Prevention Alliance

2026 Session Summary & Prevention Alliance Outcomes

This memo will provide a high-level session summary, an overview of the budget and revenue landscape the legislature faced while developing the 2026 supplemental operating budget, a summary of the final operating budget and revenue package passed by the legislature, and the outcomes for the strategies that were on the 2026 Prevention Alliance Platform.

Session Summary

At 8:26pm on March 12th, the legislature adjourned the 2026 legislative session, Sine Die. The 2026 Washington State legislative session was a short session, which means it lasted for just 60 days and moved at a rapid pace as legislators worked diligently to pass bills and budgets and end on time. The session adjourned on time.

A total of 267 bills passed the legislature during the 2026 session. For comparison, the number of bills passed in the past two short sessions were 303 in 2022 and 334 in 2024. Some of the main issue areas of focus this session included addressing the significant budget shortfall, considering new revenue options – including the passage of a millionaire's tax (SB 6346), and considering state solutions to the impact of federal action such as H.R. 1.

Bills that passed the legislature then went on to the Governor for consideration. Of the 267 bills passed by the legislature, most were signed by the Governor without change, and only seven bills (including all three budget bills) were signed but with partial line-item vetoes. No bills were fully vetoed by the Governor this session. Links to the partial veto letters can be found by the respective bills on the Governor's bill action page here.

Budget Landscape & Outcomes

Revenue Forecast & Budget Landscape

In addition to the work done to pass policy bills, this session also included the business of writing the 2026 supplemental operating, transportation, and capital budgets. Given the challenging budget landscape, the budgets included some cuts and very little in the way of new investments.

The spring revenue forecast is one of the key budget landscape components that the legislature bases their budget on. On February 16th, the Economic and Revenue Council (ERFC) released the spring quarterly revenue forecast, which showed that when compared to the November 2025 forecast, there was a projected increase of $827.4 million in the 2025-27 biennium and $1.028 billion in the 2027-29 biennium. While this was an improved revenue forecast compared to the one in November, state revenue projections were still down overall when compared to when the 2025-27 budget passed during the 2025 legislative session. The spring 2026 forecast brought forecasted total revenue for the current 2025-27 biennium to $75.276 billion (an increase of 12.1% over 2023-25 biennial revenue), and $80.381 billion in the 2027-29 biennium (an increase of 6.8% over the current 2025-27 biennium). *For more detail on the budget shortfall, see the PA Budget Memo on the spring quarterly forecast.*

Final Operating Budget General Overview

Despite the challenging budget landscape, the legislature was able to reach agreement and pass final 2026 supplemental operating, capital, and transportation budgets. However, it is important to note that the operating budget did not balance on the four-year outlook.

As discussed in previous briefs, one of the complicating factors of the Washington State budget is that there is a requirement that the budget be balanced not only for the current biennium, but also for the next ensuing biennium. This requirement to balance over the four-year outlook has been in effect since 2013 and is the only such requirement in the country. Balancing over the four-year outlook can be challenging, especially in times with significant budget shortfalls and economic instability. However, in a December House Appropriations OPR presentation it was noted that 'when employment growth of 1% is forecasted and the Legislature appropriates from the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA), the Outlook requirement is suspended for the ensuing fiscal biennium.' Because the spring quarterly revenue forecast showed continued slow employment growth and the legislature pulled from the budget stabilization account (aka the "rainy day" fund), the requirement to balance on the four-year outlook was suspended and the final operating budget did not balance on the four-year outlook.

The 2026 supplemental budget increased spending by $2.348 billion (3.0%) , which increases the 2025-27 two-year operating budget to $80.206 billion. There were both targeted investments, as well as reduced spending in several areas. Of the increase, $1.727 billion is for maintenance level (the cost of continuing current services, adjusted for enrollment and inflation) and $621 million for new policy.

Some of the funding changes in the 2025-27 biennium for key budget areas include[1]:

- $-123.6 million NGF-O ($36.8 million total) for Children, Youth & Families
- $-146.8 million NGF-O ($-73.1 million total) for Behavioral Health
- $-28.6 million NGF-O ($-45.8 million total) for Long Term Care & Developmental Disabilities
- $73.7 million NGF-O ($552.5 million total) for Health Care & Public Health (note $230 million of this amount is restoring program integrity savings)
- $6.2 million NGF-O ($104.1 million total) for Other Human Services
- $-80.4 million NGF-O for K-12 Education

Operating Budget Documents:

Budget Bill
Summary
Agency Detail

The budget included several new revenue sources including:

- SB 6346, establishing a tax on millionaires. It is estimated to start generating new revenue in the amount of $2.292 billion in the 2027-29 biennium.

