

General Government/Operating

Washington State Arts Commission

Tribal Cultural Affairs program

The Washington State Arts Commission's Tribal Cultural Affairs program will work with tribal governments, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), and tribal organizations to support the creative economy and the unique role of Indigenous arts, artists and culture. The program will provide technical assistance and grants that support tribal artists, as well as cultural, arts and creative programs. The commission will base the grant program on the needs identified by the Native American Ad Hoc Committee, with the intention to represent Native artists and organizations more fully in the creative sector. These grants will support programs, organizations and individuals that are either on tribal lands, engaged in work that supports tribal artistic and cultural development, or both. Grants will focus on arts programs that operate in rural and underserved tribal locations to encourage enterprise through arts and culture.

(§2.7 million General Fund-State)

Equitable Career Pathways for Youth

The Washington State Arts Commission will work to support youth and young adults as they explore career pathways in the arts and cultural sectors through the Washington Youth Arts Leadership program (WAYAL). The program increases the visibility of employment pathways in the arts while offering hands-on experiences to students and families. WAYAL also lets students directly engage with arts policies and initiatives, participate on grant panels, and

strengthen presentation and public speaking skills. Participants are selected to represent one of four geographic service regions to ensure focus and outreach is sustained with students from diverse, rural and historically excluded populations.

(§174,000 GF-S)

Washington State Historical Society

Grants, security and diversity staff

Funding for the Washington State Historical Society is for a dedicated grants manager, security guard and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) specialist. Security staff is needed to prevent vandalism, theft, and potential harm to staff and property at the society's research center. The grant manager and DEI specialist will manage, train, and provide technical support to implement DEI practices by prioritizing community relationships and feedback.

(§531,000 GF-S)

Eastern Washington Historical Society

American Indian canoe carving

The Eastern Washington Historical Society will expand on the meaningful canoe carving work the museum is currently engaged in with the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT). The canoe carving project provides educational opportunities for tribal youth and the community while expanding tribal engagement on the museum campus. This project increases tribal school visits to the museum, encourages

collaboration, offers the chance for tribal members to exchange knowledge, and helps the Historical Society host an annual canoe river journey event.

(\$65,000 GF-S)

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Mainstreet program

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will continue expanded support for businesses and communities through the Mainstreet program's outreach, consultation and professional services. The program currently promotes community resiliency across the state's 69 designated Washington Mainstreet Communities and Affiliates through carefully tailored services. These services help local leaders meet goals and connect to resources. With a focus on community outreach and inclusivity, the Mainstreet program stimulates local vitality by mobilizing local businesses and groups around their town's unique history and gives voice to previously underrepresented populations. The increased funding will better prepare the department to manage the increase of new applicants as well as oversee the needs of current participants to build and maintain a vibrant, prosperous community.

(\$700,000 GF-S)

State archaeologist and state architect

Funding is provided for the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to hire an assistant state archaeologist and state historical architect. These positions will fulfill the department's responsibility to manage and complete reviews of proposed federal undertakings with the potential to

impact historic sites, structures, objects or cultural properties. Delaying these reviews can lead to the irreparable damage of historic and cultural sites. The positions will engage with impacted communities or groups, work for the stewardship of cultural assets, offer preservation expertise to housing policy advocates, and manage the Federal Historic Tax Credit program.

(\$668,000 GF-S)

Military Department

State Emergency Operations Center

The Washington State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) serves as the state's hub for coordinating all state-level emergency response operations. It provides support to all state agencies, counties and federally recognized tribes. With declared disasters growing in Washington, the state is adding permanent staff to the SEOC. Doing so will help create continuity between disaster responses and will address the highest impact areas of preparedness and response efforts within the emergency management cycle.

(\$1.7 million GF-S)

Cybersecurity grant

The Military Department will coordinate with state agencies to administer the federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program created in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This program will make federal funds available to state, tribal, and local governments for projects to address cybersecurity threats and secure existing vulnerabilities within the information systems that operate day-to-day critical infrastructure.

(\$3.5 million GF-S; \$21.2 million Other)

Liquor and Cannabis Board

Social equity in cannabis

The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board received approval in 2020 to develop a ‘social equity in cannabis’ program that will address the disproportionate harm inflicted on people targeted by past drug enforcement laws. This funding will increase the number of social equity retailer licenses that are available each year, based on available population data. It also helps social equity licensees choose a location that permits cannabis business activity at the time of licensure. With these changes, the board looks to serve more deeply impacted communities and makes sure applicants can use their licenses — regardless if an applicant resides in a location that does not permit cannabis business activity.

