



1. Create community-based capacity to prevent and/or shorten hospitalization.

Support state hospital access and discharge by increasing community capacity, including community-based stepdown/interim re-entry programs for hospital patients, a new crisis diversion facility, expanded crisis respite services, increased flexible engagement services including outreach to unhoused people and access to preventive outpatient care for those without Medicaid.

2. Expand student loan repayment assistance to address the public behavioral health workforce crisis.

Expand the state's existing health professional loan repayment program (HPLRP) to support the behavioral health workforce, helping meet demand for care in community-based agencies and address state hospital staffing shortages. Add \$2 million or more per biennium above current levels. Prioritize funds for workers at community agencies alongside state hospitals.

3. Expand access to treatment for opiate use disorder and overdose education and prevention.

Remove policy barriers to treatment access, and invest up to \$6.6 million per biennium in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), overdose reversal, and preventive education.

4. Raise the purchase age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21.

Raise the purchase age for tobacco and vapor products to 21 to improve health, reduce youth access, make the purchase age consistent with emerging science regarding young adult brain development, and match alcohol and marijuana purchase age laws.

5. Support physical and mental health and stability by investing in core public health services.

Support physical and mental health and stability by investing in core public health services to ensure they are available to every resident in Washington. A critical down payment of \$14 million for Public Health – Seattle and King County will address chronic and communicable diseases and emerging health care needs that affect the whole region but especially people with behavioral health conditions.

6. Restore cities and counties' local control to fund essential services by replacing the one percent property tax cap.

Replace the 1 percent property cap with a limit tied to inflation and population growth – the actual factors that drive local costs – to restore our ability to keep more than 2 million King County residents safe and healthy.

7. Invest state funds to maintain care access if federal Medicaid support shrinks.

If Medicaid expansion is rolled back or defunded, provide increased state non-Medicaid funds to maintain care access and achieve positive health outcomes to the degree possible.

For additional information, please contact