[1] *Some notes on the numbers provided:*

**Near general funds subject to the budget outlook (NGF-O) include the state general fund (GF-S), the Education Legacy Trust Account (ELTA), the Opportunities Pathways Account (OPA), and the Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA). The 'Total' amount includes NGF-O combined with other fund sources such as federal dollars.*

**Numbers listed in red indicate reductions, numbers in black are net increases. So if the NGF-O amount is in red but the total amount is in black, that means there is a reduction in state dollars, but the total amount including other fund sources is increased.*

- SB 6231, removing a tax exemption for the replacement of equipment for data centers. It is estimated to generate $63 million in new revenue in the 2025-27 biennium and $140.5 million in the 2027-29 biennium.
- SB 6228, removing a tax exemption for the warehousing and reselling of prescription drugs and providing tax relief for critical access pharmacies. It is estimated to generate $24 million in new revenue in the 2025-27 biennium and $141.7 million in the 2027-29 biennium.
- HB 2487, concerning taxes imposed on insurers operating within the state. It is estimated to generate $55.6 million in new revenue in the 2025-27 biennium and $17.2 million in the 2027-29 biennium.
- SB 6182, which establishes an abortion savings program. The bill establishes a new assessment of $0.82 for the first year and $0.165 annually thereafter per coverage month in the prior calendar year on certain health carriers subject to the insurance premium tax with initial assessments due and payable in 2027. Revenues are directed to grants to maintain access to abortion services in the state.

The budget also assumed some one-time transfers including:

- Transferred $880 million from the budget stabilization account to the state general fund (aka BSA, or the rainy day fund)
- Adjusted capital gains revenues distribution in 2025–27 to the NGFO. The portion of capital gains revenue that would normally go to the common schools construction account is instead directed to the state general fund. This increased NGFO revenues by $395 million in 2025–27.

Funding for Prevention Priorities

Given the challenging budget landscape that the legislature faced as described above, there were not significant new investments made this session in prevention-related priorities, and some strategies saw reductions in current spending levels or delayed implementation of previously passed program expansions that had not yet gone into effect.

There were some prevention-related strategies that saw limited new investments, though most funding increases were significantly scaled back from their original request. These strategies that secured funding are outlined in the section below. You will also see that in several cases that strategy leads focused on protecting existing funding to be protected from cuts rather than asking for new or expanded investments. In these cases, maintaining existing funding levels is considered a win.

Prevention Alliance Platform: 2026 Session Outcomes

Summarized on the following pages are the outcomes of the 2026 Prevention Alliance Strategies. The first section of the report includes strategies (including both bills and budget items) that successfully passed and/or were funded/maintained; the second part includes strategies that did not pass this session. The report provides a description of each strategy that was on the 2026 Prevention Alliance Policy Platform followed by a summary of the budget items and/or bills for that strategy.

Notes:

- *For bills that had a companion bill, the bill that is listed first is the legislation that ultimately passed, or the bill that went the furthest in the process if the legislation didn't pass. The second bill number that is listed was the companion, and the sponsor in parentheses was the sponsor of the companion bill.*
- *For items that have a budget impact, the amount listed is for the 2026 supplemental budget, meaning the remainder of the 2025-27 biennium. A reminder that the 2026 supplemental budget only covers one year of the biennium, so if an item is ongoing, in future biennia the ongoing amount may be double what is listed or the ongoing amount might be different (higher or lower) depending on the item.*

Prevention Alliance 2026 Strategies that Passed and/or were Funded

Affordable Housing: Increase the supply of affordable housing.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Capital Budget
Housing Trust Fund: $123.386M

Albuterol Medicine Access in Schools: Expand access to albuterol medication in schools through a standing order issued by the Secretary of Health and allow schools to maintain a supply.

Legislation:

HB 2360 (SB 5951) - Expanding access to albuterol in public and private schools.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Donaghy (Sen. Pedersen)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Allows school districts, charter schools, state-tribal education compact schools, and private schools to maintain and use a supply of albuterol at each school beginning in the 2027-28 school year when certain requirements are met. Provides a uniform procedure for administration of school-supplied albuterol, requires parental notification after administration of albuterol, includes employee opt-out provisions, and establishes liability protections.