(\$5 million Other)

Consolidated Technology Services

Innovation and Legacy Systems Funds

The Consolidated Technology Services (WaTech) wants to help agencies adopt innovative technology and modernize outdated legacy applications. This new funding source will help agencies more quickly solve business problems. As a pilot project, WaTech will invite state agencies to apply to WaTech for the new innovation funds and lay out a short-term, low-risk, high-reward project idea to update outdated applications. The Technology Services Board will review and choose projects for funding. Members of the board consist of the state chief information officer, representatives from the House and Senate, agency leaders and business partners from around the state.

(\$5 million General Fund-State)

Office of Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises

Eliminate certification fees

Certification is an important step for businesses seeking services, trainings, and visibility in the statewide database. Through consultation with community representatives, the Office of Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises identified that initial fees can deter qualified business owners from seeking certification. By eliminating the certification fees barrier, the agency will increase the pool of certified businesses, improve wait times for application review, increase opportunities and advance diversity, equity and inclusion in state contracts.

(\$219,000 GF-S)

Department of Revenue

Unclaimed Property funding

Each year, millions of dollars are reported to the Department of Revenue’s Unclaimed Property program, which works to reunite unclaimed property with the rightful owners. Currently, the department acts as custodian to \$1.8 billion worth of property. The program has grown considerably due to process improvements, diligent efforts to seek out property owners and increased funding for marketing efforts that started in 2021. This means more people have filed claims than current staffing levels can handle. This funding will help the department increase program staff so that staff can review more claims in a shorter amount of time and reunite people with their unclaimed property.

(\$2.6 million GF-S)

Human Rights Commission

Investigative staff

The Human Rights Commission will hire two additional investigative support staff to manage and reduce the current backlog of complaints. The agency saw a notable spike in complaints in recent years while also handling an expansion of responsibilities as a fair housing agency with Housing and Urban Development. More resources will help the agency continue to prevent discrimination and maintain its role as a community partner.

(\$620,000 GF-S)

Case management database modernization

The Human Rights Commission will replace the current case management database, which is no longer suitable for the agency's growing caseload and changing responsibilities. This new database will do several things: One, it will improve communication and intake timeframes by storing case information on a cloud platform. Two, it will eliminate the need for paper-based case file storage and processing, which causes notable delays in case processing. And three, it will improve transparency through easily accessible reports and dashboards to track compliance and caseload data.

(\$1.7 million GF-S)

Commerce

Comprehensive equity investments

Commerce's Capital Programs Equity Review includes community recommendations to remove barriers and enhance the ability of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), tribal, very rural, and other

historically oppressed communities to develop local organizational, project and program capacity. Funding will expand the Community Engagement Team, provide support services for training, mentorship and organizational capacity, and create a responsive systems and language access initiative. Increased engagement and training for these communities means they will access a larger share of state funding to address their priorities and experience rewarding partnerships with state government in the process.

(\$7.2 million GF-S)

Digital equity and navigation service

The economic, medical and social necessity of access to high-speed internet is well documented. An estimated 280,000 households in Washington lack access to the internet, and these households are disproportionately low-income, rural, Hispanic and American Indian or Alaskan Native. Funding will help the state continue digital equity work that it launched this biennium by adding funds to the Digital Navigator program. This program connects communities to devices, subscriptions and digital skills.

(\$15 million GF-S)

Digital Equity Forum/Equity Office

The State Digital Equity Plan detailed requirements that the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) and Office of Equity (OEO) must implement. These requirements will increase digital equity and connectivity. Funding will help these agencies get the resources they need to meet these goals.

(\$1 million GF-S)

Services for Indigenous survivors

Victims and survivors of human trafficking face significant additional barriers to housing. These include immigration status, language, safety concerns from landlords and lack of connections to family and trusted friends. The Legislature funded two programs in 2022 that were designed to address these barriers. Additional funding continues the programs and supports case management and rental assistance for victims of human trafficking, as well as a specific program for Indigenous survivors of human trafficking that provides wraparound services.

