Health Care Authority on Behalf of the Health Benefit Exchange

Decision Package Code/Title:

PL-HQ HBE 15 Percent GF-State Reduction

Agency RecSum:

The Health Benefit Exchange requests a net zero fund adjustment in the 2021-23 and 2023-25 Biennia to reduce the General Fund State appropriation by fifteen percent (\$777,600 GF-State) per year and supplant it with Health Benefit Exchange Account funding.

Fiscal detail:

Operating Expenditures	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
001-1 GF-State	(\$777,600)	(\$777,600)	(\$777,600)	(\$777,600)
17T-1 HBEA	\$777,600	\$777,600	\$777,600	\$777,600
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Biennial Totals	\$0		\$0	
Staffing	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
FTEs	0	0	0	0
Average Annual	0		0	
Object of Expenditure	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Obj. C	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
17T-1 HBEA	\$777,600	\$777,600	\$777,600	\$777,600
Total Revenue	\$777,600	\$777,600	\$777,600	\$777,600
Biennial Totals	\$1,555,200		\$1,555,200	

Package Description

What is the problem, opportunity or priority you are addressing with the request?

Due to the unprecedented economic downturn related to the global COVID-19 pandemic, OFM has instructed agencies to submit decision packages to reduce General Fund State appropriations by fifteen percent for the 2021-23 Biennium.

What is your proposal?

The proposal complies with OFM's request to submit a reduction in GF-State. The Health Benefit Exchange (Exchange) requests a corresponding increase in appropriation from the Exchange's dedicated account (17T), which would mitigate program and service impacts while meeting GFS reduction targets. Shifting the GF-State appropriation to the Health Benefit Exchange Account appropriation will enable the Exchange to continue to provide needed support to Washington's residents.

For additional information contact:

Nicholas Aaseby, Financial Analysis and Reporting Manager
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The Healthplanfinder currently provides an online platform for 1 in 4 Washingtonians to enroll in Washington Apple Health, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Qualified Health plans. By supplanting GF-State with 17T, the Exchange will be able to continue its mission to provide affordable healthcare at a time when Washingtonians need it most.

The Exchange currently uses its GF-State appropriation as state matching dollars for its vital services that support enrollment functions for Washington Apple Health and CHIP Programs. These services include the Call Center, Navigator network, federally required correspondences, and the Healthplanfinder maintenance and operations.

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state?

Equity is a fundamental pillar to the society we seek to build. The process of advancing toward equity will be disruptive and demands vigilance, dismantling deeply entrenched systems of privilege and oppression. We must focus our efforts on people and places where needs are greatest, especially communities of color and go beyond remedying a particular inequity to address all determinates of health.

Maintenance level packages are the foundation of equity. The goal of the Exchange is for all Washingtonians to have full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources to achieve their full potential. Funding this request will enable the Exchange to continue to support the residents of Washington at a time when they need it most while also contributing to the governor’s goal of reducing Washington State’s overall GF-State budget.

What are you purchasing and how does it solve the problem?

The appropriation level does not change. This decision package adjusts the funding source to reduce General Fund State appropriations while enabling the Exchange to continue to provide services to the people of Washington.

What alternatives did you explore and why was this option chosen?

Reducing the Exchange’s GF-State appropriation without offsetting increases to the Exchange’s appropriation from the Exchange’s dedicated account (17T) would require the Exchange to reduce expenditures intended to preserve services to Washington consumers seeking health care coverage.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion or alteration of a current program or service

This is not an expansion or alteration of a current program.

Detailed assumptions and calculations

Based on current enrollment levels and premium data, the Exchange assumes no changes to the Carrier Assessment will be needed to fund this request.

Workforce assumptions

No changes in FTEs are requested with this decision package.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic framework

The Exchange seeks to preserve how Washingtonians secure health insurance through innovative and practical solutions and an easy-to-use customer experience. This is reflected in our values of integrity, respect, equity, and transparency as they relate to those we work with and those we serve.

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Performance outcomes

This request is essential for maintaining sustainability for the Exchange by seeking to maintain appropriation levels for state funds which serve as the state matching dollars for services provided on behalf of Medicaid enrollees.

Other supporting materials

Copies of the APD have been previously provided to HCA, OFM, the House and Senate.

Other Collateral Connections

Intergovernmental

None

Legal or administrative mandates

None

Changes from current law

None

State workforce impacts

None

State facilities impacts

None

Puget Sound recovery

None

Other supporting materials

Copies of the APD have been provided to HCA, OFM, the House and Senate.

Stakeholder response

None

Information technology (IT)

ABS will pose the question below for *each* DP. If the answer is yes, you will be prompted to attach an IT addendum. (See Chapter 10 of the budget instructions for additional requirements.)

Information Technology

Does this DP include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Yes

Please download the [IT-addendum](#) and follow the directions on the bottom of the addendum to meet requirements for OCIO review. After completing the IT addendum, please upload the document to continue.

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