Behavioral Health: Support efforts relating to community behavioral health, crisis response, and behavioral health for children and youth.

Legislation:

HB 2429 (SB 6224) - Supporting children and youth behavioral health.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Callan (Sen. C. Wilson)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Requires the Governor, subject to the availability of nonstate funding, to maintain an executive coordination officer for the children and youth system of care for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of a strategic plan for children and youth behavioral health. Requires the Governor to establish a leadership council to address children and youth health and wellness issues and coordinate efforts to implement the strategic plan. Requires certain entities involved in children and youth behavioral health activities to align with the strategic plan and that these activities be implemented in an equitable manner. Extends the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group two years, until December 30, 2031 (instead of expiring on December 30, 2029).

Budget Impact:

Office of the Governor
Youth Behavioral Health: $234,000 total
Funding is provided to implement 2SHB 2429 (Youth behavioral health), which requires GOV to provide executive coordination for the implementation of the Washington Thriving Strategic Plan. (General Fund-Local) (Custom)

HB 1634 - Providing school districts and public schools with assistance to coordinate comprehensive behavioral health supports for students.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Thai
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the educational service districts (ESDs) to develop a technical assistance and training framework (framework) to provide school districts and public schools with assistance in supporting student behavioral health. Requires the OSPI and the ESDs to use the framework to optimize delivery and coordination of behavioral health technical assistance and supports, once it is developed.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Health Care Authority
CCBHC Demonstration: $2.823M NGF-O ($11.646M total)
Funding is provided for HCA to implement two Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) sites through a federal demonstration project. In selecting demonstration

sites, the HCA must prioritize selection of sites that make the state competitive for being awarded a demonstration project while also giving consideration to appropriated funding levels. (General Fund-State; General Fund-Federal; General Fund-Medicaid) (Custom)

Cascade Care Subsidies: Secure funding to continue current subsidy levels for the Cascade Care Savings program, which helps lower-income people better afford health insurance when purchasing through the state health benefit exchange.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Health Benefit Exchange
Cascade Care Savings: $25M total
Funding is provided to continue premium assistance for qualified health plans for Washingtonians under 250 percent of the federal poverty limit, who are ineligible for Medicaid or Medicare. (State Health Care Affordability Account-State) (Custom)

Critical Incidents Prevention in Child Welfare: Support efforts to reduce the number of fatalaties and near fatalities (called critical incidents) in the child welfare system.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Department of Children, Youth & Families
Family Resource Centers: $188,000 NGF-O
Funding is provided to refer families to family resource centers in five high-needs communities. Family resource centers will provide information, assess needs, make referrals to family services, and provide direct delivery of services to families exiting the child welfare system with a child older than age three. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

Plan of Safe Care Community Pathway: $252,000 NGF-O
Funding is provided to expand the plan of safe care program to five high-needs communities, which provides care coordination and resource navigation to expecting mothers and newborns with prenatal exposure. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

Public Health Nurses: $876,000 NGF-O
Funding is provided for public health nurse supports in five high-needs communities, which will serve child welfare families with a child under age three where substance use is a factor. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

Referral System: $100,000 NGF-O
Funding is provided to contract with one or more community-based organizations to develop a services referral system to serve families exiting the child welfare system. (General Fund-State) (One-Time)

Health Care Authority
Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP): $193,000 total.
Federal funding authority is provided for HCA to increase the number of PCAP slots available for child welfare clients by 32. HCA must use un-obligated state PCAP funds for the state match for these new slots. (General Fund-Medicaid) (Ongoing)

Office of Public Defense
Expand Pre-Filing Representation Model: $500,000 GFS.
Expands a model to provide legal counsel and a parent ally with the purpose of creating a safety plan and identifying services and supports that will maintain the safety of the child in the home. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

Capital Budget
Pregnant, Parenting, & Women's Inpatient Substance Use Program; Evergreen Recovery Centers | North Sound Region: $1.545M

Food Security: Protect access to food benefits. Oppose efforts to limit benefits

Legislation:

SB 6186 - Directing the department of social and health services to apply for a waiver from the United States department of agriculture restricting the use of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits from being used to purchase unhealthy foods such as candy and sweetened beverages.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Warnick
Status: Did not pass ***The PA opposed this legislation, so it is considered a success that it did not pass.*

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Directs the Department of Social and Health Services to apply for waiver from the federal U.S. Department of Agriculture to exclude a person from using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to purchase unhealthy foods which includes candy and sweetened beverages.