(\$8.3 million GF-S)

Ukraine, Afghan and refugee aid

The Legislature added \$11 million for Ukrainian and Afghan refugee assistance to the Department of Commerce in the 2022 supplemental budget. Of this amount, \$5.5 million was available for Ukrainian refugees, but the department received \$11.4 million in requests for assistance. Needs included housing, food and application aid. State funding is in high demand in part because federal assistance is delayed. As of August, very few Ukrainian immigrants have received authorization to work in the United States. This funding will help Washington continue to prioritize refugee assistance and offer flexibility for other emergent refugee needs.

(\$20 million GF-S)

Secretary of State

Fund library at Echo Glen

Improving educational opportunities increases the likelihood of better educational outcomes

for youth who are incarcerated. At the request of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families and the administration at Echo Glen Children's Center, a new Washington State Library branch will be established at Echo Glen in fiscal year 2023. Federal funds will cover the initial costs. Ongoing state funds will support the branch library beginning in fiscal year 2024. This will provide incarcerated youth at Echo Glen with the same level of library service as incarcerated adults have in Washington facilities.

(\$262,000 GF-S)

Voter outreach and trust

The public must maintain trust and confidence in the integrity of Washington elections for democracy to function. To support this critical work, the governor proposes funding the Office of the Secretary of State for two purposes: one, more resources to support a team of communication professionals who will design strategies and products to counter false narratives surrounding election security and integrity; and two, resources to support the ongoing need for community engagement with underserved populations — young voters, voters with disabilities, tribal communities and non-English-speaking voters. This effort will promote public trust and access to the voting process.

(\$6.3 million GF-S)

Office of the Attorney General

Organized Retail Crime Task Force

The attorney general will convene a statewide task force to strategize on the most efficient ways to deter \$2.7 billion in losses that

happened to Washington businesses last year because of organized retail crime. This task force includes retail workers, representatives from state, local, and federal law enforcement, and small and large businesses. Additional resources are needed to investigate the sophisticated multijurisdictional crimes.

(\$2.3 million GF-S)

Office of Financial Management

Serve Washington investments

Increasing the living stipend for AmeriCorps workers will enhance the ability of BIPOC-led, tribal, rural and other historically marginalized and under resourced organizations to host AmeriCorps programs and members. For each AmeriCorps service member, this will provide a career readiness assessment and skill building opportunities for in-demand career pathways to better support them as they transition from their AmeriCorps service to their career.

This investment expands AmeriCorps service opportunities into two new areas: to help fight climate change and to create a more robust law enforcement workforce. For climate change, it will create a Climate Service Network of AmeriCorps service programs that will increase the opportunities for Washington's young adults and veterans to help prepare our communities and ecosystems for climate impacts, while also developing our future green economy workforce pipeline. For law enforcement, Serve Washington will work with law enforcement, corrections, and other organizations to develop and implement an AmeriCorps program that focuses on building a 'service to career' pipeline for law enforcement professions.

(\$10.7 million GF-S; \$10.9 million Other)

One Washington

With coordination from multiple state agencies, the One Washington program will replace the state's 40-year-old financial system with a new, cloud-based system called Workday. The current project phase includes funding for accounting, accounts receivable, cost allocation, allotments and capital assets. This will help agencies strengthen over 250 unique systems that they use every day, use organizational change management to prepare agency staff, offer expert and technical resources and staff to maintain the new enterprise resource planning solution, and provide project resources to keep operations smoothly running. This continues the Legislature's project investment from previous budgets.

(\$128.1 million Other)

Office of the Governor

LGBTQ support

Engaging the LGBTQ community is paramount to understanding people's health and economic disparities, as well as the demographic and geographic distribution of Washington's LGBTQ community. This funding will give the Washington State LGBTQ Commission the ability to procure a contractor so that the commission can complete a comprehensive survey of the state. This will also fund a staff to create an ongoing statewide LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council. The recommendation to create a council came from a recent LGBTQ Roundtable discussion with the governor, various 13-18-year-olds, and their parents. This effort will be dedicated and focused on young LGBTQ Washingtonians' issues, needs and resources.

(\$982,000 GF-S)

State office space reduction

State agencies are reevaluating how much physical office space they need as they make permanent the expanded telework policies adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic. To improve the state's efficiency and achieve cost savings, the governor's proposed operating and transportation budgets require agencies to reduce leased office space, with a focus on consolidating staff into state-owned facilities and reducing full leases. Additionally, agencies will be required to regularly report current facility and staff telework data that reflect how efficiently space is being used.

