

WCAAP Budget Priorities

2012 Regular Legislative Session



We support a balanced approach to addressing the budget deficit, including finding new revenue sources to mitigate short-sided cuts in valuable services.

These priorities not only protect the health and well-being of children in Washington State, but lay the foundation for a prosperous future.



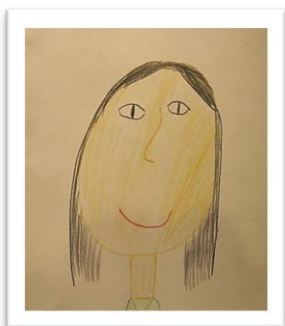
Thank you for your ongoing support for these services:

Apple Health for Kids

- Provides medical insurance for children in low-income families

Maternity Support Services

- Improves health outcomes for one in three women giving birth in Washington



MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THESE 3 PROGRAMS CUT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET:

1. Interpreter Services

Required by federal law, interpreter services are vital to providing quality and competent care to Limited English Proficient patients.

The Washington Medicaid program has historically paid for these services. If the state does not, the obligation shifts to medical providers who still see Medicaid patients.

Interpreter services are costly, which will likely force pediatricians to discontinue seeing all Medicaid patients. Losing funding would also cause many parents to take older children out of school and place them in an inappropriate role to attempt to interpret medical information.

3. Volunteer/Retired Providers Malpractice Insurance Program

The 662 health care workers covered through this program provide free care at 100 clinics in Washington. Many free clinics may close their doors without this program.

2. Reach Out and Read

Washington State

Reach Out and Read (ROR) supports parents as their child's first teacher with a cost-effective, evidence-based early literacy program in doctors' offices. Fourteen studies show ROR works: parents read aloud more often, and children show improvement in language skills.

ROR serves 81,000 young children and families, focusing on low-income and diverse populations.

State investments are leveraged 6-fold in private and federal funds. Loss of funding means fewer children with books and parents who can support early learning at home. ROR is a vital state strategy to help children achieve 3rd Grade Reading Standards.

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