Gun Violence Prevention: Support efforts to reduce gun violence.

Legislation:

HB 2320 (SB 6314) - Concerning the regulation of firearm manufacturing.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Salahuddin (Sen. Valdez)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Prohibits the manufacturing of certain firearms and firearm components through use of a three-dimensional printer or computer numerical control milling machine, subject to exceptions. Prohibits the sale or transfer of certain digital firearm manufacturing code, subject to exceptions.

Local Revenue: Support legislation to give flexibility in local revenue options.

Legislation:

HB 2442 (SB 6294) - Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Berg (Sen. Frame)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Expands the authorized uses of local real estate excise tax revenues, local sales and use tax revenues for housing and related services, county rental car sales tax revenue, and flood control zone district funds. Authorizes a new local sales and use tax of 0.01 percent to fund services for children and families. Extends the maximum length that a levy lid lift may be approved for by voters. Authorizes a new county property tax levy for public health clinic expenses. Makes changes to the veterans' assistance levy and the levy for developmental disabilities and mental health, including allowing the levies to be levied outside of the aggregate property tax rate limit applicable to local districts. Requires a city with a population of 500,000 or less to reduce its general levy rate by the levy rate of a fire protection district that was formed based initially on a resolution of the city legislative authority, rather than requiring that the city levy be reduced by the amount levied by such a fire protection district, and exempts 25 cents of a levy available to such fire protection districts from the aggregate $5.90 taxing rate limit application to local districts. Requires cities to consult with certain labor organizations and with public hospital districts within the city prior to forming such a fire protection district and requires that cities with a population of 500,000 of less provide for an independently elected board of fire commissioners within two years of the district's formation.

***Paid Family & Medical Leave Program*:** Support efforts to maintain and expand the Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) Program.

Legislation:

HB 2345 - Concerning contributions in the state paid family and medical leave program.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Schmidt
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Reallocates minimum employer and employee contributions for the medical and family leave premium shares for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

Budget Impact:

Employment Security Department
PFML Contribution Modification: $1.16M total

Funding is provided to implement 2SHB 2345 (Paid leave contributions), which reallocates minimum employer and employee contributions for the medical and family leave premium shares for the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program. (Family and Medical Leave Insurance Account-State) (One-Time)

SB 5292 - Concerning paid family and medical leave rates.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Conway
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Shifts the method for setting the premium rate for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program from a statutory lookback formula to an actuarial approach, provided that it is at the lowest possible rate necessary to maintain solvency, reduce fluctuations, and build a four month reserve.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

PFML Solvency Budget Proviso:

Within existing resources, the [Employment Security Department] shall report on the current state of the paid family and medical leave program under Title 50A RCW to the governor, appropriate committees of the legislature, and the paid family and medical leave advisory committee by November 1, 2026. The report must include:

(a) An evaluation of the solvency of the program. This evaluation should include:
(i) Potential program changes to achieve long-term fun solvency;
(ii) An economic analysis that examines potential program changes and their implications; and
(iii) A comparison of program designs from other states with a similar program;

(b) An evaluation of the integrity of the program. This evaluation should include:
(i) Current practices in place to ensure program integrity;
(ii) Applicable rules and laws pertaining to the integrity of the program; and
(iii) A review of best practices used in other similar state and federal benefit programs;

(c) Comments on the report provided by members of the paid family and medical leave advisory committee established in RCW 50A.05.030;

(d) Any recommendations from the department.

Permanent Supportive Housing: Support funding and legislation related to permanent supportive housing (PSH).

Legislation:

SB 6027 (HB 2359) - Modifying requirements and allowed uses for certain funding related to providing and maintaining affordable housing and related services.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Alvarado (Rep. Peterson)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Makes changes to the allowable uses for certain local sales and use tax collected for housing and related services. Makes changes to the requirements and eligible uses of funding in the Affordable Housing for All Account. Updates the definition of emergency housing for the purpose of property tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations in providing emergency or transitional housing for low-income persons or victims of domestic violence who are homeless.

