



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

September 13, 2021

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Umair A Shah, MD, MPH  
Secretary of Health

A blue ink signature of Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health.

**SUBJECT:** Sexually Transmitted Infections Proviso Workgroup

This past session, the Washington State Legislature passed ESSB 5092, the state operating budget bill, which included a proviso that charges the Department of Health (DOH) with convening a workgroup to make recommendations concerning funding and policy initiatives to address the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in Washington. As stipulated, the workgroup will submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2022, that includes recommendations prioritized based on need and available funding, to:

- Eradicate congenital syphilis and hepatitis B by 2030;
- Control the spread of gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia;
- End the need for confirmatory syphilis testing by the public health laboratory; and
- Expand access to PrEP and PEP (HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis and HIV post-exposure prophylaxis).

Under the terms of the proviso, DOH will convene a workgroup of experts that must include, but is not limited to, the following members appointed by the Governor:

- A representative from the DOH Office of Infectious Disease<sup>1</sup>;
- A representative from the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission;
- A representative from the Washington Medical Commission;
- A representative from an organization representing health care providers;
- Two representatives from local health jurisdictions, one located to the east and one located to the west of the crest of the Cascade mountains<sup>2</sup>;
- At least one representative from an organization working to address health care access barriers for LGBTQ populations;
- At least one representative from an organization working to address health care access barriers for communities of color; and
- At least one representative from an organization working to address health care access barriers for justice involved individuals.

<sup>1</sup> To be nominated by the Director of the Office of Infectious Disease

<sup>2</sup> To be nominated by Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO)

The ideal candidates will be those directly affected by the issues and/or employed by organizations identified in the proviso who are familiar with the issues that will be discussed, and who are prepared to contribute to a productive discussion of the issues.

We are now accepting letters of interest. Members of the workgroup will be asked to attend no more than eight two-hour virtual meetings. In addition, members of the workgroup and other interested parties/subject matter experts may be invited to additional virtual meetings to elicit feedback on specific issue areas (e.g., a call specifically related to hepatitis B or a call with laboratorians to discuss confirmatory syphilis testing).

To be considered, please answer the questions on the following page and submit your responses via email to [STIworkgroup@doh.wa.gov](mailto:STIworkgroup@doh.wa.gov) by September 24, 2021. We intend to select suggested workgroup members by October 4, 2021, and will advance the selected names to the Governor's Office for appointment at that time. Once workgroup members are appointed by the Governor, we will set up a meeting schedule. These meetings will be open to the public and interested parties, but only appointed workgroup members may decide on the final recommendations. Public meeting information will be shared widely once available to keep everyone informed on these efforts.

Please forward this letter to others who might be interested. Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Marko Liias, Washington State Senator  
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health  
Kristin Peterson, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Health  
Elizabeth Perez, Deputy Secretary for Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health  
Jerrod Davis, Assistant Secretary for Disease Control and Health Statistics, Department of Health

Washington State Department of Health  
ESSB 5092, STI Proviso Workgroup  
Applicant Information

*Background Information*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency/Organizational Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Affiliations, if any (e.g., boards, commissions, advocacy groups):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Applicant Questions*

1. Why are you interested in becoming a member of this workgroup? How does participating in this workgroup relate to other work in which you are involved?
2. What specifically do you feel you would contribute to this workgroup?
3. To support the workgroup in achieving its legislative mandate, what specific programmatic or policy options might you propose for group consideration?
4. Are you able to commit to attending up to eight virtual meetings between November 2021 and August 2022?
5. Does participation in this workgroup create a conflict of interest, such as a situation in which your personal interests have the potential to clash with the interests and responsibilities of this workgroup?
6. (Optional) Is there any other information you would like us to be aware of that we have not yet inquired about?
7. (Optional) Please provide the name and contact information for a potential alternate member from your agency/organization, if relevant, who can sit in as a workgroup member in the event you must miss a meeting.