



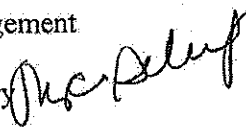
STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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August 13, 2009

TO: Victor Moore, Director
Office of Financial Management

FROM: Mary C. Selecky, Secretary 

SUBJECT: Implementing Additional GFS Budget Reductions

Today, the Department of Health submitted its allotments for the 2009-2011 biennium. With this, we're also providing information on how we plan to achieve \$3,081,000 in additional state general fund reductions, as requested July 1.

When looking at our programs, we made it a priority to maintain capacity in communities, and we plan to reduce or eliminate services in ways that affect the fewest people before reducing or eliminating broader services. We will continue to focus resources on critically necessary work, and to find additional savings by reducing personal services contracts, travel, and goods and services.

Specific actions include:

- Administrative savings of \$1,457,000 are anticipated as a result of changing business practices, reducing staffing levels, and maximizing all possible federal funding sources. We are further reducing personal service contracts, travel, and equipment and goods and services purchases.
- New staff reductions in addition to the FTE savings through similar reductions made as a result of the 2009-11 budget.
- Program reductions will also be necessary. These include:

Reduce Colon Cancer Screening – \$208,000

Funds were first allocated to the department in 2009 and reduced to a pilot project in one site in 2010. We hope to get federal funds to provide colon cancer screening and outreach and prevention, and will hold the state funds back at this time.



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Eliminate funds for Medical Nutritional Therapy – \$370,000

Funds were first allocated for this activity in 2008. We provide funds to the Lifelong AIDS Alliance to buy medical nutritional therapy for AIDS clients who meet medical and financial criteria. Funding remains for the first six months of the biennium (\$123,000).

Eliminate Health Professions Survey – \$588,000

Survey was conducted in 2008 to gather information about health workforce age, race, practice statistics, and practice location. The return rate was low, and we don't have enough money for data analysis. We will discontinue this work.

Eliminate Miscarriage Management funding – \$198,000

The agency contracted with the University of Washington to train medical residents to recognize early signs of a possible miscarriage and miscarriage risks. We plan to end this project.

Reduce Area Health Education Centers – \$60,000

We contract with the state's two Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), working with communities in Eastern and Western Washington, to strengthen the local rural health system. The AHEC's funding will be reduced by 10 percent beginning July 2010.

Reduce Wastewater funding – \$200,000

Puget Sound counties are required to assure that onsite sewage systems within their boundaries are operated and maintained properly. The agency provides each county with \$100,000 per biennium to partially fund this responsibility. An additional \$400,000 is available for competitive grants for projects to locate, inspect, and upgrade onsite sewage systems in sensitive marine areas. This will reduce the amount for competitive grants to \$200,000 for the biennium.

These were difficult reductions to make, yet I believe they confirm our commitment to focus on key efforts that offer maximum public health protection. We continue to strive to balance the need for additional budget savings with our mission to protect and improve the health of people in Washington State.

cc: Jonathan Seib, Governor's Policy Office
Nick Lutes, Office of Financial Management
Carole Holland, Office of Financial Management