Budget Impact:

Department of Commerce
Affordable Housing Funding: $94,000 total
Expenditure authority is provided to implement E2SSB 6027 (Affordable housing funding), which makes changes to the requirements and eligible uses of funding in the Affordable Housing for All Account. (Affordable Housing For All-State) (One-Time)

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Department of Commerce
Permanent Supportive Housing/CoC: $15M NGF-O
Funding is provided for grants to recipients of HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) grants for costs to maintain permanent supportive housing. (General Fund-State) (One-Time)

Prevention Services & Immunizations: Ensure access to preventive services for Washingtonians, including vaccines.

Legislation:

HB 2242 (SB 5967) - Preserving access to preventive services by clarifying state authority and definitions.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Bronoske (Sen. Cleveland)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Authorizes the Department of Health (Department) to issue immunization recommendations and guidance. Replaces the requirement that health plans provide coverage for immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

with a requirement to cover immunizations that have a recommendation from the Department. Changes the recommending entity for determining which immunizations must be considered "vaccines" for the purposes of the Washington Vaccine Association from the ACIP to the Department.

Budget Impact:

Office of Insurance Commissioner
Preventative Health Services: $70,000 total
Funding is provided for the OIC to update the preventive service coverage requirements for health carriers to align with the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations pursuant to ESHB 2242 (Preventative health services). (Insurance Commissioner's Regulatory Account-State) (Custom)

Redirecting Public Benefits to Children in Care: Support effort to end the practice by DCYF of withholding public benefits (Social Security Income, Survivors, Retirement, or Disability Insurance (RSDI)) that belong to the children in its care. Returning these benefits to children and youth is expected to support reunification efforts by increasing family financial stability and to mitigate economic hardship for youth when they exit care.

Legislation:

SB 5911 (HB 2169) - Strengthening the financial stability of persons in the care of the department of children, youth, and families.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Alvarado (Rep. Callan)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Ensures that, beginning in 2027, the state may no longer use Social Security and other federal benefits belonging to youth in Extended Foster Care (EFC) to reimburse the cost of their care. It also requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to help eligible youth access, manage, and protect those benefits by supporting payeeship and financial account setup.

Budget Impact:

Department of Children, Youth & Families
DCYF/Financial Stability: $613,000 NGF-O
Funding is provided for implementation of SSB 5911 (DCYF/financial stability), which prohibits DCYF from retaining Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits collected on behalf of a youth receiving extended foster care services. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

Reproductive Health Care: Support access to abortion including funding for the Department of Health's Abortion Access Project and provide backfill funding for Planned Parenthood.

Legislation:

SB 6182 (HB 2657) - Establishing an abortion savings program.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Bateman (Rep. Parshley)
Status: Passed

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Establishes the Abortion Savings Program, which provides grants through the Department of Health to maintain access to direct patient abortion clinical care services for individuals in the state. Establishes a new assessment of 82 cents for the first year and 16.5 cents annually thereafter per coverage month in the prior calendar year on certain health carriers subject to the insurance premium tax with initial assessments due and payable in 2027.
Budget Impact:

Office of Insurance Commissioner
Abortion Savings Program: $108,000 total
Funding is provided for rate filing review and enforcement action pursuant to 2SSB 6182 (Abortion savings program), which creates the Abortion Savings Program, which provides grants to maintain access to direct patient abortion clinical care services and additional protected health care services for individuals in the state. (Insurance Commissioner's Regulatory Account-State) (Custom)

Department of Health
Abortion Savings Program: $9.999M total
Funding is provided for agency administrative indirect costs related to implementation of 2SSB 6182 (Abortion savings program). (Abortion Savings Account-State) (Custom)

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Department of Health
Reproductive Health Services: $8.6M NGF-O
Funding is provided for programs and grants for abortion care, including staffing at DOH, grants to providers of abortion care, workforce retention and recruitment initiatives, training, outreach, and security investments. This is a restoration of funding removed in the 2025-27 biennial budget. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

Health Care Authority
Planned Parenthood Backfill: $12.5M
Funding is provided to backfill funding for Planned Parenthood

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Prevention Alliance 2026 Strategies that were Successfully Maintained

The items listed below were identified as being at risk for cuts, but funding was successfully maintained in the 2026 supplemental budget.

Behavioral Health Rates: Protect recent increases – both Medicaid and non-Medicaid – for behavioral health providers.