Agencies with leases expiring in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 must reduce office space by a minimum of 20% upon lease renewal or relocation. Agencies with leases expiring in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 must reduce office space by a minimum of 30% upon renewal or relocation. Anticipated general fund savings from office space reduction is nearly \$5.3 million during the 2023–25 biennium and \$14.6 million during the 2025–27 biennium.

New state Office of Equity connects with agencies, community partners

The newly established Office of Equity recently completed its first year. As the first statewide office of its kind in the nation, the Office of Equity spent time listening to community members, building internal infrastructure, deepening external relationships within and outside state government, training and consulting with agencies, and laying the foundation to change the way state government operates. These efforts included 89 listening sessions with agencies, boards, commissions, business resource groups, and community members and organizations.

The Office of Equity also created Washington's Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Ecosystem Plan & Playbook as a statewide framework to partner with community members, groups and state agencies. This partnership will help advance a future where all Washingtonians can access the resources and opportunities they need to flourish and achieve their full potential. The office also made recommendations to the governor to support state agencies as state government applies an equity lens in all aspects of agency decision-making, while building pro-equity, antiracist systems.

For more information, visit the [Office of Equity's website](#).

General Government/Capital

Strengthening communities

Department of Commerce

Commerce community capacity grants

Provide grant funding for community providers to expand and establish community capacity, which will create more than 400 new behavioral health beds. This will help divert and transition individuals with a complex array of behavioral health needs from the state hospitals.

(\$120 million bonds)

Rising Strong

The Rising Strong project is a pass-through grant that will construct a 24-unit facility for family-centered drug treatment in Western Washington. This facility will support families staying together as required by the Family First Prevention Services Act while they begin to recover from addiction, heal from trauma, and rebuild their lives.

(\$13.4 million bonds)

Youth recreational facilities

This grant program will finance construction and renovation costs for youth recreation facilities to support social service and educational components. Youth requiring an array of developmental programming has significantly increased in the past two years and this supports the health and well-being of Washington's youth.

(\$8 million bonds)

Broadband infrastructure

This achieves greater digital equity and connectivity by continuing broadband development statewide for unserved/underserved people and communities through access to high-speed internet. This access opens opportunities for people to work, learn and receive health care services from home, participate in and preserve culture, apply for supportive social services, keep connected to friends and family, receive essential goods and services, and other benefits people can enjoy when they can fully engage in the digital world.

(\$50 million bonds)

Building Communities Fund

The Building Communities Fund is a competitive grant program providing nonprofit organizations with construction funding for acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation social service and multipurpose community centers. These projects must be nonresidential facilities and located in a distressed community or serve a substantial number of low-income or disadvantaged persons. Funds 43 projects across the state and technical assistance for entities pursuing grants.

(\$26.6 million bonds)

Building for the Arts

A competitive grant program for nonprofit organizations that support performing arts, art museums and cultural facilities projects statewide. Funds 16 projects across the state.

(\$12.5 million bonds)

Local government infrastructure

Department of Health

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Additional funding will help with designing, financing, and constructing drinking water system improvements aimed at increasing public health protection and compliance with drinking water regulations for publicly- and privately-owned water systems. An increase of federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program is anticipated and the required state match is also provided.

(\$131 million Drinking Water Assistance Account-Federal, \$3.5 million Drinking Water Assistance Account-State)

Public Health Lab South Laboratory addition

Provides the department the funding to complete design and start construction on the Environmental Laboratory Sciences wing addition. This will allow the Public Health Lab

to be better prepared for future emergencies by providing more lab space, various lab instruments, more rapid testing, and more staff conference space. It will be built to align with the Clean Building Standards from the Department of Ecology.

(\$70 million bonds)

Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund program

Congress established the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to capitalize state-run, low-interest loan programs and finance water quality facilities and activities. The Washington State Water Pollution Control Revolving Account provides low-interest loans to local governments, special purpose districts and recognized tribes for high-priority water quality projects statewide. Ecology uses these funds to finance planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and improving water pollution control facilities and for related nonpoint source activities that help meet state and federal water pollution control requirements. Funding will reinvest early loan repayments that the department received this fiscal year in ready-to-proceed projects and continue essential work through this loan program.

(\$435 million Water Pollution Control Revolving Account-State)