Status: Funding was maintained

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers: *Oppose efforts to reduce funding for ESIT*

Status: Funding was maintained

Legislation:

HB 2688 - Providing adjustments to the early support for infants and toddlers program.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Gregerson
Status: Did not pass ***PA opposed this legislation, so it is considered a success that it did not pass.*

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Changes the multiplier for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program funding formula from aligning with the special education excess cost multiplier for prekindergarten students to a set multiplier of 1.00.

Family Impact Network: Protect funding for the Network Administrator in the child welfare system. The Child Welfare network administrator, the Family Impact Network, contracts with 36 providers in Eastern Washington to coordinate and oversee family visits for children in out-of-home care and in-home therapy for families in child protective services.

Status: Funding was maintained

Help Me Grow: Protect funding for Help Me Grow, which is a family resource and referral linkage system that connects families with young children to programs and services.

Status: Funding was maintained

Prevention Alliance 2026 Strategies that Had Funding Delayed or Reduced

***Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment Fund**:* Protect funding for the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment Fund (CARE Fund)

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Department of Commerce
Andy Hill CARE Fund: $-10M total
Funding for the Andy Hill CARE Fund was reduced by $10M.

Apple Health Expansion: Protect funding for the Apple Health Expansion (AHE) program, which provides Medicaid-equivalent coverage to people not eligible for federal Medicaid coverage.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Health Care Authority - Medical Assistance
AHE Caseload Change: $-28.525M GFS
Appropriations are adjusted based on the expected impact of changes for the Apple Health Expansion (AHE) population caseload in the February 2026 forecast by the Washington State Caseload Forecast Council. Beginning January 1, 2027, the AHE population is moved from a managed care service delivery model to a fee-for-service delivery model. On January 1, 2027, an additional 5,000 clients will be added to the caseload. (General FundState) (Custom)

AHE Service Delivery Change Cost: $-2.138M GFS ($-4.276 total)
Funding is reduced to account for moving all AEM services from a managed care service delivery model to a feefor-service delivery model. (General Fund-State; General Fund-Medicaid) (Custom)

AHE Proviso
By October 1, 2026, the authority shall provide a report to the governor's office and fiscal committees of the legislature that includes recommendations for how the program described in (a) of this subsection can achieve savings through a reduction in services or benefits to allow for an increase in enrollment capacity.

Early Learning & Child Care: Support continued funding for Working Connections Child Care and other early learning programs and services.

Legislation:

HB 2689 - Concerning the working connections child care program.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Gregerson
Status: Passed ***PA did not support this legislation. It was the vehicle for statutory changes that were needed to implement the spending reductions to Working Connections Child Care as discussed below.*

Summary of Final Version of Bill: Modifies existing income eligibility provisions for the Working Connections Child Care program so that income eligibility is maintained at 60 percent of the State Median Income (SMI), instead of increasing to 75 percent of the SMI beginning July 1, 2029, and 85 percent of the SMI (subject to funding) beginning July 1, 2031. Requires that child care subsidy rates must achieve the seventy-fifth percentile of market beginning July 1, 2027. Requires that the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) adopt rules that, depending on the number of days a child has attended in a calendar month, allow child care providers to claim: (a) up to 11 days; (b) up to 15 days; or (c) up to the full number of authorized days. Prohibits the DCYF from allowing child care providers to receive a child care subsidy rate that is different than the rate for the subsidy region in which the provider is located. Repeals the requirement that the DCYF pay child care providers prospectively based on when child care is expected to begin.

Budget Impact:

Dept of Children, Youth & Families
Early Learning: Multiple [reduction]
The budget included another round of reductions and delaying implementation of the Fair Start for Kids Act. **Click here** for a comprehensive comparison document of funding levels for early learning and childhood development priorities that was prepared by Prevention Alliance member - Start Early.

Foundational Public Health Services: Protect funding for foundational public health services.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Department of Health
Foundational Public Health Services: $-21M total
There were no general fund reductions in the Foundational Public Health Services Account this session. However, the failure of SB 6129 (the nicotine tax bill), coupled with last year's change to the definition of tobacco products which shifted revenue from the FPHS account, means the public health system faces a $21 million annual and ongoing reduction.

Gun Violence Prevention: Protect funding for the Office of Firearm Safety & Violence Prevention

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Department of Commerce
Firearm Safety/Violence Prevention: $-2.155M NGF-O
Savings are achieved by reducing grants for local violence reduction strategic planning by 25 percent. (General Fund-State) (Ongoing)

Home Visiting Funding: Protect funding for Home Visiting, which is a voluntary, long-term parent support program.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Dept of Children, Youth & Families
Home Visiting Underspend: $-2.3M NGF-O
Savings are achieved by capturing projected underspend in the Home Visiting program, which provides voluntary, family-focused services to expectant parents and families with new babies and young children to support the physical, social, and emotional health of the child. (Home Visiting Services Account-State) (One-Time)

School-Based Health Centers: Protect funding for the SBHC grant program to support access to integrated healthcare in academic settings.

Budget Items Not Tied to Legislation:

Department of Health
SBHC Program Underspend: $-32,000 NGF-O
Funding is reduced for agency administrative indirect costs related to one-time underspends in the school-based health centers program. (General Fund-State) (One-Time)

Prevention Alliance 2026 Strategies that Did *Not* Pass and/or Were *Not* Funded

For bills that did not pass, if there was a companion bill, the bill that is listed first is the legislation that made it furthest in the process. The status reflects where the bill that made it the furthest died.

Access to Health care: Support efforts to maintain access to health care

Legislation:

SB 5808 (HB 2073) - Addressing funding for health insurance premium assistance.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Robinson (Rep. Parshley)
Status: Did not pass (Died in Senate Second Reading)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Requires the Office of the Commissioner (OIC) to define "excessive surplus" as the amount of a nonprofit health carrier's surplus that is 100 times the minimum net worth requirements as reported on the carrier's annual statement for calendar year 2025. Requires carriers to pay 10 percent of the excessive surplus to the OIC for deposit into the State Health Care Affordability Account for the Cascade Care Savings Program.

HB 2626 - Increasing the insurance premium tax on certain health insurance providers.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Parshley
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Committee on Finance)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Removes an exemption from an insurance premium tax on health maintenance organizations, healthcare service contractors, and self funded multiple employer welfare arrangements for payments made in connection with certain dentistry services. Increases an insurance premium tax on health maintenance organizations, healthcare service contractors, and self-funded multiple employer welfare arrangements from 2 percent to 3 percent of payments made in connection with certain health care services. Establishes a new insurance premium tax on disability insurers and insurers that qualify for the group stop loss insurance exemption equal to 1 percent of payments made in connection with certain health care services.

Behavioral Health: Support efforts relating to community behavioral health, crisis response, and behavioral health for children and youth.

Legislation:

HB 1834 (SB 5708) - Protecting Washington children online.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Callan (Sen. Frame)
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Second Reading)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Prohibits operators of an addictive internet-based service or application from providing an addictive feed to a minor. Establishes specific timeframes for when operators of an addictive internet-based service or application are prohibited from sending notifications to minors. Requires operators of an addictive internet-based service or application to provide certain mechanisms for all users. Provides for enforcement through the Consumer Protection Act.

HB 2038 (SB 5799) - Establishing the youth behavioral health account and funding the account through the imposition of a business and occupation additional tax on the operation of social media platforms.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Callan (Sen. C. Wilson)
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Finance)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Imposes an additional business and occupation tax on any business operating a social media platform. Creates the Youth Behavioral Account.

Cardiac Emergency Response Plans

Legislation:

SB 6118 (HB 2549) - Requiring cardiac emergency response plans in schools.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Nobles (Rep. Rule)

Status: Did not pass (Died in Senate Committee on Ways & Means)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Requires each school district to develop a cardiac emergency response plan for each school within the district and for each athletic facility on the school campus, to the extent state funding is appropriated for the purpose. Requires cardiac emergency response plans to contain certain core elements, including designating a cardiac emergency response team and designating locations for the installation of automated external defibrillators throughout campus.

Crisis System Sustainability:

Legislation:

HB 2720 - Increasing access and resources for behavioral health emergency services providers by imposing a covered lives assessment on specific health plans.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Macri
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Second Reading)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Creates a covered lives assessment on certain health plans. Establishes the Behavioral Health Emergency Services Account for deposit of all revenues related to the assessment. Requires expenditures from the Account to be used for specified behavioral health emergency services and implementation costs.

Gun Violence Prevention: Support efforts to reduce gun violence.

Legislation:

HB 1152 - Enhancing public safety by establishing secure storage requirements for firearms in vehicles and residences.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Doglio
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Second Reading)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Establishes secure storage requirements for firearms stored or left in vehicles or residences, subject to various exceptions. Amends the duties of the Washington Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention to include educating the public regarding secure firearm storage requirements, benefits, and options.

SB 5098 - Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Valdez
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Prohibits weapons at certain park facilities where children are likely to be present, certain state or local public buildings,

and county fairs when the fair is open to the public. Requires facilities where weapons are prohibited to, as soon as practicable, post signage at common public access points alerting the public to the prohibitions.

Healthy Youth Survey: Exempt HYS documents & reports that include individual responses from disclosure under PRA

Legislation:

SB 6049 - Protecting student and employee information from public disclosure.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. C. Wilson
Status: Did not pass (Died in Senate Rules Committee)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Exempts from public disclosure under the Public Records Act personally identifying information of agency employees who are survivors of a hate crime; state agency employee responses to surveys administered for purposes of engagement and improving state government; and individual student responses to the Healthy Youth Survey.

Medical Debt: Support efforts relating to reducing medical debt for consumers.

Legislation:

SB 5993 - Concerning lowering the interest rate for medical debt.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Alvarado
Status: Did not pass (Died in Senate Second Reading)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Replaces the 9 percent cap on prejudgment interest for medical debt with a 1 percent cap per year on new medical debt that is accrued after December 31, 2026, whether before or after an entry of judgment. Prohibits interest from being charged, and requires a refund for any interest paid, for any portion of medical debt that is accrued in specified circumstances.

Taxation of Cigarettes, Vapor Products, and Other Tobacco Products: *Support efforts to increase taxes on cigarettes, vapor products, and other tobacco products with the goal of reducing usage and directing revenue to tobacco prevention, public health, and/or other health and prevention services and programs.*

Legislation:

HB 2382 - Excise taxes on cigarettes, vapor products, and tobacco products
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Parshley
Status: Did not pass (died in House Appropriations)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Increases the cigarette tax by $2 per pack and directs moneys from this additional amount of the tax to specified new and existing accounts. Restructures the vapor products tax to be 95 percent of the taxable sales price, replacing the milliliter tax, while excluding vapor products

without nicotine from the tax. Modifies the other tobacco products tax by: (1) increasing the cap on cigars to 85 cents per cigar, from 65 cents per cigar; (2) increasing the tax on little cigars and moist snuff; and (3) directing 10 percent of collections into the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Account starting July 1, 2028. Adds uses to the FPHS Account related to education and cessation.

HB 2439 - Enhancing public health by modifying cigarette, vapor product, and tobacco product policy.
Prime Sponsor: Rep. Reeves
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Committee on Appropriations)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Requires the Liquor and Cannabis Board to develop a responsible vendor program for tobacco and vapor product licensees. Increases certain license fees and penalties; adds a wholesaler/distributor requirement applicable to tobacco and vapor product retailers; and adds certification, attestation, and other requirements for vapor product manufacturers. Requires a study of a vapor product extended producer responsibility program and related policies. Adds agency laboratory testing authority for vapor products; revises age verification requirements; and prohibits entertainment, imitation, and related types of vapor products. Prohibits sales of tobacco and vapor products below acquisition costs, revises coupon requirements and authorizations, and prohibits sales combined with a free item. Modifies accounts to which tobacco products tax revenue is deposited.

SB 6116 - Restoring funding for cancer research and public health services.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Braun
Status: Did not pass (Died in Senate Committee on Ways & Means)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Excludes vapor products from the definition of tobacco products for purposes of the other tobacco products tax.

SB 6129 - Concerning the taxation of cigarettes, vapor products, and other products containing tobacco or nicotine.
Prime Sponsor: Sen. Robinson
Status: Did not pass (Died in House Committee on Finance)

Summary of Latest Version of Bill: Replaces the varying rates of tax on tobacco and vapor products with a single rate of 95 percent for all products that contain nicotine, except for cigarettes. Adds a new tax on cigarettes of 9.875 cents per cigarette beginning January 1, 2028. Dedicates the first $10 million collected per fiscal year from the new cigarette tax to the Youth Tobacco and Vapor Products Prevention
Account. Repeals the milliliter vapor products tax. Dedicates the first $10 million collected each fiscal year from the tax on vapor products to the Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment Fund Match Transfer Account. Dedicates any remaining collections, up to a total of $20 million, to the Foundational Public Health Services Account.

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